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RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # \*87 M 56

Location 5-g-3(L)

Title CortHELL, Elmer Lawrence, 1840-1916. Papers.

Approximate inclusive dates 1872-1916

Date of receipt 1935

Received from Wormser. Purchase.

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 5 (ca.2.5 linear ft.)

Condition Good.

Restrictions

Description

Civil engineer. Active as a consulting engineer, with an office in New York City, from the 1870's until his death in 1916. Worked on railway, bridge, hydroelectric, irrigation, jetty, levee, and other projects in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

Correspondence files, 1901-1916, in chronological order, document the technical, organizational, financial, and political aspects of engineering projects with which CortHELL was involved. Major projects discussed include: a Trans-Alaskan-Siberian railway (a tunnel was proposed for the Bering Strait); a project to irrigate rice fields in Southwestern Louisiana; an electric railway to be built between Martigny, Switzerland, and Turin, Italy; and hydroelectric projects in Connecticut. Miscellaneous projects, professional activities, and personal matters are also mentioned. Chief correspondents are: Baron Loicq de Lobel (Trans-Alaskan-Siberian railway); Radcliffe Ward (Martigny-Turin); Welman Bradford (Louisiana irrigation project); and

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) Plans.

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached.

Accessioned by Julie MillerDate September, 1987

J. Henry Rorback (Connecticut hydroelectric projects). Related memoranda, telegrams, reports, bills, estimates, accounts, agreements, clippings, maps, and plans can be found among the letters. Some letters and documents are in French. Mixed and undated files follow the chronological files.

Eleven small notebooks contain notes, sketches, calculations, and charts for: a proposed belt route, New Orleans, Louisiana, ca.1889-1890; a bridge in New Orleans, 1893 (the two notebooks documenting this project contain the names: Chas. S. Wadsworth, and J.F. Coleman); and topography and surveys of the region between the Illinois River and Hamburg Bay, Illinois, 1890.

A journal, 1872-1875, records progress on the construction of the Sny Island Levee on the Mississippi River - a project for which Corthell was Chief Engineer.

A volume contains citations, and abstracts and copies of documents used for Corthell's book, A History of the Jetties at the Mouth of the Mississippi River, published, New York, 1880; manuscript drafts of the of the dedication and preface to the book are included. A volume containing manuscript copies of contracts, specifications, estimates, and agreements for the construction of the railroad bridge between Louisiana, Missouri and Pike, Illinois over the Mississippi River (begun 1873 - Corthell was Chief Engineer) contains more research material for the above book.

Also included are: a "Report on Proposed Development of additional power in the Connecticut River at Windsor Locks, Connecticut," 1910, submitted by Westinghouse Church Kerr and Co., Engineers, New York, to the Connecticut River Company; a letterbook containing carbons of Corthell's letters, 1889-1891 relating to engineering projects (including some mentioned in the previously described correspondence) and some personal matters; and a scrapbook containing clippings of articles from newspapers and engineering and scientific journals, ca.1873-1879, relating to Corthell's engineering projects and others.

ELMER L. CORTHELL PAPERS

Container List

Box

I. Correspondence, 1906-1916

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1901-1913                          |
| 2 | 1914-May, 1915                     |
| 3 | June, 1915-1916; mixed and undated |

II. Volumes, ca.1872-1910

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4 | Eleven small notebooks, ca.1889-1893   |
|   | Sny Island Levee journal, 1872-1875  |
|   | Westinghouse Church Kerr and Co. report, 1910  |
| 5 | Letterbook, 1889-1891  |
|   | Scrapbook, ca.1873-1879  |
|   | <u>A History of the Jetties...</u> , research material; drafts of<br>preface and dedication. |
|   | Mississippi River bridge, contracts, specifications...                                       |

ELMER L. CORTHELL PAPERS

Added Entries

Bradford, Welman

Coleman, J.F.

Lobel, Baron Loicq de

Rorback, J. Henry

Wadsworth, Chas. S.

Ward, Radcliffe

Bridges-United States-New Orleans (La.)

Civil engineers

Irrigation-United States-Louisiana

Levees

Mississippi River-Jetties

Railroad bridges-United States-Illinois

Railroad engineering

Rice-Irrigation

Road construction-United States-New Orleans (La.)

Water-power-United States-Connecticut