

THE CHARLES MOORE PAPERS
1905-1917
(Predominantly 1914-1917)
2 photo albums and 1 scrapbook

*MOR 1-6
Accessioned in 1978
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The papers of Charles Moore were recovered from the North Loft of the Museum in 1978. They contain social and professional correspondence relating to the wide range of Moore's activities as historian, city planner, and businessman, with less material regarding the Detroit Museum of Art, although he was director from 1914-1917. One scrapbook of Mrs. Charles (Alice) Moore as president of the local YWCA.

HISTORY

Charles Moore, 1855-1942, was director of the Detroit Museum of Art from 1914-1917. A native of Ypsilanti, Michigan, he graduated from Harvard in 1878, engaged in newspaper work in Detroit and Washington, earning his PhD. from George Washington University in 1890. Between 1889 and 1903 he was political secretary to Senator James McMillan (head of the District of Columbia committee). From 1904-1914 he was active in business and banking in Detroit and Boston, serving as an officer of the Union Trust and the Security Trust. His wife, Alice Williams (Merriam) Moore, (1854-1914) had been active doing philanthropic work, serving as president of the Detroit YWCA shortly before her death. (Detroit News, 2/3/14).

An original member of the National Commission of Fine Arts from 1910, Moore was appointed chair in 1915. Along with his long service on the Commission (which was charged with the design and care of national monuments and plans for the District of Columbia), he was acting chief of the Library of Congress Division of Manuscripts from 1918-1927, treasurer of the American Historical Association from 1917-1930. He served several other posts with the American Academy in Rome, Alma College, the American Institute of Architects, the Michigan Historical Commission, the Mississippi Valley Historical Commission, the Detroit Housing Commission, the Detroit City Plan and Improvement Commission (president for 7 years), and the Detroit Arts Commission (prior to 1908). (Who's Who, 1942-43).

In its tribute to him, the American Historical Association (Am. Hist. Review, January 1943) summarized his major contribution to those developments in city planning that had to do with public buildings, monuments and parks. Through his association with McMillan and Burnham's committees on the city of Washington and his chairmanship of the National Commission of Fine Arts, he had a leading responsibility in carrying out the extension of the L'Enfant plan for the District of Columbia. His most important works deal with the History of architecture and city planning in America. (He wrote several books on the history of Michigan, available at the Detroit Public Library/Burton Historical Collections).

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

These papers, dating from Moore's tenure at the Museum, consist primarily of correspondence regarding his very wide range of concurrent interests and activities. While they cover a span of only four years, they seem to touch on every aspect of his long life's work. The correspondence is primarily socially and professionally oriented, giving evidence of a complex network of social, political, and professional contacts.

Charles Moore was made director of the Museum largely because of his position as president of the City Plan and Improvement Commission and his reputation as a man of influence, at a time when the Detroit Museum of Art was seeking a new location and a more central role in the city's life. Not surprisingly, few of these papers show a daily concern for the museum, and the researcher looking for Detroit Museum of Art activities from 1914-17 will find the records of Clyde H. Burroughs, administrative secretary, more to the point.

Other records relating to Charles Moore can be found at the Detroit Public Library/Burton Historical Collections, including news clippings, some correspondence and many of Moore's books. The Bentley Library at the University of Michigan has 1 foot of correspondence from 1901-1940 and 5 diaries of 1899-1903. These include his impressions while clerk for the Senate, letters from Daniel Burnham, Gari Melchers, Alexander Calder and others.

Important subjects among the papers include:

- Architects and architecture
- City planning, particularly with details for Detroit and the District of Columbia
- The League to Enforce Peace
- The National Commission of Fine Arts
- The "old boy network" during World War I

Among the correspondents are:

- Charles Freer (collector)
- Daniel Chester French (sculptor)
- Gilbert, Cass (architect)
- Guerin, Jules (artist)
- Millet, Francis (artist)
- Olmstead, Frederick Law (landscape architect)

A partial index to the location of subjects and correspondents is at the end of this guide.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

(All documents date from 1914-1917 unless otherwise noted)

- Series I, Correspondence A-Z, Box *MOR 1-3
Professional and social correspondence of Charles Moore, relating to all of Moore's concurrent activities, with some correspondence regarding the Detroit Museum of Art. Notecards and postcards are grouped in Box 3.
- Series II, National Commission of Fine Arts, 1914-1917, Box *MOR 3
Correspondence with fellow commissioners, artists and architects, including some minutes and resolutions, arranged chronologically.
- Series III, Detroit Museum of Art correspondence and manuscripts, Box *MOR 4
Administrative correspondence including Moore's report to the Incorporators (A-Z), and manuscripts for a Detroit Museum of Art guide.
- Series IV, City planning correspondence and publications, A-Z, Box *MOR 5
Relating to Moore's activities as city planner for Detroit and Washington, along with national correspondence, plans for other cities, speeches, studies on water treatment.
- Series V, Historical research materials, Box *MOR 5
Research materials, outlines, drafts, proofs and correspondence, primarily for the publication of Moore's History of Michigan.
- Series VI, Personal items, 1 folder of Box *MOR 5
Includes a biographical statement for American Men of Mark.
- Series VII, The League to Enforce Peace, Box *MOR 6
The League was initiated prior to US entry into World War I to encourage the development of a League of Nations after the war. Moore was a charter member and is presumed to have been the collector of these records. The records, with the exception of a few publications and letters, regard the planning of a fund-raising dinner among Detroit notables.

DESCRIPTION OF AUDIO-VISUAL AND SPECIAL RECORDS

A scrapbook of manuscripts of Mrs. Moore's litanies and speeches while president of the Detroit YWCA (AVS 2:01).

Photo albums: Belle Isle and outlying Detroit streets, 1910 (AVP 397.92); District of Columbia plans and photos of the White House c.1910 (AVP 397.93).

Photographs of monuments, Detroit, Belle Isle, historical figures, the Moores; postcards of Detroit Museum of Art and other locales (AVP 264, 480, 481).

Maps of Detroit, Washington; street plans and blueprints (AVD 2).

CONTAINER LISTING

Series I: Correspondence

*MOR 1

1. Adams, Herbert (sculptor, National Commission of Fine Arts)
2. Aitken, Robert (sculptor)
3. Alger Family
4. Alger Memorial
5. Alma College (Moore as trustee)
6. American Academy in Rome, 1905-1909, 1916
7. American Federation of Art
8. American Historical Association
9. American Institute of Architects
10. Association of Art Museum Directors
11. A
12. Berenson, Bernard (art historian) and Mary
13. B
14. Campbell, Caroline (Mrs. James, Daughter of 1812)
15. Chadsey, Charles E. (Detroit Public Schools)
16. Chandler/Orr Family (Michigan history)
17. Clark, Arthur K. Publishing Co. (Michigan history)
18. Cliff, V.D. (oriental rugs exhibition)
19. Cosmos Club (Washington, D.C.)
20. Couzens, James (mayor of Detroit)
21. Creelman, Alice (Mrs. James, art collector)
22. C - Ce
23. Ch - Cr
24. Detroit Housing Commission, 1915
25. Detroit Shipbuilding Co. (port improvements)
26. Drake, Alexander N. (representative for art collectors)
27. Drama League of America - Detroit Center *reducing 10/29/88 (and 1/10/90)*
28. Dust, William T., Commissioner of Parks and Boulevards, Detroit
29. D - Des
30. Detroit - Di
31. Do - Du
32. E
33. Fisher Body (Moore's purchase of stock, 1916)
34. Fort Street Presbyterian Church (correspondence and publications)
35. Fort Street Presbyterian Church (Rebuilding Fund List)
- 36-37. Freer, Charles (collector) 1914-15; 1916
38. French, Daniel Chester (sculptor)
39. F

Series I: (continued)

*MOR 2

1. G
2. Harvard (Harvard Club, alumni assoc., School of Landscape Architecture)
3. Harvard Commission on Western History

Series I: (continued)

*MOR 2

4. Howard, Jacob R. (Senator, 1862-71. See AVP 397)
5. Hume, Sam (Exhibition: Art of the Theatre)
6. Ha
7. He
8. Hi - Hy
9. I
10. J
11. Kelsey, Francis, W. (University of Michigan)
12. K
13. Lewis, Alice M. (painter of miniatures)
14. L
15. Michigan Historical Commission (Moore as secretary, includes Jenks' Patrick Sinclair)
16. Michigan Historical Commission (correspondence with staff: M. Varnum)
17. Michigan State Federation of Art: Aesthetics, April 1915
18. M (including family letters under Moore)
19. National Conference on City Planning (Flavel Shurtleff, secretary)
20. N
21. O
22. Pa - Ph
23. Pi - Pu

Series I: (continued)

*MOR 3

1. Q
2. Ra - Ri
3. Ro - Ry
4. Sage, Cornelia B. (Director of Buffalo...Albright Art Gallery; includes Sage's poems)
5. Saint-Gaudens, Augustus (Sculpture in Jackson, MI; biography by Moore)
6. Security Trust Company
7. Shrady, Henry Merwin (sculptor)
8. Society of Colonial Wars
9. Sa - Sn
10. So - Sw
11. T
12. U
13. V
14. Williams Memorial (General Alpheus S. Williams)
15. W - Z
16. Notecards (name cards, miscellaneous clippings, invitations)
17. Postcards (correspondence)
18. War correspondence and related publications

Series II: National Commission of Fine Arts

- 19-26. National Commission of Fine Arts, 1914-1917

Series III: Detroit Museum of Art correspondence (A-Z), and manuscripts

*MOR 4

1. Administrative correspondence
2. Administrative correspondence "Ferry, Dexter M., Jr." (includes membership campaign, essay on museum/drama relationship)
3. Collections and exhibitions
4. Collections: Scripps Collection critique (C.R. Post, September 1915)
5. DMA vs. Engel (city funding suit, 1915)
6. Lecture on Oriental Art by Laurence Binyon, 1914
7. Printed matter
8. Statement to the Incorporators, September 24, 1915. Report on on city funding and the current status of the School, building, collection.
- 9-11. "American Painters" worksheets of revised catalogue entries
12. "American Sculptors"
13. "Collections"
14. "Flemish"
15. "Medieval Painting"
16. "Paintings - European"
17. "Sculpture - Modern"
18. "Unfinished"
- 19-21. "The Scripps Collection in light of modern Criticism"
22. "The Scripps Collection" on medieval and gothic influence
- 23-25. "The Scripps Collection" catalogue entries

Series IV: City planning correspondence and publications, A-Z

*MOR 5

1. Belle Isle bridge (Cass Gilbert)
2. Clippings
3. Correspondence re: Detroit (includes housing, water treatment, parks)
4. Correspondence re: other cities
5. Elmwood Cemetery
6. Landscaping plans for Detroit
7. Lantern slides of cities (list)
8. Legislation
9. 8th National Conference on City Planning, 1915
10. 9th National Conference on City Planning
11. Pamphlets (relating to concrete construction, public lands, town plats)
12. Pamphlets (relating to cities: Detroit, Harrisburg, Newark, New York, Washington D.C.)
13. Scott Fountain (Belle Isle)
14. Scott Fountain contract and correspondence (Cass Gilbert)
15. Speeches by Moore (for Detroit Engineering Society and others)
16. Water supply and sewage studies by Langdon Pearse
17. Manuscripts for articles and reviews by Moore

Series V: Historical research materials on Michigan

*MOR 5

18. Research materials from the Peter White estates
19. Research materials
20. History of Michigan by Charles Moore - Lewis Publishing Company correspondence, 1913-15
21. History of Michigan - partial manuscripts and proofs

Series VI: Personal items

*MOR 5

22. Personal items including biographical notation

Series VII: League to Enforce Peace

*MOR 6

1. Descriptions of the organizations: proposals, structure, committee list
 2. Dinner and speaker arrangements: correspondence and telegrams
 3. Financial records for the dinner, including contributors' letters
 4. Newspaper clippings
 5. Regrets and introductions: cards
 6. Regrets and acceptances: correspondence
 7. Sample invitation and response card
 8. Seating arrangement: lists
 - 9-10. Seating arrangements
 11. Weekly Bulletins, #22-25
- Package of seating tickets
Enforced Peace: proceedings of the First Annual National Assemblage of the League to Enforce Peace, Washington, May 26-27, 1916

NOTE

Blueprints for the pedestal and statue of Major General Alpheus Starkey Williams located on Belle Isle have been accessioned as AVD 54:1.01-.05

Partial Index to Subjects and Correspondents

(This index is not comprehensive, even for the names listed here, and should be supplemented by a thorough reading of the series descriptions and container listing.)

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Alger Family (Russell Alger) 1/3, 1/4
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American Academy in Rome (Moore as incorporator) 1/6, 2/11 (Kelsey),
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American Historical Association (Moore as member, includes National Archives
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THE CHARLES MOORE PAPERS

Please consult the archivist regarding the use of these papers