
Register of the Lou Henry Hoover miscellaneous papers

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Hoover Institution Library and Archives

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Title: Lou Henry Hoover miscellaneous papers

Date (inclusive): 1820-1984

Collection Number: XX656

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Library and Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 1 manuscript box, 9 oversize boxes, 1 envelope, memorabilia(10.0 Linear Feet)

Abstract: Passport, 1913; war zone passes, 1918; sketch of Lou Henry Hoover, 1931; portfolio of reproductions of drawings of Spanish missions in California, 1933; and sketches of the White House, Capitol Building, Washington Monument, and Mount Vernon.

Hoover Institution Archives

Access

Boxes 4-5, and 10 restricted; use copies available in Box 1. The remainder of the collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

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Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lou Henry Hoover miscellaneous papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.

1874 Born, Iowa

1894 Enters Stanford University, where she meets her future husband, Herbert Hoover, also a Stanford student in the Geology Department

1899 Marries Herbert Hoover

1900-1918 Travels extensively with her husband in his career as an engineer, living in China, Siberia, and London, among other places. Accompanies Herbert Hoover on some trips associated with relief activities during and after World War I, and is active herself in charitable work

1919 Supervises construction of home on Stanford campus

1921-1929 Lives in Washington, D.C., where her husband is Secretary of Commerce. Is active in the Girl Scout movement

1929-1933 First Lady of the United States

1944 Dies

Scope and Content Note

The Lou Henry Hoover collection in the Hoover Institution Archives preserves selected items associated with the life of First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, the wife of Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States.

Lou Henry Hoover met her future husband when they were both students at Stanford University, and the collection contains artifacts relating to her time at Stanford, including her senior yearbook. The Hoovers would later return to the Stanford campus, building a home there, and there are photographs and art work in the collection depicting the Lou Henry Hoover House, as the Hoover residence would later be named.

Herbert Hoover's career as a mining engineer took him to many different countries, and he and Lou Henry Hoover lived abroad for more than a decade prior to World War I. The collection contains a set of souvenir spoons purchased by Lou Henry Hoover on her foreign travels.

It was while living in London in 1914, at the outbreak of hostilities, that Lou Henry Hoover and her husband became involved in helping Americans leave war-torn Europe. Herbert Hoover went on to head the Commission for Relief in Belgium from 1915-1919, and his wife assisted him in this activity. There are examples of needlepoint lace in the collection that were given to the Hoovers in recognition of their efforts on behalf of Belgium.

The Hoovers spent the 1920s in Washington, D.C., where Herbert Hoover served first as Secretary of Commerce and then as President. Lou Henry Hoover took a keen interest in the architecture of the nation's capital, and there is a significant collection of historical prints of Washington scenes, especially of the White House, in the collection.

The remainder of the collection is comprised mainly of honorary degrees and other awards received by Lou Henry Hoover in the course of a career in public service. Many other items associated with Lou Henry Hoover are on permanent display in the exhibit cases of the Hoover Library, located in Hoover Tower on the campus of Stanford University. Additional materials pertaining to her life and to the Lou Henry Hoover House can be found in the collections of the Green Library, Stanford University. The largest collection of archival materials relating to Lou Henry Hoover is located in the Herbert Hoover

BIOGRAPHICAL FILE 1898-1984

Scope and Contents note

Certificates, diplomas, and proclamations; clipping; invitation; nomination form; year book; and war zone passes, all arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Certificates, diplomas, and proclamations

General note

See also OVERSIZE MATERIALS

- box 1, folder 1 **Embossed cover of Lou Henry Hoover's Stanford diploma undated**
box 1, folder 2 **Certificate given to Lou Henry Hoover on the occasion of her being awarded the**
 Médaille de la Reine Elisabeth, Belgium, 1919 June 19
box 1, folder 3 **Proclamation given to Lou Henry Hoover upon her being awarded the Croix de**
 Chevalier de l'Ordre de Léopold, Belgium, 1919 September

Scope and Contents note

Includes letter regarding this award, 1919

- box 1, folder 4 **Diploma issued upon award of honorary doctorate, Whittier College, Whittier,**
 California 1928 August 17
box 1, folder 5 **Diploma given in award of honorary doctorate, Goucher College, Baltimore,**
 Maryland 1931 April 24

box 1, folder 6

Clipping 1928 July 22

box 1, folder 7

Invitation for Stanford commencement exercises 1898

box 1, folder 8

Nomination form 1984

Scope and Contents note

Photocopy of form submitted by James P. Delgado in nomination of the Lou Henry Hoover House for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Includes a floor plan of the house

box 1, folder 9

Year Book. Printed copy of *Stanford Quad* 1898

box 1, folder 10

War zone passes 1918

Scope and Contents note

Documents issued to Lou Henry Hoover by the U.S. government for entry into port areas in New York and New Jersey

CORRESPONDENCE 1915-1934**Scope and Contents note**

Letters, arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent

box 1, folder 11
box 1, folder 12**Russell, Mary 1915****Rutt, Anna H. 1933-1934****OVERSIZE MATERIALS 1820-1963****Scope and Contents note**

Art works, ceremonial award case, clothing and handicrafts, diplomas, passport, photographs, printed matter, and silverware, arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Art works**General note**

See also MISCELLANY, below

box 2, folder 1
box 2, folder 2
box 2, folder 3
box 2, folder 4
box 2, folder 5**"The Ascent to the Capitol, Washington," engraving by Bartlett, London undated**
"Capitol - Washington," tinted engraving published by Hermann J. Meyer undated
"Capitol of the U.S., Washington," engraving by W. Goodacre undated
Lithograph by C. Allen Sherman depicting the Washington Monument undated
"President's House," tinted print depicting lithograph by August Köllnac(?), undatedbox 2, folder 6
box 2, folder 7
box 2, folder 8
box 2, folder 9**"The President's House (1799)," reproduction of sketch undated**
"President's House, North Front," lithograph undated
"The President's House, Washington," engraving undated
"Presidentens i de Fórente Staterna Residence i Washington," lithograph by C. Müller, undated

box 2, folder 10

"St. John's Church in the City of Washington, with the President's House as It Appeared in 1816, When the Church Was Built," copy of a water color by Benjamin Latrobe undatedbox 2, folder 11
box 2, folder 12
box 2, folder 13
box 2, folder 14
box 2, folder 15
box 2, folder 16
box 2, folder 17
box 2, folder 18
box 2, folder 19
box 2, folder 20
box 2, folder 21
box 2, folder 22**"A Front View of the President's House, Washington," engraving 1820 April**
"East Front of the Capitol," engraving of a drawing by C. Bullfinch 1821
"West Front of the Capitol," engraving of a drawing by C. Bullfinch 1821
"A Back View of the Capitol, Washington," engraving 1827
"United States Capitol," engraving of a drawing by C. Bullfinch," 1827
"The President's House, Washington," print from copper plate 1830
"The Capitol, Washington, D.C.," lithograph by T. Doughty 1832
"The President's House, Washington," lithograph of a sketch by A. A. Hoftag 1834
"The Capitol," engraving 1840
"The Capitol," engraving 1845
"Das Capitol von Washington," engraving by Kraus 1850
"The New Capitol (Washington)," tinted engraving published by Hermann J. Meyer 1851box 2, folder 23
box 2, folder 24**"View of Washington City," lithograph 1860**
"The White House, Washington, D.C.," print circa 1930**Scope and Contents note**

Signed by Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover

box 2, folder 25

Three lithographs by J. C. Claghorn circa 1931**Scope and Contents note**

One depicting the Washington monument; one, Mt. Vernon; and one, the White House

box 2, folder 26

"From the South Portico of the White House," lithograph by J. C. Claghorn 1931**Scope and Contents note**

Three prints, of which two are signed by Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover

box 2, folder 27
box 2, folder 28

Pencil sketch of Lou Henry Hoover 1931
Painting depicting the Lou Henry Hoover Memorial YMCA, Palo Alto, California 1960

box 3, folder 1

Ceremonial award case for the Croix de Chevalier de l'Ordre de Léopold, 1919

Clothing and handicrafts

box 3, folder 2
box 3, folder 3

Beaded gown worn by Lou Henry Hoover
String of beads worn by Lou Henry Hoover
Eight pieces of Belgian needlepoint lace presented to Lou Henry Hoover undated

Scope and Contents note

Contains lace tablecloths and shawls given to the Hoovers in appreciation of the support the Commission for Relief in Belgium gave to the lace workers during World War I and lace items made during and/or shortly after World War I to commemorate the aid given to the Belgium lace makers by the Commission for Relief in Belgium (C.R.B). Also includes ornate presentation cover for lace.

Citations on lace descriptions from: Kellogg, Charlotte, Bobbins of Belgium, Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York. 1920; Merritt, Elaine. "War Lace: Commemorating Victory and Determination," Piecework Magazine, July/August, 1999, pg. 24-29; Wardle, Patricia. "War and Peace: lace designs by the Belgian sculptor Isidore de Rudder," Bulletin van het Rijksmuseum, Jaarg. 37, Nr. 2. 1989. pg. 73-90.

box 1, folder 13

Black triangular shawl of handmade Chantilly bobbin lace (use copies only)

Scope and Contents note

Approximately 9' x 5'. The central motif is of an arched garden arbor (or trellis) surrounded by large tropical leaves and flowers. [See Kellogg, page 127, for discussion of Chantilly lace production during the war.]

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 13.

box 1, folder 13

Cream colored triangular shawl of handmade bobbin lace motifs applied to a machine-made netting (use copies only)

Scope and Contents note

Approximately 9' x 4.5'. Floral motifs with scroll designs throughout. The centers of the flowers and the scrolls contain needle lace fillings.

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 13.

box 1, folder 13

A small item of mixed Brussels Duchess lace (use copies only)

Scope and Contents note

Measured at 11" x 7", in which the bobbin-made lace with floral motifs has been applied to a machine-made ground and embellished with needle lace dots and rings. Perhaps it was intended to decorate the end of a scarf or some other article of clothing.

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 13.

box 1, folder 13

A piece of heavy, woven fabric (use copies only)**Scope and Contents note**

Approximately 48" x 14", with a printed pattern, woven with beige and light tan colored threads of varying thicknesses and overprinted (perhaps block printed) with a slightly darker shade of tan. It seems to be a remnant, perhaps of a length of upholstery fabric and perhaps done by a noted Belgian artist. [Several Belgium artists created designs for the Lace Committee of the C. R. B. See discussion of the work of one of these artist, M. de Rudder, in Kellogg, pg. 195 and in article by Wardle]

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 13.

box 1, folder 13

Round doily in filet lace (use copies only)**Scope and Contents note**

Approximately 10" with the Seal of the United States of America darned into the handmade netting.

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 13.

box 1, folder 14

Fan-leaf of Point de Gaze needle lace, designed by artist Lucie Rothschild-Lambert for the Lace Committee of the C. R. B (use copies only)**Scope and Contents note**

The center of the fan-leaf depicts eight human figures, with the lead figure holding the crown of victory and an olive branch as the figures soar over the burning cities of Belgium. Many of the "animals of the allies" are worked into the swirling design on each side of the fan-leaf, below the figures. To the right are the Belgian lion, the Portuguese wyvern, the Great Britain unicorn, the Russian bear, and a small dove holding an olive branch in its beak. On the left can be found the Portuguese wyvern again, the Italian lion, the American eagle, the French rooster, and a lamb. Below these can be found narrow borders with implements of war depicted: rifles, swords, packs, and what are perhaps grenades and gas masks. Below these, on the left, is worked the name of the artist who designed the lace, Rothschild-Lambert, the year 1914 and the initials C.R.B. The entire fan-leaf is edged in a narrow needle lace border.

Access

Originals in Box 10 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 14.

box 1, folder 14

Square tablecloth inset with needle lace emblems for the United States and Belgium (use copies only)**Scope and Contents note**

Approximately 46" x 46". There are also twelve needle lace stars and embroidered wheat sheaves that contain cutwork. The American eagle lace insets are in the center of the cloth as well as the four corners. Inset along the four sides of the cloth is the Belgium lion motif, also done in needle lace with the date of 1915/6 and Belgique worked in the lace. There is a 4" wide, floral border of Point de Paris bobbin lace on the outer edge of the cloth. [See Kellogg, plate fp, 89 for an example of smaller cloth with the same American eagle inset and the same embroidered wheat sheaves.]

Access

Originals in Box 5 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 14.

box 1, folder 14

Round tablecloth with bobbin lace inserts representing the emblems of the allied nations (use copies only)**Scope and Contents note**

Approximately 40.5" in diameter. The bobbin lace inserts that depict the emblems of the allies include: the Japanese chrysanthemum at the center of the cloth, surrounded by the two narrow bobbin lace inserts with the date of 1914-1915, beyond that are the bobbin lace insets depicting the coats of arms for France, Great Britain, Imperial Russia, Italy, Rumania, Montenegro, Portugal, Belgium and Serbia. Throughout the cloth there are elongated stars and triangles done with hemstitching. The outside border is a wide border of Point de Paris bobbin lace showing "the animals of the allies:" the Russian bear, Belgian lion, French cock, and the British unicorn. [See Kellogg, plate fp 161 for an example of this same border.]

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 14.

box 1, folder 14

Square tablecloth with eight squares of Point de Venise needle lace depicting emblems of the allies (use copies only)**Scope and Contents note**

Approximately 50" x 50." These needle lace squares are set into the cloth with alternating squares of Flemish mixed lace (bobbin lace motifs set into needle lace grounds), and squares of cutwork with embroidery. The allied nations represented in the needle lace squares are (from the top of the cloth and right to left) Serbia, France, Great Britain, Montenegro, Belgium, Italy, Imperial Russia, and Japan. The outer edge of the cloth is finished with a wide Point de Venise needle lace border.

Access

Originals in Box 4 restricted; use copies available in Box/Folder 1 : 14.

Diplomas issued in award of honorary degrees to Lou Henry Hoover

box 6, folder 1

Honorary doctorate, Swarthmore College 1929

box 6, folder 2

Honorary doctorate, Elmira College 1930 June 9

box 6, folder 3

Honorary doctorate, Wooster College 1932 May 14

box 6, folder 4

Honorary master of art degree, Tufts University 1932 June 15

box 7, folder 1

Passport 1913**Scope and Contents note**

Diplomatic passport issued in London to Lou Henry Hoover for her trip to Russia, 1913 October 10

Photographs 1928-1955

box 7, folder 2

One print depicting the exterior of the White House undated

box 7, folder 3

One print depicting Lou Henry Hoover undated

box 7, folder 4

Six prints depicting the exterior and interior of the Lou Henry Hoover House undated

box 7, folder 5

One print depicting the White House undated

box 7, folder 6

One print depicting Lou Henry Hoover 1928

box 7, folder 7

One print depicting the exterior of Lou Henry Hoover School, Whittier, California 1955

Printed matter 1933-1963

box 7, folder 8

The Romance of El Camino Real

Scope and Contents note

Book of illustrations of California, encased in a leather book cover with the title and Lou Henry Hoover's name. Includes presentation certificate.

box 7, folder 9

***Journal of the American Institute of Architects* 1963 January**

Scope and Contents note

Printed copy of serial issue of the journal, including illustrations of Washington, D.C.

box 7, folder 10

Silverware. Twelve souvenir spoons collected by Lou Henry Hoover during her travels abroad 1900-1910

Scope and Contents note

Includes invitation, note, and postcard, all relating to Jessie S. Jones, aunt of Lou Henry Hoover, establishing the provenance of the spoons

MISCELLANY 1792

Scope and Contents note

Three framed prints and one presentation folder for Belgian lace

art rack

One framed Chinese print on fabric undated

One framed print, "Plan of the City of Washington" 1792

One framed photograph depicting Lou Henry Hoover undated

map_case case

One ornate presentation folder for Belgian lace undated

INCREMENTAL MATERIALS

box 8

Material not yet described.

box 9

Correspondence 1914-1919

Scope and Contents

Relating to relief work