Guide to the Cyrus Leroy Baldridge Papers 1945-1964

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Identifier**    ICU.SPCL.BALDRIDGE

**Title**    Baldridge, Cyrus Leroy. Papers

**Date**    1936-1937

**Size**    0.2 linear feet (2 folders)

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

**Abstract**    Cyrus Leroy Baldridge, artist. The Cyrus Leroy Baldridge Papers include notes, correspondence, telegrams, articles and about Baldridge, a copy of the Congressional Record from 1936, and a copy of the pamphlet “Americanism —What Is It?” All the material concerns the publication of this work and the impact that it had.

**Information on Use**

**Access**
The collection is open for research.

**Citation**
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Baldridge, Cyrus Leroy. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

**Biographical Note**
Cyrus Leroy Baldridge was born in 1889 in Alton, New York to William Baldridge and Charity Eliza Burgdorf. 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.

Baldridge became a cavalryman for the Illinois National Guard, and eventually left for Europe in 1914 to cover the war on his own. He served in WWI for the French and American armies as a field artist and then an artist for Stars and Stripes.

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 Singer.

Cyrus Leroy Baldridge died in 1975.

Scope Note
The Cyrus Leroy Baldridge Papers consists of two folders of material from 1936-1937 and one undated note. The collection includes notes, correspondence, telegrams, articles by and about Baldridge, a copy of the Congressional Record from 1936, and a copy of the pamphlet “Americanism—What Is It?” All the material concerns the publication of this work and its after effects.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Baldridge, Cyrus Leroy, 1889-
• Dewey, John, 1859-1952
• Hutchins, Robert Maynard, 1899-
• Vincent, George E. (George Edgar), 1864-1941

INVENTORY

Box 1
Folder 1
Notes and Correspondence
• Notes by Baldridge, n.d,
• R. Sagell of Yale University to Cyrus Baldridge, December 9, 1936
• Esther M. Bomgardner to Cyrus Baldridge, n.d.
• H. L. Chaillaux to R. B. Huxtable, n.d.
• John Dewey to Cyrus Baldridge, February 15, 1936
• Robert M. Hutchins to Cyrus Baldridge, September 10, 1937
• Robert M. Hutchins to Cyrus Baldridge, September 11, 1937
• Robert M. Hutchins to Cyrus Baldridge, September 18, 1937
• George E. Vincent to Cyrus Baldridge, March 27, 1936
• Cyrus Baldridge to H. L. Chaillaux, February 19, 1936

Box 1
Folder 2
Miscellaneous
• Is the American Legion American?," article, n.d.
• "Americanism: What Is It?," article, 1937
• "Americanism: What Is It?,", bound copy, 1937
• "Americanism: What Is It?," The New Republic, 1936
• "Americanism: What Is It?," newspaper article, n.d.
• Congressional Record article, speech, 1936