Ralph E. Griswold Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82048587

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014053

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
**Collection Summary**

**Title:** Ralph E. Griswold Papers  
**Span Dates:** 1940-1968  
**ID No.:** MSS48587  
**Creator:** Griswold, Ralph E.  
**Extent:** 1,000 items  
**Extent:** 8 containers plus 3 oversize  
**Extent:** 5 linear feet  
**Language:** Collection material in English  
**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
**LC Catalog record:** [https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82048587](https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82048587)  
**Summary:** Landscape architect. Unpublished book by Griswold on the creators throughout history of garden, including correspondence, lectures, research material, travel notes, printed matter, maps, and photographs connected to the work.

**Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

**People**  
Griswold, Ralph E. (Ralph Esty), 1894-1981.

**Subjects**  
Landscape architects.  
Landscape architecture.

**Occupations**  
Landscape architects.

**Provenance**

The papers of Ralph E. Griswold, landscape architect, were given to the Library of Congress by Griswold in 1972.

**Processing History**

The collection was processed circa 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

**Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ralph E. Griswold is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Ralph E. Griswold are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ralph E. Griswold Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Biographical Note

Date | Event
---|---
1894, Aug. 22 | Born, Warren, Ohio
1916 | B.S., and M.A. in architecture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
1917-1919 | Stationed in France as camouflage officer during World War I
1920 | Married Dorothy Elizabeth Griffith
1920-1923 | Fellow in landscape architecture, American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy
1923-1927 | Member, landscape architecture firm of A. D. Taylor, Cleveland, Ohio
1927-1930 | Landscape architect, Nicolet & Griswold, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1930 | Founded landscape architecture firm of Griswold, Winters, Swain & Mullin
1934-1945 | Superintendent, Bureau of Parks, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1949-1950 | Resident landscape architect, American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy
1961 | Published *Opportunities in Landscape Architecture*. New York: Vocational Guidance Manuals
1978 | Published with Frederick Doveton Nichols *Thomas Jefferson Landscape Architect*. Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia
1981 | Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ralph E. Griswold (1894-1981) span the years 1940-1968 and consist entirely of material relating to an unpublished work, “A Biographical History of Garden Art, a Series of Illustrated Biographical Monographs on the People Who Had a Creative Influence on the Progress of Garden Art from Its Beginnings,” that he produced as the first senior research fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Project, Harvard University, from 1956 to 1958. Griswold was a landscape architect prominent for his designs in public parks and memorials and as a consultant on historic preservation projects. Included in the collection in addition to a typewritten copy and an unbound print copy of the illustrated history is a revised version of the study as well as correspondence, lectures, research material, travel notes, printed matter, maps, and photographs connected to the project.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 1     | Correspondence, A-Z and unidentified, 1956-1968  
|           | (8 folders) |
| BOX 1     | Book file, “A Biographical History of Garden Art, a Series of Illustrated Biographical Monographs on the People Who Had a Creative Influence on the Progress of Garden Art from Its Beginnings” See also Oversize |
| BOX 1     | Complete revision |
| BOX 2     | Vols. 1-5 |
| BOX 3     | Research notes |
| BOX 3     | Travel notes and lectures |
| BOX 4     | Brochures |
| BOX 4     | Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., 1940-1959 |
| BOX 4     | Egypt, England, and France  
|           | (5 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands  
|           | (5 folders) |
| BOX 6     | Portugal, Rome, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the Near East  
|           | (6 folders) |
| BOX 7     | Maps of Egypt, England, Greece, France, Germany, and the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the Near East  
|           | (7 folders) |
| BOX 8     | Photographs from Egypt, England, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Rome, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey  
|           | (11 folders) |
| BOX OV 1-OV 3 | Oversize |
| BOX OV 1-OV 3 | Book file |
| BOX OV 1-OV 3 | “A Biographical History of Garden Art, a Series of Illustrated Biographical Monographs on the People Who Had a Creative Influence on the Progress of Garden Art from Its Beginnings” (Container 1) |