Samuel Whittemore Boggs Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information:
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LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm78013094

Prepared by Audrey M. Cahill, W. Roberts, and A. Thompson

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Whittemore Boggs Papers
Span Dates: 1912-1954
ID No.: MSS13094
Creator: Boggs, Samuel Whittemore, 1889-1954
Extent: 7,000 items ; 31 containers plus 1 oversize ; 29 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Geographer, inventor, and cartographer. Correspondence, writings, subject files, research data, printed matter, and other material relating mainly to Boggs's geographic studies and to his inventions and research interests.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Boggs, Samuel Whittemore, 1889-1954.

Subjects
Boundaries.
Cartography--Instruments.
Cartography.
Geography.
International relations.
Map projection.
Maps.
Missions.
Regionalism.
Traffic signs and signals.
Water boundaries.

Occupations
Authors.
Cartographers.
Geographers.
Inventors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Samuel Whittemore Boggs, geographer, inventor and cartographer, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife in 1955, with an additional gift of Dorothy C. Novak, professional associate of Boggs, in 1967.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1956 and expanded in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

A note on these papers appeared in the Library of Congress *Information Bulletin* (April 30, 1956).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Whittemore Boggs in the collections of papers in the Library of Congress is dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel Boggs 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, Samuel Whittemore Boggs Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1899, 2 Mar.	Born, Coolidge, Kans.
1909	B.L., Berea College, Berea, Ky.
1909-1912	Private secretary to president, Berea College, Berea, Ky.
1912-1913	Student, Yale Divinity School, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1913-1914	Secretarial work, Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, Neb.
1914-1919	Secretarial and executive work for International Committee of YMCA and other organizations, New York
1916	Married Amy Burt Bridgeman
1916-1924	Geographical research, map compilation, editor, American Book Co., including maps for *World Missionary Atlas*, 1921-1924
1924	M.A. in geography, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1924-1954	Geographer, Department of State
1939-1942	Lecturer, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1945-1946	Lecturer, American University, Washington, D.C.
1954	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Whittemore Boggs (1889-1954) span the years 1912-1954. Consisting of correspondence, drafts of articles, notes, maps, printed matter, and clippings, the collection focuses on Boggs's diverse geographical interests. Included are files of geographic data on various regions of the world, reports of missionary activity, material relating to Boggs's mapping inventions, files for proposed studies, and preparatory materials for his lectures, speeches, and

publications. The collection is organized into seven series: Correspondence, Professional File, Writings File, Lectures, Subject File, Miscellany, and Oversize.

Topics of significance include boundary delimitation, regionalism, global relations, and water boundaries. Featured are Boggs's pioneering work as inventor of an eumorphic equal-area map projection, graphic traffic signals, and a universal graphic charting instrument. Also in the papers are notes on courses given at Columbia University.

Boggs's filing system was retained in parts of the collection, including a "Regions of the World" section in the Subject File series. A guide to the section is in the first folder of the material.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Correspondence, 1916-1954
- Professional File, 1927-1953
- Writings File, 1931-1954
- Lectures, 1938-1942
- Subject File, 1915-1954
- Miscellany, 1912-1945
- Oversize, 1932

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-2	**Correspondence, 1916-1954** Special correspondence of letters to and from Boggs as geographer with the State Department and general correspondence. Arranged alphabetically within the two groups.
BOX 3-18	**Professional File, 1927-1953** Material related to professional projects during the various phases of Boggs's career. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 19-23	**Writings File, 1931-1954** Articles, books, and speeches. Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 23-24	**Lectures, 1938-1942** Course notes of lecture series given at Columbia University. Arranged in numbered sequence as received from the donor, with a file of correspondence at the beginning and miscellany at the end.
BOX 25-30	**Subject File, 1915-1954** Subject files related to professional interests, but of an avocational nature. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 31	**Miscellany, 1912-1945** Charts and maps, photographs, biographical material, printed matter, and notes. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 1	**Oversize, 1932** Charts and maps. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-2	**Correspondence, 1916-1954**
	Special correspondence of letters to and from Boggs as geographer with the State Department and general correspondence.
	Arranged alphabetically within the two groups.
BOX 1	Special Correspondence, State Department
	“A-B” miscellaneous
	“C” miscellaneous
	“D-G” miscellaneous
	“H” miscellaneous
	“J-L” miscellaneous
	Library of Congress
	“M-P” miscellaneous
	“R-S” miscellaneous
BOX 2	“T-Z” miscellaneous
	General Correspondence
	“A-B” miscellaneous
	Beach, Harlan P.
	“C-E” miscellaneous
	“F-G” miscellaneous
	“H-J” miscellaneous
	“K-P” miscellaneous
	“R-S” miscellaneous
	St. John, Burton
	“T-W” miscellaneous
	Washburn, H. M.
	“Z” miscellaneous
BOX 3-18	**Professional File, 1927-1953**
	Material related to professional projects during the various phases of Boggs's career.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 3	Association of American Geographers
	"An Atlas of Ignorance"
	American Philosophical Society, Paper
	Cost Estimates, Project
	Ford Foundation, Project
	Forward, Introduction, Project
	Manuscripts, Initial Drafts
	Map Illustrations (Lantern Slices), Paper
	Map Plans, Project
	Maps Under Wenner-Gren Grant

Container	*Contents*
	Miscellany, Project
	Newspaper Clippings & Radio, Paper
	Notes for Text, etc., Project
	Other Correspondence, Paper
	Outline (Subjects, etc.), Project
	Plan for Atlas, Project
	Search for Support (except the American Philosophical Society), Project
	State Department, Paper
	Aviation Maps, Drafting Companies, 1928-1929
BOX 4	Cartographic Instruments and Patents
	Universal Graphic Charting Instrument
	Correspondence, 1932-1939
	Application for Patents
	Application for Registration of Trade-Mark
	Map Projection Application Papers
	Orders for Drafting Instrument
	Advertising
	Contract Draft
	Description and Instructions
	Related Instruments and Ideas
	General
	(2 folders)
BOX 5	(5 folders)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
	The Classification and Cataloging of Maps and Atlases
	Requests for Manual Refused
	(3 folders)
BOX 7	Requests for Loan of Manual to be Granted
	Requests for Reproductions
	Manual
	Accomplishments, Analytics, Facsimiles, Citations
	Area Headings
	Atlases, Cataloging
	Bibliography
	Catalog
	Entries
	Examples
	Rules, etc.
	Classification, Theory, etc.
	Consolidation of Book and Map Catalog
	Definitions
	Exploring Expeditions, Cataloging
	Index
	Subject Headings
	Photostat Sheets, Cards Selected from American Geographical Society Research, Catalog for Department of State and Office of the Coordinator, Nov. 1941
	Area Classification, Liberia

Container	*Contents*
	Subject Classification
BOX 8	Subject Headings, Old Material
	Manual, with Annotations and Corrections, 1945
	Area Classification, Current, 1937-1945
	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1940-1951
	Classification and Cataloging of Maps in Other Collections
	Projections, Small Illustrations Used in Identification Tables
BOX 9	Prime Meridians
	"Master Catalog" in GE [Department of State, Office of the Geographer]
	Map Cataloging in Other Libraries
	1924-1929
	Post 1930
	Map Scales, used in earlier centuries, chiefly
	Lists of Packages [as packed by donor]
	Association of American Geographers
	Committee Report
	30 Dec. 1936
	Related Material
	Manual Gifts, Letters and Replies, 1932
BOX 10	Map Manual
	Requests, Current, 1934-1941
	Correspondence re Publishing, 1932-1943
	Conferences with Library of Congress, Division of Maps, 1931-1936
	American Library Association Map Catalog Code Revision, 1939
	Exhibit of American Library Association Technique, Experimental Cards Arranged by Author, by Area, 1939
	Experimental Material, Data from Maps, circa 1930-1931
	Map Cataloging
	General
	Classed Catalog
	Developments in Department of State, before 1930
	Map Manual
	Archives
BOX 11	General Correspondence, 1932-1945
	Samuel Whittemore Boggs, Material
	Loans, 1932-1945
	Preface and Introduction
	Definitions
	Material to Be Used
	Old Material
	Map Projections, Appendix K
	Map Scale
BOX 12	Subject Classification
	Subject Index
	Classification and Notation, Old Material
	Manual

Container	*Contents*
	Copy Sent to Press, 1945
	Carbons of Material Sent to Miss Cole, 1945
BOX 13	SLA Correspondence re Publishing, etc., 1944-1945
	Errata and Revisions
	Printed, Oct.-Nov. 1945 [?]
	Mimeographed by Boggs and Dorothy C. Lewis
	Revisions and Corrections to Manual
	Abridged Area Classification
	General Plans
	New Subjects for Manual, Miscellaneous
	Material for Attention in Improving Manual
	Manual
	Typed Copy, 28 Apr. 1931, Annotated, Jan. 1932
	Mimeographed
	Jan. 1932
BOX 14	Jan. 1932, with Proposed Changes Insert, 4 Jan. 1935
	(2 folders)
	Apr. 1938, with Note, 10 Apr. 1945
	Date Not Shown
	"Department of State. Divisions of Publication, Geographic Section. Rules for Map Cataloguing" (2 copies)
	Map Cataloging, Department of State
	1930-1931
	1943, on Samples, etc., for Explaining Technique
BOX 15	Area Classification
	(2 folders)
	Eumorphic Equal-Area Map Projection Formulas & Computations, 1927-1953
	General Drafting Co., Inc., 1928-1930
	Geographic and Mapping Projects for Unesco, 1947
	"Geographic and Other Scientific Techniques for Political Science"
	"Geographic Encyclopedia of the World," in English
BOX 16	Geographic Film Strips, 1946
	Geographic Projects for the American Council of Learned Societies, 1947-1949
	Globes, 1953-1954
	International Geographers' Union
	"Inventory: The Earth and Its Tenants"
	(4 folders)
	Journey of John R. Mott
	re Maps for His Book, 1946-1947
	Source Material for Maps, 1946-1947
BOX 17	"National Atlas of the United States"
	Advisory Committee
	Association of American Geographers Committee and Others
	(2 folders)
	Canadian, British, and Other National Atlases
	Executive Committee
	Miscellany

Container	*Contents*
	Roger Smith Conference, 8 June 1949
	Nystrom (A. J.) & Co., Contract, 1927-1928
BOX 18	Possible Papers for Publication, Correspondence
	"Regional Proverbial Wisdom"
	"Savoy Free Zones"
	Traffic Problems, 1939-1941
	Warsaw Conference, 1934
	Washington, D.C., and Vicinity, Road Map
	1929-1931
	1934
	(2 folders)
	Water Boundaries Articles, Correspondence, 1951
BOX 19-23	**Writings File, 1931-1954**
	Articles, books, and speeches.
	Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX 19	"Africa: Maps and Man"
	"American Hemispheres"
	"Apuntaciones Sobre los Aspectos Geograficos de un Plan Viable para el Arreglo de la Controversia Boliviano-Paraguaya de Limites"
	Arts Club talk on maps, circa 1935, Notes
	"Boundary Functions and the Principles of Boundary-Making"
	"Centers: A Study in Social Unity"
	"The Changing Significance of Geographic Locations"
	"Comparative Distortion of Shape in Three Equal-Area Map Projections"
	"Delimination of the Great Lakes Boundary"
	"Geography and Its Relation to Political Science and Government"
	"Geographic Aspects of European Emigration to the United States"
	"The Geometry and Geography of Communications"
BOX 20	"Global Relations of the United States"
	(2 folders)
	"Globe Manual"
	International Boundaries
	(2 folders)
BOX 21	(6 folders)
BOX 22	(6 folders)
	"Library Classification and Cataloging of Geographic Material"
	"Mapping the Changing World"
	"Notes on Map Making"
BOX 23	"Physiography of the Roof of Earth"
	"A Plan for American Participation of Uninterrupted International Peace"
	"Problems of Water-Boundary Definition"
	"Seasonal Variations in Daylight, Twilight, and Darkness"
	Speeches and Talks, 1945-1945, Notes

Container	*Contents*
	"Taking It for Granted," circa 1950, Notes
BOX 23-24	**Lectures, 1938-1942**
	Course notes of lecture series given at Columbia University.
	Arranged in numbered sequence as received from the donor, with a file of correspondence at the beginning and miscellany at the end.
	Columbia University, 1939-1942
	Boundaries
	* Correspondence, 1938-1939
	1. What They Are and How They Function
	2. Classification and Terminology
	3. U.S.-Interstate
	(2 folders)
BOX 24	4. Latin America
	5. European Boundary Functions
	6. Europe
	7. Asia
	8. Africa
	9. Water
	* International
	* Miscellany
BOX 25-30	**Subject File, 1915-1954**
	Subject files related to professional interests, but of an avocational nature.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 25	American Christian Literature Society for Moslems, Inc.
	American Geographic Society
	Berea College, Berea, Ky.
	Boundaries
	General
	(3 folders)
	Offshore Water Boundary Delimination
BOX 26	U.S., Canadian Boundary
	U.S., Canadian Boundary Treaties
	U.S., Mexico Boundary Treaties
	Congo Constitution Committee, Correspondence, 1921-1923
	Denoyer-Geppert Co., Scientific School Map Makers
	Exhibitions, Art and Science Notes
BOX 27	Foreign Survey Department
	Graphic Standards for Maps
	Interchurch World Movement
	Map Projections
	Panama Protestant Missionary, Conference Material
	(3 folders)
BOX 28	Regions of the World
	Guide to Boggs's System

Container	*Contents*
	A World
	Population
	000 General Information
	050 Geographical Publications
	100 Mathematical Geography
	115 Map Projections
	230 Climate, Meteorology, etc.
	700 Missionary Geography
	750 Geography's Debt to Missions
	801 History of Religions
	811 Christian Missions, Administrative Problems
	812 Missionary Surveys
	865 Mohammedanism
	Ab Pacific Basin
	000 General Information
	B Eastern Hemisphere
	801 History of Religions
	Bn Near East
	840 Map of Protestant Missions, 1920, Data Used in Compiling Same
	Bt Turkey (Europe and Asia)
	000 General Information
BOX 29	Ca Latin America
	840 Panama Congress, Feb. 1916
	840 Protestant Missions
	840 Protestant Missions, "Berea in Latin America"
	D Africa
	412 Boundaries
	547 Railroads
	Dgb Egypt
	000 General Information
	E Asia
	000 General Information
	Ecb Armenia
	000 General Information
	Ej India
	000 General Information
	En Near East (Asiatic)
	151 Distribution of Population, Geographic Factors
	Es Siberia
	000 General Information
	Ga Austria
	000 General Information
	Gd Czechoslovakia
	000 General Information
	Gf Finland
	000 General Information

Container	*Contents*
	Gh Germany
	000 General Information
	Ghms Germany (Upper Silesia)
	000 General Information
	Gi Greece
	000 General Information
	Gj Hungary
	000 General Information
	Gk Italy
	000 General Information
	Gl Jugoslavia
	000 General Information
	Go Poland
	000 General Information
	Gwb Baltic Republics
	000 General Information
	Gxc Albania
	000 General Information
BOX 30	Hm Mexico
	000 General Information
	840 Protestant Missions
	Ho Central America
	840 Regional Conference, Mar. 1920
	General
	Records and Minutes
	Kg Greenland
	000 General Information
	Miscellany
BOX 31	**Miscellany, 1912-1945**
	Charts and maps, photographs, biographical material, printed matter, and notes.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 31	Biographical File
	Charts and Maps, 1932-1945, undated *See also Oversize*
	General
	Geography and Political Relations Course, Notes, circa 1948
	M.A. Thesis, Notes, 1923-1924
	Notebook, Undergraduate Course: Experimental Psychology, 1912-1913
	Photographs
	Printed Matter
BOX OV 1	**Oversize, 1932**
	Charts and maps.
	Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Oversize, 1932

Container	*Contents*
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
	Charts and Maps, 1932, undated (Container 31)