
Fletcher Bowron Papers: Finding Aid

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The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Manuscripts Department

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Fletcher Bowron Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1934-1970

Collection Number: mssBowron papers

Creator: Bowron, Fletcher, 1887-1968.

Extent: Approximately 22,000 pieces

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

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Abstract: This collection contains papers related to the life and career of Los Angeles Mayor and Superior Court Judge Fletcher Bowron (1877-1968). It includes official correspondence kept during Bowron's term as mayor of Los Angeles from 1938-1953, reports, and information on his election campaigns. There is also source material gathered for his Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project (1973), particularly in the fields of public housing, city planning, and transportation.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Fletcher Bowron Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Gift of Mrs. Fletcher Bowron, September 18, 1974. The addenda was the gift of Mrs. Fletcher Bowron, January 21, 1977, September 19, 1983, March 1984, May 31, 1984, January 5, 1985, and November 20, 1985.

Biographical Note

Fletcher Bowron (1887-1968), who was mayor of the city of Los Angeles, California, from 1938 to 1953, came into office as a reform candidate in a recall election. His goal was to eradicate political corruption and establish a professional municipal government. For 15 years he was continually reelected to this important position-fifteen years of tremendous growth and unusual problems for the Los Angeles area.

Mayor Bowron had spent the years 1911 to 1917 as a newspaper reporter, followed by a return to college for a law degree, two years in private practice, then six years as Judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. During his terms as mayor, World War II brought the sudden expansion of war-related industries to Los Angeles and the immediate need for laborers, public housing, mass transportation, and pollution control. As mayor he worked not only for solutions to these problems but also for the creation of long range city planning and commercial development.

After his years as mayor, Bowron was reelected to the bench as Judge of the Superior Court. In 1962 he retired and devoted himself to a Metropolitan History Project. When Judge Bowron passed away in 1968, the project continued under the supervision of Mrs. Bowron and reached its fruition in the publication of the bibliography of Los Angeles history, *Los Angeles and Its Environs in the Twentieth Century*, with Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., as editor.

Bibliography

Nunis, Doyce Blackman, Jr. ed., *Los Angeles and Its Environs in the Twentieth Century*, Ward Ritchie Press, Los Angeles, 1973. (With Foreword by Mrs. Fletcher Bowron)

Scope and Content

The collection contains letters, documents, manuscripts, photographs and ephemera related to the life and career of Los Angeles mayor and Superior Court judge Fletcher Bowron. It includes official correspondence kept during Bowron's term as mayor of Los Angeles, reports, and information on his election campaigns. There is also source material gathered for his Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project, particularly in the fields of public housing, city planning, and transportation.

The papers are divided into three main sections. The first consists of carbon copies of Bowron's letters while he was mayor of Los Angeles, personal correspondence (1934-1965), reports, and information on the election campaigns of 1945, 1947, 1949, and 1950. The second section pertains to Bowron's Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project. The source material he gathered is filed alphabetically by subject and contains information on city planning and zoning, public housing, sanitation, transportation, water and power and many other topics. Following this are the notes, outlines, drafts, bibliographical material, card index files, etc., for the project. The third main section consists of boxes of clippings which are arranged in folders in chronological order, some with listings of subjects. There are also three photograph albums and some memorabilia.

In the addenda there are 38 bound volumes containing addresses by Mayor Bowron from Sept. 1938-July 1953 as well as oversize awards, albums and maps.

Arrangement

The collection has been retained in its original order and folder numbering system to correspond with the card index files that came as part of the papers.

The collection is organized as follows:

- Correspondence and papers (Boxes 1-42)
- Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project
 - Part 1 - Research material (including printed items) (Boxes 43-66)
 - Part 2 - Bibliographic Section, etc. (Boxes 67-73)
- Clippings (Boxes 74-95)
- Photograph Albums (Box 96)
- Oversize items
- Addenda (Boxes Addenda 1-15, Volumes 1-53, and Oversize Folders 1-3)

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](#).

Subjects

- Bowron, Fletcher, 1887-1968.
- California. Superior Court (Los Angeles County)
- Los Angeles Metropolitan History Project.
- City planning -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Judges -- California -- Los Angeles County -- Archives.
- Mayors -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archives.
- Public housing -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Public works -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Sanitation -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Transportation -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Water -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Water-supply -- California -- Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Politics and government.

Forms/Genres

- Clippings files -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century.
- Letters (correspondence) -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century.
- Photographs -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century.
- Research (document genres) -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century.

Correspondence and papers

Box 1
Box 2

Carbon copies of letters from mayor's office. 1939-1946
Carbon copies of letters from mayor's office. 1947-1948

Box 3	Carbon copies of letters from mayor's office. 1949-1953
Box 4	Personal correspondence. 1934-1938
Box 5	Personal correspondence. 1939-1942
Box 6	Personal correspondence. 1943-1965
Box 7	Commendations (Index numbers 1-500). Jan. 1939-June 1940
Box 8	Commendations (Index numbers 501-775). Jan. 1941-July 1951
Box 9	Greetings (Index numbers 1-200). 1939-1943
Box 10	Greetings (Index numbers 201-500). 1943-1948
Box 11	Greetings (Index numbers 501-725). 1948-1950
Box 12	Index cards to Invitations
Box 13	Index cards to Invitations (continued)
Box 14	Invitations (Index numbers 3320-4200). Dec. 1944-May 1946
Box 15	Invitations (Index numbers 4201-4500). July 1946-Feb. 1947
Box 16	Invitations (Index numbers 4501-4800). Feb. 1947-Aug. 1947
Box 17	Invitations (Index numbers 4801-5075). June-Dec. 1947
Box 18	Invitations (Index numbers 5076-5350). Nov. 1947-May 1948
Box 19	Invitations (Index numbers 5351-5650). Apr.-Aug. 1948
Box 20	Invitations (Index numbers 5651-5850). Aug.-Nov. 1948
Box 21	Invitations (Index numbers 5851-6125). Nov. 1948-Feb. 1949
Box 22	Invitations (Index numbers 6126-6325). Feb.-May 1949
Box 23	Invitations (Index numbers 6476-6750). July-Sep. 1949
Box 24	Invitations (Index numbers 6751-7025). Oct. 1949-Mar. 1950
Box 25	Invitations (Index numbers 7026-7375). Mar.-Sep. 1950
Box 26	Invitations (Index numbers 7376-7675). Aug. 1950-Jan. 1951
Box 27	Invitations (Index numbers 7676-7950). Jan.-May, 1951
Box 28	Invitations (Index numbers 7951-8150). May - Sep. 1951
Box 29	Invitations (Index numbers 8151-8400). Sep. 1951-Feb. 1952
Box 30	Invitations (Index numbers 8401-8700). Jan.-Sep. 1952
Box 31	Invitations (Index numbers 8701-8925). Sep. 1952-Jan. 1953
Box 32	Invitations (Index numbers 8926-9200). Jan.-June 1953
Box 33	Speeches and Press Statements (with index at front). 1938-1941
Box 34	Speeches and Press Statements. 1942-1945 & 1946
Box 35	Speeches and Press Statements. 1946-1949
Box 36	Speeches and Press Statements (and miscellaneous speeches). 1950-1953
Box 37	Elections - Correspondence, campaign literature, etc. 1945, 1947, 1949
Box 38	Elections - Letters of congratulation. 1949
Box 39	Election - Letters of congratulation and acknowledgment. 1949
Box 40	Election - Letters of congratulation and acknowledgment. 1949
Box 40a	Election Campaigns. 1938-1956
Box 41	Election - Book of Precinct Boards. 1953
Box 42	Special reports and speeches by Los Angeles County Counsel, Harold Woodworth Kennedy. 1955-1957

Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project

Part 1 - Research material (including printed items)

Box 43	Master Index and Subjects: Agriculture-Aviation Master Index Agriculture Air pollution (see Pollution, also Smog) Architects The Arts - Music - Theatre-Radio-Motion Pictures Automobile Club of Southern California - Minutes of Board of Directors. 1900-1924 Automotive History
Box 44	Subjects: Aviation (continued) Aviation

	Aviation - Douglas Aircraft Co. (printed book, <i>Flight Plan for Tomorrow</i>)
	Aviation - Garrett Corporation
	Aviation - Lockheed Aircraft Corporation
	Aviation - Los Angeles - Department of Airports - Report
	Aviation - Los Angeles Airways
Box 45	Subjects: Aviation (continued)-Chamber of Commerce
	Aviation - North American Aviation, Inc.
	Aviation - Northrop Corporation
	Aviation - United Airlines (printed book, <i>High Horizons</i> by Frank J. Taylor)
	Beaches, Parks, Recreation
	Bench & Bar (see also Legal)
	Building
	Chamber of Commerce
Box 46	Subjects: Charter-City Planning
	Charter
	Charter - Claude E. Hawley
	Charter - Mayor
	Chronological Lists of Events
	Chronological Record of City Officials
	Citizens Committee - Revenue & Taxation. 1948
	Citizens Committee - Zoning. 1968
	City Government - Information
	City News Service
	City Planning (see Planning & Zoning)
Box 47	Subjects: Civil Service-Fish & Wildlife
	Civil Service
	Climate
	Consolidation
	County Boundaries
	County-City Officials (Correspondence)
	Court (Early)
	Court - Superior
	Crime & Corruption
	Economy
	Education
	Electricity
	Engineering
	Financial Institutions (Banking)
	Fish & Wildlife
Box 48	Subjects: Flood Control-Hollywood
	Flood Control
	Flora - Native
	Freeways
	Grand Juries
	Griffith, Van M. (Police Union)
	Harbor
	Haynes Foundation
	Historic Preservation
	Hollywood
Box 49	Subjects: Housing (mainly Public Housing)
Box 50	Subjects: Housing (including Elections on Prop. No. 10, etc.)
Box 51	Subjects: Housing (City Attorney's Opinions, etc.)
Box 52	Subjects: Industry-Los Angeles (magazine)
	Industry
	Japan
	Japanese
	Japanese American
	Law

	Legal (see also Bench & Bar)
	Library
Box 53	Los Angeles (printed magazine). 1964-1967 Subjects: Los Angeles History-Mayors of Los Angeles Los Angeles History (Misc.) Los Angeles History (Misc. printed bulletins, etc.) Los Angeles Bar Bulletin (printed). 1960-1968 Los Angeles High School Los Angeles Year Book (printed). 1940-1962 Mayors of Los Angeles
Box 54	Subjects: Metropolitan Government Metropolitan Government (printed material) Metropolitan Government (miscellaneous reports)
Box 55	Subjects: Metropolitan Government - A Study in Integration (printed series)
Box 56	Subjects: Municipal League-Petroleum Municipal League Names to Contact Oil Oil Drilling Personalities Petroleum (see Oil)
Box 57	Subjects: Planning & Zoning (printed brochures)
Box 58	Subjects: Planning & Zoning (cont.)-Planning, Regional Planning & Zoning Planning & Zoning - Problem Planning Commission - Accomplishments (printed). 1945-1960 Planning, Regional
Box 59	Subjects: Police-Public Housing
Box 59	Police (see also Griffith, Van M.) Police - Deputy Auxiliary Program Political History Pollution Population Public Housing (see Housing)
Box 60	Subjects: Public Works-Sewer Public Works Publicity, Press Real Estate Religion Retail Trade (see also Industry) Rubbish Report Sanitation & Refuse Disposal Sewer Sewer - Hyperion Report
Box 61	Subjects: Smog-Southern California Research Council Smog Southern California Research Council - Reports. 1961-1964
Box 62	Subjects: Street Railways (Manuscript)
Box 63	Subjects: Street Railways (Manuscript, continued)
Box 64	Subjects: Taxes-Transportation Taxes Telephone Tourism Towns & cities Traffic (see also Freeways) Transportation (see also Street Railways)

Box 65 **Subjects: Union Bank-Water and Power
Union Bank
Water and Power (Utilities)**

Box 66 **Subjects: Water and Power (continued)-Z and miscellaneous**

Box 66 **Water and Power - Metropolitan Water Department (printed brochures)
Whitnall, Gordon
Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous Information - Historical
1880 History of Los Angeles County**

Part 2 - Bibliographic Section, etc.

Box 67 **Index; Bibliography**

Box 68 **Research: Needs and accomplishments (correspondence, publicity, etc.)**

Box 69 **Some Approaches to the Study of Urban History - Notes, Memos, historical data by
Judge Bowron**

Box 70 **Interviews**

Box 71 **City History: Suggestions on Methodology; Outline; Chapter Outlines; Drafts of
Chapters, etc.**

Box 72 **Card index - Subject file (3 x 5 cards)**

Box 73 **Card index - Subject file (6 x 8 cards)**

Clippings

Box 74 **Clippings. 1943**

Box 75 **Clippings. Jan. - Apr. 1944**

Box 76 **Clippings. May - Sep. 1944**

Box 77 **Clippings. Oct. 1944 - Mar. 1945**

Box 78 **Clippings. Apr. - Aug. 1945**

Box 79 **Clippings. Nov. 1945 - Feb. 1946**

Box 80 **Clippings. Mar. - May 1946**

Box 81 **Clippings. June - Sep. 1946**

Box 82 **Clippings. Oct. - Nov. 1946**

Box 83 **Clippings. Dec. 1946 - Feb. 1947**

Box 84 **Clippings. Feb. - May 1947**

Box 85 **Clippings. June - Aug. 1947**

Box 86 **Clippings. Sep. - Nov. 1947**

Box 87 **Clippings. Dec. 1947 - Feb. 1948**

Box 88 **Clippings. Mar. - May 1948**

Box 89 **Clippings. June - July 1948**

Box 90 **Clippings. Aug. - Oct. 1948**

Box 91 **Clippings. Nov. - Dec. 1948**

Box 92 **Clippings, (filed by subject, A - C). 1951**

Box 93 **Clippings, (filed by subject, F - R). 1951 & 1950**

Box 94 **Clippings, (1950 filed by subject, R - Z & Misc.). 1950 and 1965**

Box 95 **Clippings, Misc. clippings and printed material**

Photograph albums

Box 96 **Trips to Argentina and Japan; Water System for Lerma, Mexico**
Physical Description: 3 photograph albums

Oversize Items

Folder of campaign placards (printed)
Map (printed) - Los Angeles Planning Commission
Roll map of Los Angeles (printed by Thomas Bros.)
Addenda

Box 1 (Addenda)	Correspondence; Recall campaign
Box 2 (Addenda)	Campaigns, elections, speeches
Box 3 (Addenda)	Administrative issues as mayor
Box 4 (Addenda)	Awards, honors, special events
	Related Material
	See also, Oversize Folder 2.
Box 5 (Addenda)	Superior Court Matters; History Project; Trips
	Related Material
	For Superior Court Matters, see also, Oversize Folder 3; for Trips, see also Volume 50.
Box 6 (Addenda)	Biographical Material (with photograph); Invitations and programs, etc.
Box 7 (Addenda)	Photographs - [Armed services?]
Box 8 (Addenda)	Photographs - [Armed services?]
Box 9 (Addenda)	Photographs - A - Bo (with index)
Box 10 (Addenda)	Photographs - Br - D (with index)
Box 11 (Addenda)	Photographs - L - P (with index)
Box 12 (Addenda)	Photographs - U - Y (with index)
Box 13 (Addenda)	Photographs - Miscellaneous
Box 14 (Addenda)	Clippings, printed material, etc.
Box 15 (Addenda)	Magazines and miscellaneous printed items
	Bound volumes of Bowron's addresses (with 2 index vols.). 1938-1953
Volume 1	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1938 September-March
Volume 2	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1939 April -September
Volume 3	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1939 October-December
Volume 4	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1940 January-May
Volume 5	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1940 June-December
Volume 6	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1941 January-June
Volume 7	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1941 July-December
Volume 8	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1942 January-June
Volume 9	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1942 July-December
Volume 10	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1943 January-June
Volume 11	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1943 July-December
Volume 12	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1944 January-June
Volume 13	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1944 July-December
Volume 14	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1945 January-June
Volume 15	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1945 July-December
Volume 16	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1946 January-March
Volume 17	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1946 April-June
Volume 18	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1946 July-September
Volume 19	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1946 October-December
Volume 20	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1947 January-March
Volume 21	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1947 April-June
Volume 22	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1947 July-September
Volume 23	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1947 October-December
Volume 24	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1948 January-March
Volume 25	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1948 April-June
Volume 26	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1948 July-September
Volume 27	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1948 October-December
Volume 28	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1949 January-August
Volume 29	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1949 September-December
Volume 30	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1950 January-March
Volume 31	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1950 April-June
Volume 32	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1950 July-December
Volume 33	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1951 January-April
Volume 34	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1951 May-August
Volume 35	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1951 September-December

Volume 36	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1952 January-June
Volume 37	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1952 July-December
Volume 38	Addresses by Mayor Fletcher Bowron. 1953 January-July
Volume 39	Index. Radio Programs by Mayor Bowron. 1938-1945
Volume 40	Index. Radio Programs by Mayor Bowron. 1946-1953
Volume 41	Album of phonograph records of Testimonial dinner honoring Fletcher Bowron at the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. 1951
Volume 42	A Decade of Progress (letters commemorating Fletcher Bowron's 10 years as mayor of Los Angeles). 1948, Sep. 17
Volume 43	Tenth Anniversary Salute (letters of tribute to Fletcher Bowron). 1948, Sep. 26
Volume 44	Mayor Fletcher Bowron - 14th Anniversary. 1952
Volume 45	Mayor Fletcher Bowron (letters presented by his co-workers). 1953
Volume 46	Scrapbook of clippings. 1939-1940
Volume 47	Scrapbook of photographs, clippings, etc., re Civilian Defense. 1942-1944
Volume 48	Scrapbooks of clippings [Volume 1 of 2]. 1950-1953
(oversize)	
Volume 49	Scrapbooks of clippings [Volume 2 of 2]. 1950-1953
(oversize)	
Volume 50	Scrapbook - Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Around the World Trade Tour. 1951
(oversize)	
Volume 51	Memorial scrapbook containing obituaries, tributes, etc. [Volume 1 of 2]. 1968.
(oversize)	
Volume 52	Memorial scrapbook containing obituaries, tributes, etc. [Volume 2 of 2]. 1968.
(oversize)	
Volume 53	Photograph album honoring Fletcher Bowron
(oversize)	Physical Description: 5 rolled photographs
	Oversize folders
Folder Oversize 1	Campaign cartoons
	Physical Description: (6 pieces)
Folder Oversize 2	Citations, honors, etc.
	Physical Description: (23 pieces)
Folder Oversize 3	Certificates and photos re Superior Court. 1917-1939
Folder Oversize 4	Ephemera
Plaques	2 mounted plaques