

Robert W. Bonyng Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2016086084>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms023016>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2023

Collection Summary

Title: Robert W. Bonyng Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1881-1939

Bulk Dates: 1902-1939

ID No.: MSS86084

Creator: Bonyng, 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://lcn.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 Bonyng's legal career, political career, and his work with the Mixed Claims Commission.

Acquisition Information

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

Processing History

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert W. Bonyng is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Robert W. Bonyng 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. Bonyng Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1863, Sept. 8	Born, New York City, N.Y.
1882	B.A., College of the City of New York, N.Y.
1885	J.D., Columbia Law School, New York, N.Y. Admitted, New York bar
1886	Married Mary Alida Riblet (died 1937)
1888	Admitted, Colorado bar

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

Bonynge, Robert W. (Robert William), 1863-1939.

Organizations

Colorado. General Assembly. House of Representatives.
Mixed Claims Commission, United States and Germany.
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
United States. National Monetary Commission.

Subjects

Black Tom Explosion, Jersey City, N.J., 1916.
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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Mixed Claims Commission file, 1930-1938
BOX 1	Obituaries and memorials, 1939
BOX 1	Photographs, 1930s
BOX OV 1	Political cartoon by Albert Wilbur Steele about the 1906 Philippine tariff bill, Denver Post, 1906, Jan. 11
	Scrapbooks
BOX 1	1881-1893
BOX OV 2	1902, Sept.-1904, Aug.
BOX OV 3	1904, Aug.-1907, Sept.
BOX OV 4	1904, Jan.-1908, July
BOX OV 5	1908, July-1910, Apr.
BOX OV 6	1910, July-1911, Nov.
BOX OV 7	1911, Dec.-1916, Nov.
BOX OV 8	1918, Feb.-1926, March
BOX OV 9	1916, Nov.-1918, Feb.; 1926, Apr.-1933, Feb.
BOX OV 10	1931, Feb.-1939, June