

Ernest John Swift Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2019086310>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019018>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019

Collection Summary

Title: Ernest John Swift Papers

Span Dates: 1908-2019

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1941)

ID No.: MSS 86310

Creator: Swift, Ernest John

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 6 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and French.

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2019086310>

Summary: American Red Cross official. Correspondence, newspaper clippings, awards, photographs, and publications relating to Swift's career with the Red Cross from 1920 to 1941, as well as his personal and family life.

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

Swift family.

Swift, Ernest John.

Organizations

American Red Cross.

International Conference of the Red Cross (15th : 1934 : Tokyo, Japan)

Stanford University--Students.

Subjects

Humanitarian assistance.

International relief.

Places

India--Description and travel.

Japan--Description and travel.

Occupations

American Red Cross officials.

Provenance

The papers of Ernest John Swift were given to the Library of Congress by Paul D. Cronin in 2019.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Ernest John Swift in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ernest John Swift 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, Ernest John Swift Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1883	Born, Santa Cruz, California
1908	Graduated Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
1917	Enlisted with American Red Cross; attached to the 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, France
1920	Deputy commissioner, American Red Cross, Montenegro
1920-1923	Business manager, and assistant to the European commissioner of the American Red Cross, Paris, France
1923-1931	Assistant to Colonel Ernest P. Bicknell, former Vice Chairman in Charge of Insular and Foreign Operations, American Red Cross
1927	Married Helen Griffin Swift
1929	Member, Red Cross China Famine Investigation Commission; visit to China
1930	Director, Red Cross hurricane relief, Dominican Republic
1931	Director, Red Cross earthquake relief, Nicaragua
1932-1936	Representative, League of Red Cross Societies on the International Relief Union's Executive Committee Member, governing body, Nansen International Office for Refugees, League of Nations Secretary general, League of Red Cross Societies
1934	Vice president, International Red Cross Conference, Tokyo, Japan
1935	Chairman, American delegation to the International Air Ambulance Congress, Brussels, Belgium Secretary general, Third Pan-American Red Cross Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Vice Chairman in Charge of Insular and Foreign Operations, American Red Cross
1938	United States delegate, International Red Cross Conference, London, England
1941	Died, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ernest John Swift span the years 1908 to 2019, with the bulk of the material dating between 1920 and 1941. The collection documents Swift's career as an administrator in the American Red Cross, as well as his personal life. The papers are primarily in English, with some material in French. The papers consist of eight series: [Personal File](#), [Correspondence](#), [Clippings File](#), [Publications](#), [Travel File](#), [Photographs and Negatives](#), [Subject File](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Personal File](#) contains materials related to Swift's personal life. It includes awards, certificates, and medals presented throughout his career, passports and other types of identification documents, calling cards and invitations, letters of condolence regarding Swift's operation and death in 1941, and obituaries. This series also contains a scrapbook documenting Swift's time as a student at Stanford University, as well as materials relating to Swift's wedding and marriage to Helen Griffin Swift in 1927.

The [Correspondence](#) series includes both personal and business or Red Cross related materials.

The [Clippings File](#) contains copies of newspaper clippings regarding Swift's personal life, career, accomplishments, and travels. It also includes some clippings regarding Helen Griffin Swift's Red Cross volunteer work.

The [Publications](#) series consists of works and writings authored by Swift, publications produced by or relating to the Red Cross, and other miscellaneous publications.

The [Travel File](#) contains clippings, correspondence, photographs, and other materials related to Swift's travels abroad, generally on Red Cross related business. Noteworthy materials include those relating to Swift's 1934-1935 trip to Japan and India, for which he was vice president of the 1934 International Red Cross Conference in Tokyo, Japan. Additional materials in this series capture his relief and survey work for the Red Cross in Albania, Montenegro, the Dominican Republic, and China.

The [Photographs and Negatives](#) series features portraits of Swift, some Red Cross related images, and other miscellaneous or personal materials.

The [Subject File](#) documents some significant individuals or events in Swift's life, including his brother, Percy Swift, as well as a series of letters from 1940-1941 detailing the efforts to get Mimi de Gielgud out of occupied France and to America in order to marry William van Doren Wright.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Personal File, 1908-1941](#)
- [Correspondence, 1928-1940](#)
- [Clippings File, 1929-1969](#)
- [Publications, 1920-1941](#)
- [Travel File, 1920-1935](#)
- [Photographs and Negatives, 1920-1940](#)
- [Subject File 1934-2019](#)
- [Oversize, 1908-1940](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Personal File, 1908-1941</u></p> <p>Awards and certificates, identification documents, letters of condolence regarding Swift's 1941 operation and death, obituaries, calling cards, invitations, miscellaneous material, and an oversize scrapbook.</p> <p>Arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 2	<p><u>Correspondence, 1928-1940</u></p> <p>Correspondence includes both personal and business-related materials.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 2	<p><u>Clippings File, 1929-1969</u></p> <p>Contains copies of newspaper clippings.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 3-4	<p><u>Publications, 1920-1941</u></p> <p>Contains notes, speech materials, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material, and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 5	<p><u>Travel File, 1920-1935</u></p> <p>Contains clippings, correspondence, photographs, negatives, and miscellaneous material.</p> <p>Arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 6	<p><u>Photographs and Negatives, circa 1920-1940</u></p> <p>Contains photographic prints and negatives.</p> <p>Arranged by subject. Photographs related to travel have been placed in the Travel File series by their related trip or geographic location.</p>
BOX 6	<p><u>Subject File, 1934-2019</u></p> <p>Contains clippings, photographs, correspondence, invitations, and other miscellaneous materials.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, circa 1908-1940</u></p> <p>Contains medals, awards, photographs, and a scrapbook.</p> <p>Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and housed by size.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Personal File, 1908-1941 Awards and certificates, identification documents, letters of condolence regarding Swift's 1941 operation and death, obituaries, calling cards, invitations, miscellaneous material, and an oversize scrapbook. Arranged by subject.
BOX 1	Awards and certificates, 1908, 1919, 1927-1929, 1941 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Medals, undated <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Identification documents, 1913, 1923-1940
BOX 1	First operation and death, 1941
BOX 1	Letters sent at time of first operation, 1941
BOX 1	Flowers sent at time of first operation, 1941
BOX 1	Letters of condolence to Helen Griffin Swift, 1941 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Letters of condolence to Helen Griffin Swift from Red Cross personnel, 1941
BOX 2	Obituaries, 1941
BOX 2	Invitations, circa 1930s, 1938-1941 Scrapbook from time at Stanford University, circa 1908
BOX OV 1	Scrapbook, circa 1908 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Loose items from scrapbook, circa 1908
BOX 2	Wedding and marriage, 1927
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1932-1934, undated
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1928-1940 Correspondence includes both personal and business-related materials. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1928-1940, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Clippings File, 1929-1969 Contains copies of newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2	Clippings, 1927-1943, 1969
BOX 3-4	Publications, 1920-1941 Contains notes, speech materials, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material, and chronologically therein.
BOX 3	Speeches and writings, circa 1920s, 1921, 1928-1936, undated
BOX 3	Red Cross publications
BOX 3	Red Cross, 1928-1929, 1935-1941

Publications, 1920-1941

Container	Contents
BOX 3	<i>The Report of the American Red Cross Commission to China, 1929</i>
BOX 3	<i>Review and Information Bulletin of the League of Red Cross Societies, 1932</i>
BOX 3	<i>League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin, 1933</i>
BOX 4	<i>League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin, 1934</i>
BOX 4	<i>League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin, 1935</i>
BOX 4	<i>League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin, 1936</i>
BOX 4	Other publications
BOX 4	Miscellaneous publications, 1920, 1930-1940
BOX 4	<i>Fifty Years on the Quad: A Pictorial History of Stanford University, 1938</i>
BOX 5	Travel File, 1920-1935 Contains clippings, correspondence, photographs, negatives, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by subject.
BOX 5	Teplena, Albania earthquake, 1920
BOX 5	Belgium, 1935
BOX 5	China, undated
BOX 5	England, circa 1930s
BOX 5	Greece, undated
BOX 5	Indonesia, undated
BOX 5	Japan, 1929
BOX 5	Montenegro, 1920
BOX 5	Santo Domingo hurricane, 1930
BOX 5	Unknown, passenger lists, 1932-1937
BOX 5	Conference Trip to Japan and India, 1934-1935
BOX 5	Documents and papers, 1934-1935
BOX 5	Calling cards (Japan), 1934
BOX 5	Clippings, 1934-1935
BOX 5	Photographs, 1934-1935 <i>See also Photographs and Negatives</i> (2 folders)
BOX 5	Photographs (Japan), 1934-1935
BOX 5	Photographs (India), 1934-1935
BOX 6	Photographs and Negatives, circa 1920-1940 Contains photographic prints and negatives. Arranged by subject. Photographs related to travel have been placed in the Travel File series by their related trip or geographic location.
BOX 6	Portraits, circa 1908, circa 1920-1940 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Puerto Rico Red Cross members with Ernest J. Swift, 1936
BOX 6	Miscellany, circa 1930s, 1936, 1940, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Negatives, undated
BOX 6	Nitrate negatives, undated <i>See also Travel File</i>
BOX 6	Subject File, 1934-2019 Contains clippings, photographs, correspondence, invitations, and other miscellaneous materials. Arranged alphabetically.

Subject File, 1934-2019

Container

Contents

BOX 6	Gielgud, Lewis Evelyn, 1937
BOX 6	Inventory to the Ernest John Swift Papers, 2019
BOX 6	Mussolini, Benito, 1934
BOX 6	Swift, Percy (brother), 1936, 1941-1943
BOX 6	Wright, William van Doren and Mimi de Gielgud, 1940-1941
BOX OV 1	Oversize, circa 1908-1940 Contains medals, awards, photographs, and a scrapbook. Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and housed by size.
BOX OV 1	Personal File
BOX OV 1	Awards and certificates, 1919, 1941 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Medals, undated
BOX OV 1	Scrapbook, circa 1908
BOX OV 1	Photographs and Negatives
BOX OV 1	Portraits, circa 1908, circa 1920-1940 (Container 6)
BOX OV 1	Film canister with contact sheet prints ("Christmas 1940" "Cape Cod MAR 1940"), circa 1940 (Container 6)