John Alexander Gray Papers

Finding aid prepared by Eric Steiger.
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Descriptive Summary
Title: John Alexander Gray Papers
Dates: 1961-1965
Collection Number: mssGray papers
Creator: Gray, John Alexander
Extent: 176 items in 1 box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection consists primarily of draft article manuscripts written by Los Angeles journalist John Alexander Gray, who drafted articles relating to the Bureau of Power and Light (later the Department of Water and Power) and of the history of the City of Los Angeles in the 1960s.
Language of Material: The records are in 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
Provenance
Biographical Note
John Alexander Gray was a Los Angeles, California, newswriter who drafted articles relating to the Bureau of Power and Light (later the Department of Water and Power) and of the history of the City of Los Angeles.
Scope and Content
The collection consists primarily of draft article manuscripts written by John Alexander Gray and relating to William Mulholland, Ezra Scattergood, William B. Matthews, and John B. Elliott, connected with the procurement of water and power from the Owens Valley (California) via the Los Angeles Aqueduct and from Boulder Dam for the city of Los Angeles. Other subjects of the articles include key institutions in Los Angeles and Southern California history including the Metropolitan Water District and the Southern California Edison Company. The correspondence includes letters responding to inquiries sent by Gray to deans and officials at several colleges, universities, and other cultural institutions in the Los Angeles area such as Disneyland, the California Institute of Technology, Wycliffe Bible Translators, California State College at Palos Verdes, San Fernando Valley State College, California State College, Los Angeles, University of Southern California, University of California, Los Angeles, and the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery.
Additionally, the collection includes a file of newspaper clippings that reflects Gray’s interest in Los Angeles’s air quality and educational environment and an ephemera section, which consists of some of John Alexander Gray’s personal financial documents, tax receipts, and membership cards for the Los Angeles Water & Power Defense League and the University of Southern California General Alumni Association.
Indexing: Subjects
Boulder Canyon Project (U.S.)
  • Subject in John Alexander Gray, “The Heroic Years”: Manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (4).
Colorado River Basin Project (U.S.)
  • Subject in John Alexander Gray, “Saga of John B. Elliott”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (8).
Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)
• Subject in John Alexander Gray, “The Heroic Years”: Manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (4).
  Mulholland, William, 1855-1935
  • Subject in John Alexander Gray, “The Heroic Years”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (4).
  • Subject in John Alexander Gray, “Scattergood”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (9).

Los Angeles (Calif.). Dept. of Water and Power
• Subject in Ivan L. Bateman, “More Power for Los Angeles”: speech (1962, Feb. 26). Box 1 (1).
• Subject in John Alexander Gray, “The Heroic Years”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (4).

Los Angeles Aqueduct (Calif.)
• Subject in Ivan L. Bateman, “More Power for Los Angeles”: speech (1962, Feb. 26). Box 1 (1).

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Calif.)
• Subject in Ivan L. Bateman, “More Power for Los Angeles”: speech (1962, Feb. 26). Box 1 (1).
• Subject in John Alexander Gray, “The Heroic Years”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (4).

Scattergood, E. F. (Ezra Frederick), 1871-1947
• Subject in John Alexander Gray, “Saga of John B. Elliot”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (8).

Southern California Edison Company
• Subject in Ivan L. Bateman, “More Power for Los Angeles”: speech (1962, Feb. 26). Box 1 (1).
• Subject in John Alexander Gray, “Scattergood”: manuscript [undated]. Box 1 (9).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Personal Names
Gray, John Alexander.
Mulholland, William, 1855-1935.

Corporate Names
Boulder Canyon Project (U.S.)
Colorado River Basin Project (U.S.)
Los Angeles (Calif.). Bureau of Power and Light.
Los Angeles (Calif.). Dept. of Water and Power -- History -- Sources.
Southern California Edison Company.

Subjects
Power resources -- California -- Los Angeles.
Water resources development -- California -- Los Angeles.
Water rights -- California -- Los Angeles.
Water-supply -- California -- Los Angeles.

Geographic Areas
Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.) -- History.
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
Los Angeles Aqueduct (Calif.)
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Calif.)
Owens Valley (Calif.) -- History.

Genre
Articles -- California -- 20th century.
Clippings -- California -- 20th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 20th century.

Box 1  mssGray papers
Folder 1  Bateman, Ivan L. “More Power for Los Angeles”: speech. 1962, Feb. 26
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<td>Gray, John Alexander. “Frank Wiggins”: manuscript. Undated</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Gray, John Alexander. “The Heroic Years”: manuscript. Undated</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Gray, John Alexander. Miscellaneous Notes. Undated</td>
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