Guide to the Charles Derleth Papers, 1893-1953

Collection number: BANC MSS 91/116 c

The Bancroft Library

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Berkeley, California

Contact Information:
The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu

Collection Processed By:
Elizabeth Konzak

Date Completed:
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Finding Aid written by:
Elizabeth Konzak

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Charles Derleth Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1893-1953
Collection Number: BANC MSS 91/116 c
Creator: Derleth, Charles.
Extent: 3 Boxes and 5 Cartons(7.5 linear feet)
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Abstract: The Charles Derleth Papers, 1893-1953, include engineering project records, documents from Derleth's tenure at the University of California, Berkeley College of Civil Engineering, a personal scrapbook, scrapbooks from the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, and collected reference materials. Project records consist of correspondence, specifications, and drawings for a number of projects including the Golden Gate Bridge, the Carquinez Bridge, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the Broadway (Caldecott) Tunnel, and the Posey Tube. Faculty Papers contain lecture notes, examination materials, and research for civil engineering courses. The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire scrapbooks contain clippings, correspondence, documents, and maps relating to the destruction and rebuilding process.

Physical Location: Collection stored off-site. Advance notice required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages Represented: English
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Charles Derleth Papers, BANC MSS 91/116 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Related Collections
Charles Derleth Papers, 1865-1952. DERLETH. Water Resources Center Archives, University of California, Berkeley.

Separated Material
Pictorial material transferred to the Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
American Toll Bridge Company.
University of California, Berkeley.
Civil engineers--California.
Bridges--Design and construction--California.
Bridges--Virginia.
Bridges, Cantilever.
Bridges--California--Carquinez Strait.
Tunnels--California--Alameda.
Tunnels--California--Oakland.
Bridges--Design and construction.
Earthquakes--California--San Francisco.
Fires--California--San Francisco.
Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco, Calif.).

Provenance
The Charles Derleth papers were transferred to The Bancroft Library from the University of California, Berkeley Transportation Library in 1991, and were originally cataloged as BANC MSS 91/116 c. The current collection, also cataloged as BANC MSS 91/116 c, consolidates materials previously cataloged as BANC MSS C-B 717, given by Paul F. Keim in 1957, Celeste Ashley of Stanford University in 1966, and purchased from J Swingle in 1960.

Biographical Information
Charles Derleth, Jr. was born October 2, 1874 in New York. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the City College of New York in 1894 and a Civil Engineering degree from Columbia University in 1896. Derleth served as an instructor and lecturer at Columbia until 1901, when he moved west to become Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado. In 1903 Derleth accepted an appointment to the University of California, Berkeley to serve as Associate Professor of Structural Engineering. By 1907 he was Professor and Dean of the College of Civil Engineering, and in 1930 when the Colleges of Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering combined, Derleth was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering, serving until 1942.
Derleth played a pivotal role in the design and construction of some of the best known buildings, bridges, dams, highways, and tunnels in northern California. He was chief engineer for the Carquinez Straight Highway Bridge, the longest cantilever bridge west of the Mississippi at the time it was built in 1927. Derleth was a member of the Board of Consulting Engineers for the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and the Broadway Tunnel (Caldecott Tunnel). He was in charge of engineering work for the San Francisco Bureau of Architecture and was a consulting engineer for numerous Alameda County municipal structures.

In addition, Derleth consulted for well known projects such as the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition, the San Francisco Civic Center and Auditorium, Grace Cathedral, the Native Sons Hall in San Francisco, First National Bank of Berkeley, the Contra Costa County Hospital and was Chief Consulting Engineer on the Oakland-Alameda Estuary Tunnel (also known as the George A. Posey Tube). At the University of California, Derleth assisted with the design and construction for a number of buildings including California Hall, Wheeler Hall, Doe Library, Gilman Hall, LeConte Hall, and Sather Tower (the Campanile). In 1930 Derleth received an honorary degree from the University of California in recognition of his services. Charles Derleth died on June 13, 1956.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Charles Derleth Papers, 1893-1953, include engineering project records, documents from Derleth's tenure at the University of California, Berkeley College of Civil Engineering, a personal scrapbook, scrapbooks from the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, and collected reference materials. Project records consist of correspondence, specifications, and drawings for a number of projects including the Golden Gate Bridge, the Carquinez Bridge, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the Broadway (Caldecott) Tunnel, and the Posey Tube. Faculty Papers contain lecture notes, examination materials, and research for civil engineering courses. The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire scrapbooks contain clippings, correspondence, documents, and maps relating to the destruction and rebuilding process.

The collection documents the engineering of important transportation and building projects in the San Francisco Bay Area during the first half of the twentieth century. Many of the bridges and tunnels Derleth worked on are now major thoroughfares. Researchers looking for materials on specific structures should find documents of interest in the collection. Documents from Derleth's time in the University of California, Berkeley College of Civil Engineering illustrate the evolution of engineering education in the first half of the twentieth century, particularly through documents from the course Civil Engineering 113-114, Foundations and Masonry Structure.

The personal scrapbook contains clippings, programs and invitations collected by Derleth and his wife from 1902-1909. The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire scrapbooks contain a variety of clippings, correspondence, and documents. The materials focus on engineering and building techniques in the buildings destroyed as well as new construction methods. Those interested in the rebuilding of San Francisco from 1906-1909 will find the collection of materials informative.

Cartons 1-2, Carton 3, Folders 1-16
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically and chronologically
Scope and Content Note
The Project Records series documents Derleth's work as an engineer on large projects such as the Broadway (Caldecott) Tunnel, the Carquinez Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Martinez-Benicia Railroad Bridge, and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Also includes information on tunnels and bridges in Alameda County, the Posey Tube, the San Francisco Civic Auditorium, and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Records consist of correspondence, specifications, blueprints, reports, brochures, articles and clippings.

1.1.: Alameda County, 1919-1939

| carton 1, folder 1 | Oakland Inner Harbor Bridge, 1919-1922 |
| carton 1, folder 2-3 | George A. Posey Tube (Oakland-Alameda Estuary Tunnel), 1924-1928 |
| carton 1, folder 4-9 | Park Street Bridge, 1928-1935 |
| carton 1, folder 10-11 | High Street Bridge, 1935-1939 |
1.2.: Broadway Tunnel (Caldecott Tunnel), 1929-1940, n.d.

- Carton 1, folder 12: Maps and Reports, 1929-1935
- Carton 1, folder 13: Bills, 1931-1938
- Carton 1, folder 14: Records, 1932-1938
- Carton 1, folder 15: Specifications and Bidding Data, 1934-1936
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- Carton 1, folder 17: Lawsuits, 1936-1940
- Carton 1, folder 18: Notes and Brochures, 1938, n.d.

1.3.: Carquinez Bridge, 1922-1937, n.d.

- Carton 1, folder 19: Traffic Records, 1922-1928
- Carton 1, folder 20-21: Permits, 1922-1937
- Carton 1, folder 22: Franchise, 1923
- Carton 1, folder 23: Geological Statement, 1923
- Carton 1, folder 24: Cost Estimates and Data, 1923-1925
- Carton 1, folder 25-34: Foundations, 1923-1930
- Carton 1, folder 35-36: Specifications, 1923
- Carton 2, folder 1-5: Specifications, 1923-1925
- Carton 2, folder 6: Report on Probable Income, 1924
- Carton 2, folder 7: Piles, 1925
- Carton 2, folder 8: Rip-Rap (rock fill) for Piers 2 and 3, 1926-1929
- Carton 2, folder 9-16: Fender, 1926-1937
- Carton 2, folder 17: Dedication, 1927
- Carton 2, folder 18: Water and Gas Pipes, 1930
- Carton 2, folder 19: Report on Toll Operations, 1933
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1.4.: Golden Gate Bridge, 1931, 1936-1938

- Carton 2, folder 21: Drill Borings Progress Chart, 1931
- Carton 2, folder 22: Drill Borings Progress Chart, 1931
- Carton 2, folder 23: Collected Documents
- Carton 2, folder 24: Volume 29, January - June 1936
- Carton 2, folder 25: Volume 30, April - June 1936
- Carton 2, folder 26: Volume 31, July - September 1936
- Carton 3, folder 1: Volume 32, October - December 1936
- Carton 3, folder 2: Volume 33, December 1936 - January 1937
- Carton 3, folder 3: Volume 34, February - April 1937
- Carton 3, folder 4: Volume 35, May - June 1937
- Carton 3, folder 5: Volume 36, July - September 1937
- Carton 3, folder 6: Volume 37, 1937 - 1938

1.5.: Martinez-Benicia Railroad Bridge, 1928-1931

- Carton 3, folder 6: Clippings and Printed Materials, 1928-1931
- Carton 3, folder 7: Dedication, 1930

1.6.: San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge, 1929-1940, n.d.

- Carton 3, folder 8: Contract, 1929-1937

1.6.: San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge, 1929-1940, n.d.

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SERIES 3: Scrapbooks, 1902-1909

Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically

Scope and Content Note
The personal scrapbook contains clippings, programs and invitations for Derleth and his wife, Emily Bush Derleth, from 1902-1909. Topics include Columbia University alumni events, the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of California, Berkeley, the Berkeley Bohemian Club, and a set of Philosopher's Portrait Cards. The 1906 Earthquake and Fire Scrapbooks, in four volumes titled, "The San Francisco Earthquake and the Subsequent Conflagrations: Records Pertaining to the Disaster and the Following Events", contain clippings, correspondence, documents, and maps that describe the destruction and rebuilding of San Francisco from 1906-1909. The volumes also contain information on earthquakes in other parts of the world, seismography, damaged buildings, building designs, new building laws, and maps of the rebuilding process. Materials from the Structural Association of San Francisco, of which Derleth was Secretary/Treasurer, describe the study of building types that were destroyed or stood successfully in the earthquake and advice for rebuilding techniques.

box 1
Personal Scrapbook, 1902-1909
1906 Earthquake and Fire Scrapbooks, 1906-1909

box 2
Volume I, 1906

box 2
Volume II, 1906-1907

box 3
Volume III, 1907-1908

box 3
Volume IV, 1906-1909

Carton 4, Folders
13-27, Carton 5


Arrangement
Arranged Hierarchically

Scope and Content Note
Reference Materials consist of articles, notes, drawings, blueprints, reports, and promotional literature on a variety of topics related to civil and transportation engineering, particularly types of bridges and foundations.

carton 4, folder 13
American Wire Rope News, 1908

Bridges

carton 4, folder 14-16
Bascule, 1907-1937, n.d.

carton 4, folder 17
Cantilever, 1908-1926

Douglas Memorial Bridge, Klamath River Construction History and Report, by Stewart Mitchell, Resident Engineer, and Jno. B. Leonard, Consulting Engineer, 1924-1926, 1933

Floors, 1931-1937, n.d.

Military, 1941-1946

Reinforced Concrete Arch, 1896

Specifications, 1895-1933, n.d.

Specifications, 1895-1933, n.d.

Steel Arch, 1915-1932

Suspension, 1937

Continuous Frames, 1932

Dams, 1934-1935

Domes, 1900-1946, n.d.

Foundations

Bethlehem H-Section Piles, 1929-1942, n.d.
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