Guide to the Cyrus Le Roy Baldridge Collection 1891-1978
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.BALDRIDGE

Title  Baldridge, Cyrus Le Roy. Collection

Date  1891-1978

Size  6 linear feet (4 boxes)

Repository  Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  Cyrus LeRoy Baldridge (1889-1977), artist. The Cyrus LeRoy Baldridge papers includes notes, correspondence, telegrams, articles about or by Baldridge and his wife Caroline Singer, as well as original and/or unpublished works of art from Baldridge, ranging from cartoons drawn during childhood to unfinished drafts.

Information on Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Baldridge, Cyrus Le Roy. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Cyrus LeRoy Baldridge was born in Alton, New York in 1889 to William Baldridge and Eliza Burgdorf Baldridge. Baldridge began his career in art at age 10, when he was accepted into Frank Holme's Chicago School of Illustration. Baldridge attended the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.B in 1911 in English Literature. While attending the university, Baldridge drew cartoons for the Maroon and for Cap and Gown newspapers.

Baldridge became a cavalryman for the Illinois National Guard, and eventually left for Europe in 1914 to cover the war. He served in WWI for the French and American armies as a field artist and war correspondent and then as an artist for the Stars and Stripes newspaper.
After the war and brief stints as a commercial artist, Baldridge traveled around the world sketching with his wife, Caroline Singer. They returned to the United States after 1932. Baldridge became president of the National Association of Commercial Arts and commander of the Willard Straight Post of the American Legion. In 1936, Baldridge wrote a pamphlet at the request of the Americanism Committee of the New York County American Legion. Titled “Americanism--What Is It?” the pamphlet sparked debates across the country over the purported communist sentiments behind the piece.

Baldridge’s other publications include I Was There and his autobiography Time and Chance (1947). In addition to illustrating many books, Baldridge co-wrote White Africans and Black (1929) and Half the World is Isfahan (1936) with his wife Singer.

Cyrus LeRoy Baldridge died in 1977.

Scope Note
The Cyrus LeRoy Baldridge Papers are organized into 4 series:

Series I: Biographical is divided into 3 subseries:

Subseries 1, Childhood, contains drawings, sketches, self-printed books, newspaper clippings, and a photograph. Materials date from 1898 to 1908 and are arranged by type of material and then chronologically.

Subseries 2, Later Life, contains artwork for and articles reviewing the autobiography Time and Chance (1947), biographic articles, travel cards, an address book, and an alumni award from the University of Chicago. Materials date from 1914 to 1977 and are arranged by type of material and then chronologically.

Subseries 3, Correspondence, contains correspondence regarding Harry Hansen, Mary Mulberry, and several other associates of Baldridge. Materials date from 1918 to 1978 and are arranged by type of material and then chronologically.

Series II: Travels is divided into two subseries:
Subseries 1, The War and Travels to Europe, includes newspaper clippings, articles, artwork prints, and sketches. Materials date from 1911 to 1924 and are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Subseries 2, Travels to the East, includes newspaper and magazine articles, clippings, book reviews, art work prints, and book illustrations. Materials date from 1918 to 1944 and are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Series III: Caroline Singer Caroline Singer, includes unpublished work and articles written by Caroline Singer, articles regarding Caroline Singer, portraits, and photographs. Materials date from 1920 to 1943 and are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Series IV: Other Works includes articles and correspondence pertaining to the booklet “Americanism: What is It?”, newspaper clippings, artwork prints, magazine volumes, and other miscellaneous illustrations. Materials date from 1920 to 2016 and are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Series IV includes oversize material organized in the same groupings as the rest of the collection.

Related Resources
Browse finding aids by topic.

Subject Headings

- Baldridge, Cyrus LeRoy 1889-1977
- Dewey, John, 1859-1952
- Hutchins, Robert Maynard, 1899-
- Vincent, George E. (George Edgar), 1864-1941
- Stars and Stripes: The American Soldiers’ Newspaper of World War I, 1918 to 1919
- Artists

INVENTORY

Series I: Biographical

Subseries 1: Childhood

Box 1
Folder 1
Newspaper clippings and sketches, 1898-1908
Box 1
Folder 2
   Some of the Adventures of Robin Hood, 1901
Box 1
Folder 3
   Jack Harper, 1902
Box 1
Folder 4
   The Fall of a Traitor, 1903
Box 1
Folder 5
   Detective Dan, 1903
Box 1
Folder 6
   Pirate Series, Days, Vol. 1, 1904
Box 1
Folder 7
   Photograph, 1898

Subseries 2: Later Life
Box 1
Folder 8
   Autobiography Time and Chance, 1947-1948
Box 1
Folder 9
   Articles re: Baldridge’s Life, 1919-1977
Box 1
Folder 10
   Miscellaneous Personal Affects, 1914-1944

Subseries 3: Correspondence
Box 1
Folder 11
   Re: Harry Hansen, 1918-1976
Box 1
Folder 12
   Re: Mary Mulberry, 1964-1978
Box 1
Folder 13
   Miscellaneous, 1977

Series II: Travels
Subseries 1: The War and Travels to Europe
Box 2
Folder 1
   Illinois Calvary, 1916-1918
Box 2
Folder 2
Miscellaneous works, 1911-1924

Subseries 2: Travels to the East

Box 2
Folder 3
Turn to the East, 1926-1927
Box 2
Folder 4
White Africans and Black, 1929
Box 2
Folder 5
Bomba Lives in Africa, 1935
Box 2
Folder 6
Half the World is Isfahan, 1936
Box 2
Folder 7
Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1919-1925
Box 2
Folder 8
Miscellaneous Sketches, 1918-1932

Series III: Caroline Singer

Box 2
Folder 9
“None of it Makes Sense”, undated
Box 2
Folder 10
Portraits and Photographs
Box 2
Folder 11
Articles, 1920-1943

Series IV: Other Works

Box 2
Folder 12
Americanism: What is It? Correspondence, 1936-1937
Box 2
Folder 13
Americanism: What is It? Articles, 1933-1937
Box 2
Folder 14
Hall Trial Sketches, 1926
Box 2
Folder 15
  Scribner’s Magazine, 1920-1937
Box 2
Folder 16
  Articles, 1924-1970
Box 2
Folder 17
  Newspaper Clippings, 1924-1926
Box 2
Folder 18
  Miscellaneous Book Illustrations, 1937-1950
Box 2
Folder 19
  Miscellaneous Art, 1927-2016

Series V: Oversize

Box 3
Folder 1
  Newspaper Clippings and Sketches, 1898-1908
Box 3
Folder 2
  Rats!, Vol 1-3, 1900-1901
Box 3
Folder 3
  Autobiography Time and Chance, 1947-1948
Box 3
Folder 4
  Miscellaneous Personal Affects, 1914-1944
Box 3
Folder 5
  Illinois Cavalryman, 1916-1918
Box 3
Folder 6
  Stars and Stripes and The Home Sector, 1919-1920
Box 3
Folder 7
  Miscellaneous Works, 1911-1923
Box 3
Folder 8
  Turn to the East, 1926
Box 3
Folder 9
  White Africans and Black, 1929
Box 3
Folder 10
  Bomba Lives in Africa, 1935
Box 3
Folder 11
  Half the World is Isfahan, 1936
Box 3
Folder 12
  Articles re: Travels, 1930-1944
Box 3
Folder 13
  Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1919-1925
Box 3
Folder 14
  Miscellaneous Sketches, 1918-1932
Box 3
Folder 15
  Articles re: Caroline Singer, 1920-1943
Box 3
Folder 16
  Drawing of Robert Maynard Hutchins, circa 1930s
Box 4
Folder 1
  Hall Trial Sketches, 1926
Box 4
Folder 2
  Articles, 1924-1970
Box 4
Folder 3
  The Adventures of Marco Polo, 1948
Box 4
Folder 4
  Illustrations for A. T. W. Simeons, 1941-1952
Box 4
Folder 5
  Nobody’s Child, undated
Box 4
Folder 6
  Miscellaneous Illustrations, 1927-2016
Box 4
Folder 7
  “Americanism: What is it?” Articles, 1936
Box 4
Folder 8
  The Strange Land, 1950