
**Finding aid for the Frank Lloyd Wright correspondence with R. M. Schindler,
1914-1929, bulk 1918-1922**

Finding aid prepared by Jocelyn Gibbs.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Frank Lloyd Wright correspondence with R. M. Schindler

Date (inclusive): 1914-1929

Number: 960076

Creator/Collector: Schindler, R. M., (Rudolph M.)

Creator/Collector: Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959

Physical Description: 1.0 linear feet(2 boxes)

Repository:

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Special Collections

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Abstract: The association between the architects Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) and R. M. Schindler (1887-1953) began in 1914 when Schindler first wrote to Wright asking for a position, and revolved around two major commissions while Schindler worked for Wright: the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, known as Teikoku Hosteru (1913-1923), and the Barnsdall project, which includes Hollyhock house, in Los Angeles (1915-1924). Correspondence between Frank Lloyd Wright and R. M. Schindler contains approximately 160 items, primarily letters and telegrams, dating from 1914 (the year Schindler came to the United States from Vienna) to 1929.

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Language: Collection material is in English

Biographical/Historical Note

The association between the architects Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) and R. M. Schindler (1887-1953) began in 1914 when Schindler first wrote to Wright asking for a position, and revolved around two major commissions: the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, known as Teikoku Hosteru, (1913-1923) and the Barnsdall project, which includes Hollyhock house, in Los Angeles (1915-1924).

Schindler arrived in the United States in 1914 from Vienna, joined Wright's studio in 1918 and worked for him through 1922. During these years, Wright was immersed in the design and construction of the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and spent months at a time there beginning December 1916 through July 1922. Schindler remained at Taliesin (Spring Green, Wisconsin) and Chicago for Wright until 1920 when Schindler moved to Los Angeles to supervise the construction of the Barnsdall project.

The Imperial Hotel (Teikoku Hosteru) in Tokyo was first constructed in 1888-1889 to accommodate the arrival of Westerners, instigated by the Emperor's interest in opening trade to the West. By 1910 a larger and more modern hotel was needed. Frank Lloyd Wright was recommended for the job in 1911, in part because of his well-known interest in Japanese art (which had prompted him to vacation in Japan for three months in 1905). By 1916 the decision was made to hire Wright and he departed for Tokyo December 28, 1916.

Wright worked closely with the Managing Director of the Imperial Hotel, Aisaku Hayashi and, to a lesser extent, with the Chairman of the Board of the hotel, Baron Okura. Wright brought some of his draftsmen (Antonin Raymond, William E. Smith among others) and contractors (such as the Chicago builder Paul Mueller) to Tokyo to work with him.

The difficult soil conditions - eight feet of soil on top of about 60 feet of liquid mud - and the frequency of earthquakes necessitated particular attention to the engineering of the foundation of the building. In late 1919 the Annex of the old Imperial Hotel burned down. This loss made the need for the new hotel building even more urgent. Wright was asked to rebuild the Annex and speed up the construction of the hotel. Wright designed and built a new Annex which opened in 1920. He completed the new hotel in 1923. On the morning of the hotel's official opening, September 1, 1923, a severe earthquake hit Tokyo and proved the brilliance of the hotel's structural engineering. The Imperial Hotel suffered little damage and became the headquarters of refugees and rescue efforts because it was one of the few buildings still standing.

Aline Barnsdall (1882-1928) commissioned Wright to design a residence (Hollyhock house, 1917-1922) and other buildings to support a center for the arts on Olive Hill in Los Angeles (1915-1924). Miss Barnsdall, whose money came from her family's oil business, was interested in theater and music. She first commissioned a theater from Wright in 1915, before she had even settled on a site. In June 1919 she purchased 36 acres in Los Angeles. In the fall of 1919 construction began on the residence.

Wright's son, Lloyd Wright, supervised the early construction (grading, foundations, pools). By 1920 Schindler was producing working drawings for the residence, named Hollyhock house after Miss Barnsdall's favorite flower. The initial plan included Hollyhock house, two smaller residences referred to as Residence A and B, a theater, a house for a resident artistic director, an apartment house known as the Actors' Abode (not built), an entrance pavilion for the public (not built), a row of shops along Hollywood Boulevard with small houses on the terraces above (not built), and a movie theater (not built).

In December 1920 Schindler moved to Los Angeles to take over the supervision of the project. By fall of 1921 Hollyhock house and residences A and B were nearly completed. Other work on Barnsdall, some of which Schindler, Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra had a hand in, continued until 1924.

Schindler remained in Los Angeles for the rest of his life. Wright opened an office in Los Angeles for a brief period, 1923-1924, but returned to Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin in 1924.

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Acquisition Information

The collection was acquired from R. M. Schindler's son, Mark Schindler, in 1996.

Processing History

William Dabars processed and arranged the collection in 1997. J. Gibbs wrote this finding aid in March 1999.

Scope and Content of Collection

Correspondence between Frank Lloyd Wright and R. M. Schindler contains approximately 160 items, primarily letters and telegrams, dating from 1914 (the year Schindler came to the United States from Vienna) to 1929. The bulk of the correspondence dates between 1918-1922. Several items are undated. The correspondence begins with a letter from Schindler asking about the possibility of a position with Wright, undated but probably November 23, 1914. It ends in August 1929 with Wright's letters of recommendation for Schindler to present to the architecture licensing board in California.

In between, the majority of letters (1918-1922) concern the Imperial Hotel, which Wright is working on in Tokyo (1913-1923), and the Barnsdall project in Los Angeles (1915-1924) which Schindler is supervising for Wright from Chicago and then Los Angeles. Most of Wright's letters are handwritten, most of Schindler's are typed. All of Schindler's letters, except some telegrams, are carbon copies. This correspondence was part of Schindler's personal papers and was acquired by the Getty Research Institute from his son.

Twelve items in the collection are not letters. These include brief financial accounts, specifications, a photograph of F.L. Wright, Schindler's telephone book (probably dating after 1919 because most of the numbers are for Los Angeles), two poetic manifesto-like essays, a four-page draft from Wright's autobiography, and a handmade booklet titled "Frank Lloyd Wright Utterances," with pencil entries.

Wright's letters give details of the construction of the Imperial Hotel (Teikoku Hosteru), especially the foundation engineering and the utility systems, with occasional sketches. He urges Schindler to write every week and complains when the letters and telegrams do not give enough detail or are delayed. He requests boring machines, contracts, the detailed drawings he has asked Schindler to work out for the Imperial Hotel and the Barnsdall project, and news. The lack of money is a minor but constant theme on both sides of the correspondence. He addresses Schindler's questions about the design of the Barnsdall house group (Hollyhock house, the director's house and theater) and praises Schindler's design for the Shampay house (1919). Several letters mention Sullivan, including Wright's attempt to bring him to Japan, and the money Wright sends him. Two of Wright's letters speak elliptically of his companion Miriam Noel and their troubled relationship. Three letters from 1924 reveal a rift between Wright and Schindler when Wright rebukes Schindler and blames him for the problems on the Barnsdall job.

Schindler's letters from Chicago, Oak Park and Taliesin (1918-1920) give details of the work he is doing to reconfigure Wright's Oak Park house into separate rental units and then find renters. He is in contact with Lloyd Wright who is in Los Angeles getting ready to start construction on the Barnsdall house (Hollyhock house). Schindler also responds to Wright's requests for bids and machinery for the Imperial Hotel construction, as well as the working out of design details. In two letters Schindler recommends his friend Richard Neutra to Wright. In late 1920 Schindler moves to Los Angeles and his

letters are filled with news of the Barnsdall job and the difficult Miss Barnsdall. He alludes to other jobs, including his efforts to finance and build his own house (the Schindler-Chase house on Kings Road). A file of eight letters between Wright and Schindler, November - December 1922, relate to the design of a house for Mrs. Charles P. Lowes in Eagle Rock, California. In these letters Wright addresses the wider problem of designing the small house. The last file of letters (1927-1929) contains Schindler's request for a letter of recommendation for his license application, and Wright's several responses, some of which, Schindler responds to Wright, would do more harm than good.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged chronologically with the undated items that are not letters at the beginning. All undated letters have probable dates and are inter-filed with dated correspondence.

Subjects - Names

Barnsdall, Aline, 1882-1946

Hayashi, Aisaku

Mueller, Paul

Schindler, R. M., (Rudolph M.)

Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959

Wright, Lloyd, 1890-1978

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

Hollyhock House (Hollywood, Los Angeles, Calif.)

Teikoku Hoteru

Subjects - Topics

Architects and patrons--California--Los Angeles

Architecture, Modern--20th century--California, Southern

Concrete construction

Box 1, Folder 1-16	Undated items and correspondence, 1914-1920
Box 1, Folder 1	Undated items, not correspondence, ca. 1920
Box 1, Folder 1	Photograph, undated, probably 1920
	Scope and Content Note
	Portrait of F. L. Wright.
Box 1, Folder 1	"Frank Lloyd Wright Utterances," n.d.
	Scope and Content Note
	Handmade booklet of 4 leaves folded into pages with quotes written in pencil. Undated but probably after June 1918.
Box 1, Folder 1	RMS telephone book, n.d.
	Scope and Content Note
	Partial telephone book with handwritten entries (most for Los Angeles) on loose pages. Undated but probably after 1919.
Box 1, Folder 1	Louis Sullivan building, n.d.
	Scope and Content Note
	Image of Sullivan's Peoples Savings & Loan, Sidney, Ohio, torn from magazine.
Box 1, Folder 1	Empty envelope (F. L. Wright stationary)
	Scope and Content Note
	Addressed to Gustaf Gerschefsky, Forest Park, Ill.
Box 1, Folder 2	Undated items, not correspondence

Box 1, Folder 2	Notes [by RMS?] Scope and Content Note Two small note cards with pencil notes (in German)
Box 1, Folder 2	Essay, unsigned Scope and Content Note Two typed pages, "The Mediamism," - manifesto about art (FLW?)
Box 1, Folder 2	Envelope, empty Scope and Content Note Addressed to RMS from Tokyo.
Box 1, Folder 3 Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1914-1917 One letter from RMS to FLW, unsigned, perhaps 23 Nov 1914 Scope and Content Note From RMS to FLW asking for a position. Undated.
Box 1, Folder 3	Note from FLW, postmarked 10 Dec 1914 Scope and Content Note FLW acknowledges receipt of Schindler's letter of 23 Nov (above?) and tells RMS to come speak with him.
Box 1, Folder 3	Letter from FLW to RMS, postmarked 15 Dec 1914 Scope and Content Note Second letter to RMS inviting him to come to talk about a position.
Box 1, Folder 3	Letter dictated by FLW to Mrs. Avery L. Coonley, 30 Dec 1914 Scope and Content Note Introduces RMS and asks her to allow RMS to see her house.
Box 1, Folder 3	Letter from FLW to his office staff, 20 Oct 1917 Scope and Content Note Short letter to Miss Kimbell, Miss Hazelton and Miss Wigginton, introducing RMS. With envelope.
Box 1, Folder 4 Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, notes, specifications, 1918 RMS account of work, payments, 1918? Scope and Content Note Note card with annotations by RMS of work done and payments received Feb-Nov [1918?].
Box 1, Folder 4	Five page letter from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 15 Feb 1918 Scope and Content Note About specifications for Imperial Hotel and office business.
Box 1, Folder 4	Specifications, undated, 1918? Scope and Content Note "Architects Specifications, Engineering principles to be applied in constructing of Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan"; one typed sheet (2 copies).

- Box 1, Folder 4 **Notes from FLW to RMS, undated, ca. Sept 1918**
 Scope and Content Note
 "Here it is Schindler. Think it over!" Two small sheets contain 5 propositions about structure, with small drawing on reverse of one sheet.
- Box 1, Folder 4 **RMS note to FLW, 11 Sept 1918**
 Scope and Content Note
 Note by RMS refers to FLW's argument in his 5 propositions (above item), contains comment: "content shows superficial technical knowledge."
- Box 1, Folder 4 **RMS notes, undated, after 5 Oct 1918**
 Scope and Content Note
 Five small sheets of pencil notes by RMS regarding contracts, Taliesin, and Oak Park office.
- Box 1, Folder 4 **Letter from FLW in Chicago to RMS, 22 Oct 1918**
 Scope and Content Note
 Letter, with envelope, in which FLW warns RMS not to tell anyone, especially Wright's family, that Wright is leaving for Japan.
- Box 1, Folder 4 **Letter from FLW (on his way to Japan via California) to RMS, 25 Oct 1918**
 Scope and Content Note
 Letter, with envelope, regards purchasing a boring machine and gives RMS instructions.
- Box 1, Folder 4 **Letter from FLW in Japan to RMS, 20 Nov 1918**
 Scope and Content Note
 Contains instructions, mostly about Imperial Hotel.
- Box 1, Folder 5
Box 1, Folder 5 **Correspondence undated, probably 1919**
 Letter from FLW in Tokyo (on Imperial Hotel stationary) to RMS, 1919?
 Scope and Content Note
 Contains technical details about the Hotel and discussion of costs.
- Box 1, Folder 5 **Order for Liberty Steel, 1919?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Copy of order placed with Liberty Steel, for Imperial Hotel. One typed sheet with envelope.
- Box 1, Folder 5 **Letter from FLW (on his way to Japan) to RMS, 1919?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding revisions to Barnsdall theater and director's cottage, his request that RMS provide moral support for Lloyd, and a reminder to send a weekly letter.
- Box 1, Folder 5 **Letter, with envelope, from FLW to RMS, 1919?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Discusses steel order, asks RMS to contact Sullivan for him, and regarding prospective clients, tells Schindler to design a Wright building for them: "I do not know quite what 'a Schindler' would look like. You know much better what a 'Wright' would look and be like..."
- Box 1, Folder 6 **Correspondence, Jan-Feb 1919**
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- Box 1, Folder 6 **Letter from FLW to RMS, 11 Jan 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW encloses a check for RMS's expenses [not here], discusses technical systems for the Hotel, his family in Oak Park.
- Box 1, Folder 6 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 12 Jan 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding transformers for Hotel; with pencil notation: "rec. Jan. 13th 1919."
- Box 1, Folder 6 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW, 21 Jan 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS gives estimates for Barnsdall house, mentions Shampay job.
- Box 1, Folder 6 **Letter from FLW in Japan to RMS in Oak Park, postmarked 11 Feb 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW tells RMS to make himself comfortable in the Oak Park house, discusses money worries, the possibility of other jobs in Japan.
- Box 1, Folder 6 **Envelope (Imperial Hotel stationary) addressed to RMS in Chicago, postmarked 15 Feb 1922**
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Correspondence, March 1919**
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Letter, 5 leaves with envelope, from FLW in Japan to RMS, 15 March 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW discusses the Hotel structure (FLW is looking into "pile-less footings") and the need for equipment, Sullivan's impending visit, money issues, and Miss Barnsdall's planned visit to Japan.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Short letter from FLW in Japan to RMS. postmarked 17 March 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 He writes about design of pipes for sewage.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Cablegram from FLW in Japan to RMS, 22 March 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regards Mueller [Paul Mueller, Chicago builder] whom FLW engaged to come to Tokyo. RMS pencil notations on reverse.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Typed letter from FLW in Japan to RMS, 27 March 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regards payment and transit for boring machines and steel. FLW hopes Sullivan is on his way to Japan.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Copy (mimeo) of typed letter to Liberty Steel Co., 27 March 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 From Imperial Hotel Managing Director [Aisaku Hayashi], about steel contract, Unsigned.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Short letter, with envelope, from FLW in Japan to RMS, 30 March 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding delinquent tax returns.
- Box 1, Folder 7 **Typed letter with envelope, from FLW in Japan to RMS, undated, 1919?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding steel contract.
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- Box 1, Folder 8
Box 1, Folder 8
- Correspondence, April 24 - May 14 1919**
Picture postcard from FLW in Japan to RMS, postmarked 24 April [1919?]
Scope and Content Note
No message.
- Box 1, Folder 8
- Letter, 3 leaves, from FLW in Japan to RMS, 24 April 1919**
Scope and Content Note
FLW complains of delays of cables and letters from RMS, and missed communication with Miss Barnsdall. Discusses details for Hotel design and money problems.
- Box 1, Folder 8
- Two cablegrams from Hayashi [Imperial Hotel Managing Director] and FLW, May 1919**
Scope and Content Note
Regarding delay of steel and cancellation of steel contract. One undated, May [1919?], other dated 14 May 1919.
- Box 1, Folder 9
Box 1, Folder 9
- Letters from FLW, 15-30 May 1919**
Letter, 7 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 15 May [1919]
Scope and Content Note
Regarding a raise for RMS, how little FLW is being paid by the Japanese, design details for the Hotel.
- Box 1, Folder 9
- Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo, 22 May 1919**
Scope and Content Note
Regarding cancellation of steel contract.
- Box 1, Folder 9
- Letter, 4 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 27 May 1919**
Scope and Content Note
FLW comments on Schindler's design for the Shampay house, with advice to keep the plan simple. He discusses the engineering of the Hotel and concern about earthquakes, the design of the Hotel's banquet hall, and the Barnsdall theater design.
- Box 1, Folder 9
- Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS at Taliesin, 29 May 1919**
Scope and Content Note
Regarding Sullivan's sailing date and construction of the power house for the Hotel.
- Box 1, Folder 9
- Carbon copy of letter from FLW to Roland Ludington, 29 May 1919**
Scope and Content Note
Copy sent to RMS (with penciled note from FLW), regards design of a memorial. With pencil notation by RMS: "rec. June 27, 1919."
- Box 1, Folder 10
Box 1, Folder 10
- Correspondence, June 1919**
Carbon copy of 2 page typed letter to Liberty Steel Co., 3 June 1919
Scope and Content Note
From Imperial Hotel Managing Director [Hayashi] regarding delivery of steel. Annotated in ink: "copy to Mr. Schindler."
- Box 1, Folder 10
- Typed letter, 3 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 3 June 1919**
Scope and Content Note
Letter, with pencil additions by FLW, regarding Sullivan's spirits and FLW's desire to have him come to Tokyo, the steel shipment and other details about the Hotel. With pencil note from RMS that the letter was received 24 June 1919.
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- Box 1, Folder 10 **Picture postcard from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Chicago, , undated ca. June 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Contains message: "Celebrating the cancellation of the steel contract." Undated, but after 3 June 1919.
- Box 1, Folder 10 **Short note from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, undated, ca. June 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding an application by someone who Durr [H. A. Durr, Chicago engineer] might want to use as superintendent. Envelope has note: "rec. June 24, 1919."
- Box 1, Folder 10 **Letter, 5 leaves with envelope, from FLW to RMS, 25 June 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding power house, boilers, other details for Hotel. FLW makes suggestions for changes to a design by RMS for Wenatchee and includes a sketch orienting the buildings to the park and Columbia River. FLW expresses his sadness about Sullivan, discusses Miss Barnsdall and compliments RMS on the Shampay house.
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Correspondence, July - Dec 1919**
Box 1, Folder 11 **Cablegram from Mueller [Paul Mueller, Chicago builder] in Tokyo to RMS, 3 Aug 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding boring machine.
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Letter from FLW in Beverly Hills Hotel [California] to RMS in Chicago, 9 Sept 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW is recuperating and working on Barnsdall. "Model of Theatre is a beautiful thing and a great success." He plans to come to Taliesin soon.
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Letter from FLW, written on train to NY, to RMS, postmarked 6 Oct 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 He asks for Lloyd's [Lloyd Wright] address and discusses Barnsdall design. [Difficult to read because of ink bleed.]
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Telegram from FLW in Missoula, Montana to RMS in Chicago, 13 Dec 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW asks for concrete calculations.
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS to FLW, 17 Dec 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 Written in response to telegram above. RMS mentions new project for Frederick Ward who wants a six bedroom house.
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Cablegram from FLW (in Europe?) to RMS, 22/23 Dec 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW asks for kitchen and power layout for Hotel.
- Box 1, Folder 11 **Letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 28 Dec 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS responds to cablegram above. He has started working plans for director's house [Barnsdall], and sends news of Oak Park house and the office.
- Box 1, Folder 12 **Correspondence undated, probably 1920**
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- Box 1, Folder 12 **Handwritten copy of telegram from RMS to FLW in Tokyo, 1920?**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS discusses settling bills, and asks "what next?"
- Box 1, Folder 12 **Letter with envelope, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 1920?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding power house changes, with detailed drawing.
- Box 1, Folder 12 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 1920?**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW gives instructions for boring machines, Sullivan, accounts, and steel.
- Box 1, Folder 12 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Chicago, 1920?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding boring machine, steel contract and sending Sullivan to Tokyo.
- Box 1, Folder 12 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Chicago, 17 March [1920?]**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding remittance dispatched to Boyd on March 10th.
- Box 1, Folder 13 **Correspondence, Jan 1920**
Box 1, Folder 13 **Letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 10 Jan 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding bills, jobs from a Mr. Tobey who wants a Community House and Mr. Hardy who is adding a basement.
- Box 1, Folder 13 **Letter, 6 leaves, typed with pencil annotations from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 12 Jan 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW writes about the Annex to Hotel burning down, the power house, the temperature in Tokyo, artesian well and water analysis.
- Box 1, Folder 13 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 20 Jan 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding his mother's (Anna Wright) trip to Tokyo.
- Box 1, Folder 13 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS to FLW, 25 Jan 1919**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS sends news: FLW's mother decides not to go to Japan; there is a possibility of renting the Oak Park house. He also discusses bills, the Shampay house, the Actors' Abode, which he is working on [part of Barnsdall project], and he gives details and asks questions about the theater and house for Barnsdall.
- Box 1, Folder 13 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Chicago, 28 Jan [1920]**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding expenses and Wright's mother.
- Box 1, Folder 14 **Correspondence, Feb 1920**
Box 1, Folder 14 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 8 Feb 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 About FLW's mother and changes M.B. [Miss Barnsdall] wants to house design.
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- Box 1, Folder 14 **Letter, 5 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 9 Feb 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW complains about lack of news from RMS and Will Smith [William E. Smith, FLW's assistant / draftsman], heating problems RMS has not addressed in the Oak Park house, engineering details of the Hotel (with small sketch), his mother's planned visit, and Miss Barnsdall.
- Box 1, Folder 14 **Typed letter (carbon, 2 leaves) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 21 Feb 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding plumbing and heating systems for Hotel, the plan for Barnsdall garage, a possible job for a bungalow design that RMS is working on, and the notices in the newspapers of FLW's illness in Japan.
- Box 1, Folder 14 **Typed letter (carbon, 2 leaves) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 25 Feb 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding plumbing in Hotel and costs of heating water. Mention of a design for Mrs. Heurtley.
- Box 1, Folder 14 **Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 29 Feb [1920]**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW requests original drawings for director's lodge [Barnsdall].
- Box 1, Folder 15
Box 1, Folder 15 **Correspondence, March 1920**
 Typed letter (carbon, 1 leaf both sides) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, undated, ca. March 1920
 Scope and Content Note
 Regards sending original drawings of director's lodge [Barnsdall], meetings with subcontractors for Hotel equipment, renting the downtown Chicago office, and asking for a check.
- Box 1, Folder 15 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 8 March 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Letter concerns rental and repair of Oak Park properties and discusses Lloyd's desire to start construction on Barnsdall and RMS's concerns. With separate statement regarding the rental of Oak Park houses.
- Box 1, Folder 15 **Letter from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, 11 March 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Elliptical but intimate description of the effects of Wright's mother's visit, and his problems with "M" [Miriam Noel].
- Box 1, Folder 15 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 11 March 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 About money matters, concerns about frequency of communications, and Lloyd's need for details in order to begin building Barnsdall.
- Box 1, Folder 15 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 17 March 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regards renting Oak Park house, working on details of Barnsdall for the panic-stricken Lloyd.
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| Box 1, Folder 15 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 31 March 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Regarding sending details of Barnsdall house to Lloyd and FLW, renting Chicago Ave. portion of Oak Park house, RMS's plans to move to Los Angeles.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 16
Box 1, Folder 16 | <p>Correspondence, April 1920</p> <p>Letter, 5 leaves and envelope, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS, postmarked April 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>FLW discusses their relationship, the Oak Park house, his relationship with M [Miriam Noel], his mother's visit, the progress on the Hotel and the director's house at Barnsdall. He sends greetings to "Lieber Meister."</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 6 April 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS assures FLW that he will be discrete about what he knows of Wright's personal life. He relates an amusing story about Mr. Irving of Wilmette, whose house was carried away by a tornado.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Oak Park to FLW in Tokyo, 13 April 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS discusses heaters, suggests asking Irving Gill about the use of floor radiator boxes which RMS says Gill invented.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | <p>Handwritten telegram form, from RMS to FLW in Tokyo, 17 April 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS writes that everything is rented [Oak Park house] and he is going West in May.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | <p>Cablegram from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Chicago, 26 April [1920]</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>FLW states that Schindler is not needed West [i.e., Los Angeles] before he (FLW) returns.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Chicago to FLW in Tokyo, 28 April [1920]</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS, responding to FLW's cablegram above, discusses work to be done in Chicago and his need to look for more work.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 1-14
Box 2, Folder 1
Box 2, Folder 1 | <p>Correspondence, accounts and essay, May 1920 - August 1929</p> <p>Correspondence, May - Dec 1920</p> <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Chicago to FLW in Tokyo, 16 May 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS discusses his own future: "I cannot forget in thinking about my future that the working out of a plan quietly by myself is the greatest pleasure I have." He describes problems with delivery of water heaters to FLW in Tokyo.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Chicago to FLW in Tokyo, 3 June 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS is working on Actors' Abode [Barnsdall] and waiting for instructions from FLW.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | <p>Typed letter / manifesto (5 leaves, carbon) from FLW (?) to Koume San, 3 June 1920</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>A lofty discussion of life and art.</p> |
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- Box 2, Folder 1 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 16 Dec 1920**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS discusses Barnsdall job and the difficulties.
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Correspondence undated, probably 1921**
Box 2, Folder 2 **Letter, 3 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS (in Los Angeles?), undated, 1921?**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW discusses his struggle and pleasure in the design of the Imperial Hotel, his nervous break-down, his relationship with RMS ("I have enjoyed your work with me very much...") and their quarrels. Part of the letter is blacked-out.
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Short pencil note from FLW in Los Angeles to RMS in Los Angeles, undated, 1921?**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW states he is ill and wishes RMS would bring his mail and tell him the status of contracts.
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Penciled letter, 2 leaves, from FLW in Seattle (on his way to Japan) to RMS in Los Angeles, undated, 1921?**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW urges RMS to be frugal in his expenses, discusses specific details of the Barnsdall house, includes a drawing of the pool in front of the house, urges RMS to stay close to Lloyd who has the "spirit of the work" but needs encouragement.
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Letter from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Los Angeles, undated, 1921?**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW discusses his 6 week visit to Los Angeles, strongly advises RMS regarding the Barnsdall job and his responses to Miss Barnsdall and her "clerks."
- Box 2, Folder 2 **Letter from FLW in Tokyo (on FLW-designed Hotel stationary) to RMS in Los Angeles, undated, 1921?**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW discusses salary for RMS and others, the footings for the Hotel, other jobs in Japan (the new St. Lukes Hospital and a house) and a certain "Russian lady."
- Box 2, Folder 3 **Correspondence, Jan 1921**
Box 2, Folder 3 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 1 Jan 1920 [i.e. 1921]**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding Barnsdall and city permits.
- Box 2, Folder 3 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 10 Jan 1920 [i.e. 1921]**
 Scope and Content Note
 About bidding Barnsdall, his stress, city permits and expenses.
- Box 2, Folder 3 **Typed letter (2 leaves, carbon with ink annotations) from FLW to Antonin Raymond, 5 Jan 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW rebukes Antonin [draftsman FLW brought to Japan] for "violating his confidence." Letter on Imperial Hotel stationary.
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- Box 2, Folder 3 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 28 Jan 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS gives news of Barnsdall and the difficulties due to bad reputation of the Wright office.
- Box 2, Folder 4 **Correspondence, Feb 1921**
Box 2, Folder 4 **Typed (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 2 Feb 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS reports that progress is being made on Barnsdall. He recommends a Viennese friend, Richard Neutra, to help FLW in Tokyo, and encloses Neutra's portrait but asks that it be returned.
- Box 2, Folder 4 **Letter, 3 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Los Angeles, 11 Feb 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW discusses the problems of Barnsdall job due to client and contractor (responding to RMS's letter of 28 Jan 1921). He refers RMS to Kleinpell, of Dodd & Richards, who is a friend from Adler & Sullivan days.
- Box 2, Folder 4 **Letter, 2 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Los Angeles, 15 Feb [1921]**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW complains that his engineering instructions for Barnsdall were ignored, states that it is Goldthwaite's job to push the concrete work through the permit process, and rages against "Artists." ("They are all that is the matter with Art.") He urges RMS not to let the artist in him get in the way of his work.
- Box 2, Folder 4 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, undated, 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS describes progress and difficulties on Barnsdall job, asks what to do about living room fireplace, and requests money as he and Lloyd are "dead broke."
- Box 2, Folder 5 **Correspondence and expense account, Mar - Apr 1921**
Box 2, Folder 5 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 6 March 1920 [i.e. 1921]**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS writes that FLW is taking RMS's complaints too seriously, then describes further difficulties with stone contractor. He wants FLW to come in June to oversee the finishing of the three residences at Barnsdall. He describes Lloyd's relation to the office as "vague."
- Box 2, Folder 5 **Typed short letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 21 March 1920 [i.e. 1921]**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS describes getting bids from Thomas and Goldthwaite and other progress on Barnsdall job.
- Box 2, Folder 5 **Typed short letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 28 March 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS is sending samples of carpet selected by Miss Barnsdall (which RMS believes are too heavy) and some he prefers [samples not included].
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- Box 2, Folder 5 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 12 April 1920 [i.e. 1921]**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS tells FLW how pleased he is with Wright's letter, says FLW is too pessimistic regarding women. Barnsdall is progressing and Mrs. Heurtley wants plans for a house.
- Box 2, Folder 5 **"Office expenses paid by RMS during March 1921," 14 April 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 Typed list with pencil annotations by RMS.
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Correspondence and work account, Aug - Sep 1921**
Box 2, Folder 6 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 7 Aug 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS describes an exhausting two weeks with Miss Barnsdall who was indecisive about colors. He refers to a letter from Richard Neutra who is willing to work for FLW in Tokyo but needs a letter to show consul in Austria. RMS can advance some money to Neutra but asks FLW to advance the rest.
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 15 Aug 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS describes changes Miss Barnsdall is making, problems with contractors. The office is out of money as the last check FLW sent was refused by the bank.
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW, 23 Aug 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS describes the collapse of the Barnsdall garden wall, more problems with contractors, and the finances (more checks returned by the bank). RMS has heard that FLW is starting a huge department store skyscraper in Tokyo. He relates information about glass from the Judson studio for the Barnsdall house.
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 5 Sept 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 Letter gives news about progress and problems at Barnsdall, and finances. Mrs. Garts from Pasadena [i.e. Kate Gartz] wants to build a large house or group of houses on the hill [Olive hill].
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Items of work unfinished under contract with C. D. Goldthwaite, 14 Sept 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 Typed list (carbon), compiled by RMS (?) for FLW.
- Box 2, Folder 6 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 22 Sept 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS complains that it seems impossible to finish Barnsdall job due to contractor delays and Miss Barnsdall's delay in settling accounts.
- Box 2, Folder 7 **Correspondence, Oct 1921**
Box 2, Folder 7 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in San Francisco to FLW in Tokyo, 1 Oct 1921**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS relates difficulty over settling accounts with Miss Barnsdall. With 3 pages of accounts (typed, carbons), also same date.
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| Box 2, Folder 7 | <p>Letter, 3 leaves, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Los Angeles, 5 Oct 1921</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>FLW discusses accounts for Barnsdall job, loss of house commission for Gotz (?) to a Japanese architect. He writes that the Hotel has not progressed as far as he wishes. He also writes about his plan to bring his Japanese office to the U.S., and the money shortage.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | <p>Two handwritten telegram forms, from FLW and RMS, undated and 18 Oct 1921</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>A cable from FLW in Tokyo to RMS says Schindler's cable was unintelligible; the telegram from RMS to FLW in Tokyo says everything is settled and requests FLW cable instructions for Schindler's trip to Japan.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | <p>Letter, 3 leaves in red ink, from FLW in Tokyo to RMS in Los Angeles, 20 Oct 1921</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>FLW discusses Barnsdall house, Miss Barnsdall's refusal to pay, his plans to return from Japan as soon as he can.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 8
Box 2, Folder 8 | <p>Correspondence, Nov-Dec 1921</p> <p>FLW ink sketch for brass fire screen and grate for "green" fireplace, Barnsdall, undated, after 5 Nov 1921?</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>With note from Wright to RMS. With sheet of penciled figures by RMS.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 8 Nov 1921</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS relates news about Barnsdall and relations with Miss Barnsdall. He writes that he is trying to raise money to build himself "a shack to live in."</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 7 Dec 1921</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS describes the cost of land and the house he is trying to build for himself, and asks if FLW will loan him \$3,000.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | <p>Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW in Tokyo, 26 Dec 1921</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>RMS describes rain and leaks in Barnsdall house, problem with a Mr. Ray. RMS is trying to get some work and still has financial hurdles regarding house he is trying to build for himself. He refers to Neutra who is sorry the trip to Japan did not materialize.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 9
Box 2, Folder 9 | <p>Correspondence and expense account, Jan - Aug 1922</p> <p>Letter, 1 sheet with envelope, from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, 2 Jan 1922</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>FLW rebukes RMS for never being explicit. Wright blames RMS for the leaks at Barnsdall. He also describes Lloyd's "overbearing traits." He states that he wants an exhibition in LA and asks RMS to find a suitable venue.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | <p>Letter from FLW, on his own stationary (from Taliesin?) to RMS (in Los Angeles?), undated, 1922?</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>FLW discusses his design for Barnsdall and discounts any influence on the design of the theater by Geddes [Norman bel Geddes] whose 1915 book Wright says he has not seen. He writes that he may come out there [Los Angeles], despite the "hill fiasco."</p> |
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- Box 2, Folder 9 **Envelope from FLW to RMS, empty, postmarked April 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 For above letter?
- Box 2, Folder 9 **Statement concerning expenditures by R.M. Schindler for the account of Frank Lloyd Wright during the period October 1921 to August 1922, undated ca. Aug 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 Typed (carbon).
- Box 2, Folder 9 **Financial items, 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 Four cancelled checks and one receipt, all from Los Angeles, all dated 1922.
- Box 2, Folder 10 **Lowes house, Eagle Rock, Calif. Nov - Dec 1922**
Box 2, Folder 10 **Typed letter with ink annotations from FLW in Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, Nov 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 About design of Mrs. Lowes house. FLW states that he should not have left the design to "an assistant" [i.e., RMS] and that he is not going to continue to build in the old style.
- Box 2, Folder 10 **FLW notes, building details, undated, late 1922/1923?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Typed notes with pencil annotations by FLW regarding Mrs. Lowes Eagle Rock, California house. Provides details of floors, walls, plan.
- Box 2, Folder 10 **FLW note to RMS and Lloyd Wright, undated, late 1922/1923?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Pencilled note to "Rudolph and son Lloyd" about the problem of designing the small house [refers to notes above?].
- Box 2, Folder 10 **Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW at Taliesin, 17 Nov 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding design for Mrs. Lowes house. He describes budget and site and says he includes a sketch [not here].
- Box 2, Folder 10 **Typed letter (carbon, difficult to read) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW at Taliesin, undated, probably Dec 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding Mrs. Lowes' requirements, budget and her objections to FLW's proposed plan.
- Box 2, Folder 10 **Telegram from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, 5 Dec 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 Regarding Lowes house. FLW objects to bedrooms extending below ground and asks for snapshot of ground plan. With pencil annotations by RMS [for return message?].
- Box 2, Folder 10 **Typed letter, 4 leaves (carbon), from FLW at Taliesin to Mrs. Lowes, 14 Dec 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW outlines his objections to the plan she suggested and makes counter-suggestions. With ink annotations by FLW.
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- Box 2, Folder 10 **Letter, in pencil and ink, from FLW to RMS, undated, probably Dec 1922**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW asks RMS to persuade Mrs. Lowes of the advantages of Wright's plan. He asks RMS to bring Lloyd [Wright] into the project.
- Box 2, Folder 11 **Correspondence and autobiographical fragment, 1924-1925**
Box 2, Folder 11 **Letter, with envelope, from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, 18 Aug 1924**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW discusses the personalities involved in the Barnsdall project, chides RMS, and declares that Miss Barnsdall "misrepresented everything."
- Box 2, Folder 11 **Carbon copy of handwritten letter, 2 leaves, from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW at Taliesin, 3 Sept 1924**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS states that he is hurt by FLW's letter, describes his understanding of the controversy between Barnsdall and FLW, and defends himself against FLW's charges.
- Box 2, Folder 11 **Letter with envelope from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, postmarked 25 Sept 1924**
 Scope and Content Note
 Letter continues the arguments of the above two letters.
- Box 2, Folder 11 **Portion of autobiographical essay by FLW, , undated 1925?**
 Scope and Content Note
 Typed carbon copy, 4 leaves, with inked note "Given to the [illegible]."
- Box 2, Folder 12 **Letters of support regarding FLW vs. Miriam Noel, 1926**
Box 2, Folder 12 **Typed carbon copies of 7 letters from various people to FLW and Olga, and undated Oct 1926**
 Scope and Content Note
 Writers express their condolences and outrage to FLW and Olga regarding the trouble Miriam Noel is causing. Letters from Jane [?], Harry Robinson, W. Newell, G. R. J. Herbert Fritz, Lucy M. Calhoun, Wm. Dawson, Jr. Most dated Oct 1926.
- Box 2, Folder 13 **Correspondence, , Feb 1927 July 1929**
Box 2, Folder 13 **Letter from FLW in Washington, D.C. to RMS, 3 Feb 1927**
 Scope and Content Note
 FLW thanks RMS for his "nice note," refers to the trouble caused by Miriam Noel, and says that Lloyd has "turned his back."
- Box 2, Folder 13 **Telegram form with handwritten message in pencil from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW at Taliesin, undated, probably 1929**
 Scope and Content Note
 RMS says that he is applying for his license and needs a letter from FLW.
- Box 2, Folder 13 **Typed letter from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, undated, probably 1929**
 Scope and Content Note
 Apparently sent in response to RMS's application for his architectural license. FLW gives news of travel in the U.S. (145 cities), jobs (a hotel in the Arizona desert and a 23-story residence tower in NYC) and writes that he has another home in the Arizona desert.
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Box 2, Folder 13

Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW at Taliesin, 17 July 1929

Scope and Content Note

RMS reports that the architectural licensing board believes that he (RMS) is a socialist. He asks for a letter from FLW and states "my architectural relation to you is against me."

Box 2, Folder 13

Short typed letter from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, 24 July 1929

Scope and Content Note

FLW states why he believes RMS should be licensed.

Box 2, Folder 14

Correspondence, Aug 1929

Box 2, Folder 14

Typed letter (carbon) from RMS in Los Angeles to FLW at Taliesin, 2 Aug 1929

Scope and Content Note

RMS writes that he appreciates FLW's letter of recommendation but believes it will do him more harm than good. RMS gives news: he has completed a house in Catalina and is working on another in South Pasadena; Neutra is building a residence in the Hollywood hills. RMS writes that a few of the large firms in LA are "trying to go 'Modern'...without a grain of imagination. Taliesin is still the center."

Box 2, Folder 14

Typed letter from FLW at Taliesin to RMS in Los Angeles, 7 Aug 1929

Scope and Content Note

FLW's letter to RMS encloses 7 letters of recommendation for RMS to choose from for the Board of Architects of Southern California and his license application. All dated 7 August 1929.