Collection Summary

Title: Robert W. Bonynge Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1881-1939
Bulk Dates: 1902-1939
ID No.: MSS86084
Creator: Bonynge, Robert W. (Robert William), 1863-1939
Extent: 200 items
Extent: 1 container plus 10 oversize
Extent: 3 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English, with German
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2016086084
Summary: Lawyer, state legislator, United States representative, and agent of the United States before the Mixed Claims Commission, United States and Germany. Scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, reports, and correspondence relating primarily to Bonynge's legal career, political career, and his work with the Mixed Claims Commission.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Robert W. Bonynge were given to the Library of Congress by Susan Bonynge Strange in 2016.

Processing History

The papers of Robert W. Bonynge were arranged and described by Emilia Schrier in 2023. Some items in the collection have undergone mold remediation.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert W. Bonynge is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

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

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Robert W. Bonynge Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1863, Sept. 8</td>
<td>Born, New York City, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>B.A., College of the City of New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>J.D., Columbia Law School, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admitted, New York bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Married Mary Alida Riblet (died 1937)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Admitted, Colorado bar</td>
</tr>
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Robert W. Bonynge Papers 2
1888-1912 Attorney, Bonynge & Hatheway and Bonynge & Warner, Denver, Colo.
1893-1894 Member, Colorado House of Representatives
1904-1909 Member, United States House of Representatives, Colorado's First District
1908-1912 Member, National Monetary Commission
1912-1930s Attorney, Bonynge & Bonynge, New York, N.Y.
1916-1918 Chief counsel, New York State Industrial Commission
1917-1918 President, National Republican Club
1923-1939 Agent of the United States before the Mixed Claims Commission, United States and Germany
1927-1929 United States agent before the Tripartite Claims Commission
1939, Sept. 22 Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note
The papers of Robert W. Bonynge (1863-1939) span the years 1881-1939, with the bulk of the material dating from 1902 to 1939. The majority of the collection comprises ten scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, correspondence, awards, and ephemera. These scrapbooks chiefly document Bonynge's political career in Colorado, including his term in the Colorado House of Representatives, his unsuccessful campaigns for the United States House of Representatives in 1900 and 1908, and the scandals of his successful 1902 campaign. The scrapbooks also illustrate Bonynge's work on the National Monetary Commission, his lifelong affiliation with the Republican Party, and his legal career, most notably the fifteen years he served as counsel and United States agent to the Mixed Claims Commission, formed as a result of the Treaty of Berlin. In this role, he defended American claims against Germany to compensate for loss of American life and property during World War I. The most famous of these claims, the Black Tom Explosion case, features prominently in both the later scrapbooks and in the Mixed Claims Commission file. The collection also includes photographs of Bonynge and his trips to Europe during his time on the commission. The papers are primarily in English, with some German.

Arrangement of the Collection
This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

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

Organizations
Mixed Claims Commission, United States and Germany.
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

Subjects
International law.
Political campaigns--Colorado.
Sabotage--United States--20th century.
World War, 1914-1918--Claims.
World War, 1914-1918--Germany.
World War, 1914-1918--Reparations.
World War, 1914-1918--Treaties.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

**Places**
Colorado--Politics and government--1876-1950.
United States--Claims vs. Germany.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

**Occupations**
Lawyers.
Legislators--Colorado.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Colorado.
## Container List

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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Obituaries and memorials, 1939</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Photographs, 1930s</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Political cartoon by Albert Wilbur Steele about the 1906 Philippine tariff bill, <em>Denver Post</em>, 1906, Jan. 11</td>
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<td>Scrapbooks</td>
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<td>1931, Feb.-1939, June</td>
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