Guide to the Harold Louis McDowell Collection of the Century of Progress Exposition 1929-1935

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.MCDOWELLH
Title  McDowell, Harold Louis. Collection of the Century of Progress Exposition
Date  1929-1935
Size  4 linear feet (4 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
            University of Chicago Library
            1100 East 57th Street
            Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  Photographs, film canisters, publications, souvenirs, and correspondence related to the Century of Progress International Exposition held in Chicago from 1933-1934. Harold Louis McDowell was hired by the exposition’s Department of Works in 1930 for architectural drafting, designing and rendering, holding the position until the end of the event in 1934.

Information on Use

Access  The collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: McDowell, Harold Louis. Collection of the Century of Progress Exposition, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note  The Century of Progress International Exposition took place in Chicago, Illinois from May 1933 to October 1934. Its exhibits and temporary architecture attracted tens of millions of visitors. Harold Louis McDowell was employed by the Century of Progress Exposition’s Department of Works in 1930 for architectural drafting and rendering for the exposition, as well as designing signage and maps. He was employed at the Department of Works until the exposition’s demolition period in late 1934.

Scope Note  The Harold Louis McDowell Collection of Century of Progress contains photographs, film canisters, publications, souvenirs, and correspondence related to the Century of Progress International Exposition. Most items belonged to Harold L. McDowell but some of the film and ephemera belonged to his father, Thomas Delbert McDowell. The collection is organized
by object type and size, with smaller ephemera, documents and photographs in Boxes 1-2, film canisters in Box 3, and larger drawings, clippings, signage and publications in Box 4.

**Related Resources**

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

Browse finding aids by topic.

Century of Progress International Exposition Collection

Century of Progress International Exposition Publications

Checklist of the Official Publications of the Century of Progress International Exposition and its Exhibitors

Century of Progress International Exposition Scrapbook

Century of Progress International Exposition Press Releases

In addition to the holdings at the University of Chicago Library, significant Chicago-area collections are at the Chicago Architectural Foundation, the Chicago Historical Society, the Chicago Public Library, and the Newberry Library. The official set of organizational records of the Century of Progress Exposition is located at the Special Collections Department of the University of Illinois at Chicago Library.

**Subject Headings**

- McDowell, Harold
- Century of Progress International Exposition (1933-1934 : Chicago, Ill.)
- Exhibitions -- Illinois -- Chicago -- History
- Chicago (Ill.) -- History -- 20th century

**INVENTORY**

Box 1

Folder 1

Internal Correspondence and Documents, 1933-1934

Box 1

Folder 2

Century of Progress Books, 1933-1934
Folder 3  
Postcards and Christmas Cards, 1933  
Box 1 
Folder 4  
Maps, undated  
Box 1 
Folder 5  
Trade publications, 1929-1935  
Box 1 
Folder 6  
Envelopes, undated  
Box 1 
Folder 7  
Century of Progress poster, 1933  
Box 1 
Folder 8  
Century of Progress logos, 1933-1934  
Box 1 
Folder 9  
Souvenir Tray, 1934  
Box 1 
Folder 10  
Clippings, undated  
Box 1 
Folder 11  
Commemorative ephemera (stamps, stickers, coaster, cards), 1933-1934  
Box 1 
Folder 12  
Admissions tickets, passes, and visitor guides, 1933-1934  
Box 1 
Folder 13  
Century of Progress publications, 1931-1934  
Box 1 
Folder 14  
Large photographs 1, undated  
Box 2 
Folder 1  
Commemorative Century of Progress bangles, undated  
Box 2 
Folder 2  
Commemorative Century of Progress medal, undated  
Box 2 
Folder 3  
Commemorative Century of Progress pins, undated  
Box 2 
Folder 4
Century of Progress Ink Stamp, undated
Box 2
Folder 5
Large Photographs 2, undated
Box 2
Folder 6
Small Photographs 1, undated
Box 2
Folder 7
Large Photographs 2, undated
Box 3
Film canister, “Century of Progress reel only, Copy 3,” undated
Box 3
Film canister, “Century of Progress broken film,” undated
Box 3
Film canister, “Chicago History, promoting 1933 World’s Fair,” undated
Box 3
Film canister, “Century of Progress broken boat race,” 1, undated
Box 3
Film canister, “Century of Progress broken boat race,” 2, undated
Box 4
Folder 1
Century of Progress maps, 1933
Box 4
Folder 2
A Century of Progress Exposition Chicago 1933
Box 4
Folder 3
Large Century of Progress newspaper clippings, 1934
Box 4
Folder 4
Partial Century of Progress sign 1, undated
Box 4
Folder 5
Partial Century of Progress sign 2, undated
Box 4
Folder 6
Partial Century of Progress sign 3, undated
Box 4
Folder 7
Framed drawings, undated