

# **Raoul Heilbronner Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS**

**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2013**

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013122>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78025650>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Raoul Heilbronner Papers

**Span Dates:** 1887-1952

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1887-1914)

**ID No.:** MSS25650

**Creator:** Heilbronner, Raoul

**Extent:** 9,000 items ; 9 containers ; 3.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in French, with English, German, and Italian

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

**Summary:** German-born antique dealer, of Paris, France, who specialized in Gothic and Renaissance art, furniture, tapestries and statues and supplied many nineteenth and early twentieth century American collectors. Correspondence; letterbooks; business records including invoices, inventories, notebooks, address book, records of purchases and sales, deposits, and consignments; and historical notes and clippings relating to particular objects.

## 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

Barnard, George Grey, 1863-1938.

Bertron, Samuel R., -1953.

Blair, Mary Anne Italia Mitchell, 1855-

Bradley, Edson.

Crocker, Charles T. (Charles Templeton), 1884-1948.

Harriman, Mary Williamson, 1851-1932.

Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951.

Heilbronner, Raoul.

Klapp, Elinor Evans, 1848-1916.

Palmer, Bertha Honoré, 1849-1918.

Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928.

Vanderbilt, William K. (William Kissam), 1849-1920.

Walters, Henry, 1848-1931.

### Subjects

Antiques business--France--Paris.

Antiques.

Art, Gothic.

Art, Renaissance.

Art--Collectors and collecting.

Furniture, Gothic.

Furniture, Renaissance.

Sculpture, Gothic.

Sculpture, Renaissance.

Tapestry, Gothic.

Tapestry, Renaissance.

### Occupations

Antique dealers.

# Administrative Information

## Provenance

The papers of Raoul Heilbronner, antique dealer, were given to the Library of Congress through the offices of Robert Garrett of Baltimore, Md., in 1952, by Tudor Wilkinson, Paris, France. Wilkinson had purchased the material at a public auction in the early 1920s.

## Processing History

The papers of Raoul Heilbronner were processed in 1954. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

## Additional Guides

The papers of Raoul Heilbronner have been described in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* 11, no. 27 (June 30, 1952) and in the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 10, no. 3 (May 1953).

## Transfers

Photographs, drawings, fine prints, and blueprints were transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Raoul Heilbronner 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, Raoul Heilbronner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# Biographical Note

Raoul Heilbronner, a prominent *antiquaire* of the late nineteenth century and during the first decade of the twentieth, came to France as a German soldier during the Franco-Prussian War and remained in Paris. His only son was born there and his two daughters married Frenchmen who also were *antiquaires*.

Heilbronner started his business before 1887 and specialized in Gothic and Renaissance objects, furniture, tapestries, and statues. Heilbronner's principal clients seem to have been a number of the great amateur American collectors of the period, as well as dealers here. For this reason, especially, the papers are important for the history of art in America. Heilbronner furnished art objects of high value for the private collections of William Randolph Hearst, Mary A. I. Mitchell Blair, wife of C. J. Blair, of Chicago, and others.

Heilbronner was a German citizen whose collection was confiscated and later sold at public auction after he was designated an enemy alien by the French government during World War I.

Few exact details of Heilbronner's life have been determined. The date of his death has not been ascertained.

# Scope and Content Note

The papers of Raoul Heilbronner span the years 1887-1952, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1887-1914. The collection consists of correspondence; letterbooks; business records including invoices, inventories, notebooks, address book, records of purchases and sales, deposits, and consignments; and historical notes and clippings

relating to particular art objects. The papers are organized into four series: [Letterpress Books](#), [Business Records](#), [Business Correspondence and Records](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Individuals represented in the collection include George Grey Barnard, Samuel R. Bertron, Mary Anne Italia Mitchell Blair, Edson Bradley, Charles T. Crocker, Mary Williamson Harriman, William Randolph Hearst, Elinor Evans Klapp, Bertha Honoré Palmer, Thomas Fortune Ryan, William K. Vanderbilt, and Henry Walters.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Letterpress Books, 1911-1914](#)
- [Business Records, 1887-1914](#)
- [Business Correspondence and Records, circa 1903-1914](#)
- [Miscellany, 1910-1952](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<b><u>Letterpress Books, 1911-1914</u></b> Copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically. An index is in each volume.
BOX 3-6	<b><u>Business Records, 1887-1914</u></b> Bills, inventories, records of sales, and related material, some in bound volumes, some unbound. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 7-9	<b><u>Business Correspondence and Records, circa 1903-1914</u></b> Letters sent and received. Arranged by type of material or name of correspondent.
BOX 9	<b><u>Miscellany, 1910-1952</u></b> Miscellaneous items mainly not part of Heilbronner business records. No arrangement.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-2</b>	<b>Letterpress Books, 1911-1914</b> Copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically. An index is in each volume.
<b>BOX 1</b>	15 June 1911-24 June 1912
<b>BOX 1</b>	24 June 1912-9 May 1913
<b>BOX 1</b>	May 1913-Apr. 1914
<b>BOX 2</b>	4 Apr. 1914-1 Oct. 1914
<b>BOX 2</b>	To E. Glaenzer & Co.
<b>BOX 2</b>	24 Oct. 1910-22 Apr. 1914
<b>BOX 2</b>	Address book
<b>BOX 3-6</b>	<b>Business Records, 1887-1914</b> Bills, inventories, records of sales, and related material, some in bound volumes, some unbound. Arranged by type of material.
<b>BOX 3</b>	Factures
<b>BOX 3</b>	11 July 1899-4 Dec. 1906
<b>BOX 3</b>	25 June 1912-11 Sept. 1914
<b>BOX 3</b>	Inventaire, closed 19 Aug. 1914
<b>BOX 3</b>	Notebook, inventaire
<b>BOX 3</b>	1908-1912
<b>BOX 3</b>	1908-1909
<b>BOX 4</b>	Ventes
<b>BOX 4</b>	1887-1890
<b>BOX 4</b>	1894-1897
<b>BOX 4</b>	1899-1903
<b>BOX 4</b>	1903-1906
<b>BOX 4</b>	1906-1910
<b>BOX 4</b>	1909-1913
<b>BOX 4</b>	1910-1914
<b>BOX 5</b>	Volumes as follows
<b>BOX 5</b>	Achats
<b>BOX 5</b>	1899-1904
<b>BOX 5</b>	1904-1906
<b>BOX 5</b>	Achats et ventes, 1907-1908
<b>BOX 5</b>	Ledger
<b>BOX 5</b>	Caisse, 1906-1910
<b>BOX 6</b>	Dépôts
<b>BOX 6</b>	Expeditions
<b>BOX 6</b>	Terrasse, records of
<b>BOX 6</b>	Canettes, records of
<b>BOX 6</b>	Reparations

## Business Records, 1887-1914

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 6	Historical notes, consisting of a few letters, notes clippings, etc., and two official documents, in Italian, stamped and signed, attesting a Venetian clock, 30 June 1862 and 9 Dec. 1865
BOX 6	Factures merchandise
BOX 6	1908-1911
BOX 7	1908-1913 (alphabetically arranged by name of client)
BOX 7	1913
BOX 7-9	<b>Business Correspondence and Records, circa 1903-1914</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged by type of material or name of correspondent.
BOX 7	Miscellaneous letters and lists (chronologically arranged), 1910-1913
BOX 7	Correspondence (alphabetically arranged by name of clients), 1913
BOX 8	Mrs. C. J. Blair (Mary Anne Italia Mitchell Blair), factures and correspondence, 1906-1914
BOX 8	G. Brauer, 1903-1914
BOX 8	Carrère & Hastings, 1913-1914
BOX 8	P. W. French & Co., pictures, inventory of stained glass windows, and correspondence
BOX 8	Eugene Glaenzer & Co., dépôts, comptes, and correspondence
BOX 9	William Randolph Hearst, bills and correspondence, 1909-1914
BOX 9	John A. Holms of Glasgow
BOX 9	Objets à acheter (correspondence about); also pictures and descriptive material
BOX 9	<b>Miscellany, 1910-1952</b> Miscellaneous items mainly not part of Heilbronner business records. No arrangement.
BOX 9	Miscellaneous items, probably not Heilbronner material, 1910-1952