

# Guide to the Horace L. Scott Papers

WA MSS S-3642



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April 2019

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-3642

**CREATOR:** Scott, Horace L., 1885- , compiler

**TITLE:** Horace L. Scott papers

**DATES:** 1905-1939

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.71 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Photographs, typescript reports, and other documents of Horace L. Scott as civil engineer for the United States Reclamation Service. Includes 240 photographs and 12 postcards in 3 photograph albums; 20 loose photographs and 2 loose postcards; 4 typescript reports with 69 photographs and 36 blueprints for St. Mary's Canal bound in, produced by the United States Department of the Interior; 3 printed maps of United States Reclamation Service projects and 3 printed topographical folding maps of Montana; 2 pamphlets produced by the Great Northern Railway Company; and other printed materials. The collection documents the Milk River Project, a project which called for a system of dams, canals, and reservoirs stretching across Montana with the purpose of creating 120,000 arable acres along the Milk River. Photographs depict the irrigation project works, Glacier National Park, the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Siksikaitstapi people, and the Flathead Indian Reservation and members of the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreilles tribes. Also included are Scott's resume, list of references, and notebook from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, circa 1909-1926.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hlscott>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hlscott>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Horace L. Scott Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Horace L. Scott Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Horace L. Scott

Horace L. Scott (1885-1970) of Brattleboro, Vermont, received a degree in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1909. Following his graduation, he was hired as a junior engineer for the United States Reclamation Service and moved to Montana to work on the St. Mary Storage Unit of the Milk River Project in Glacier National Park and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. In 1915, Scott was promoted to assistant engineer. He returned to Vermont in 1925, working as an engineer for the Sherman Construction Company in Bellows Falls.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection documents the Milk River Project, a project which called for a system of dams, canals, and reservoirs stretching across Montana with the purpose of creating 120,000 arable acres along the Milk River. Photographs, typescript reports, and printed materials accumulated by Horace L. Scott while civil service engineer for the United States Reclamation Service track the irrigation project conditionally approved by the Secretary of the Interior on 1903 March 14 and authorized on 1905 March 25. Includes 240 photographs and 12 postcards (many with captions) in 3 photograph albums and 20 loose photographs and 2 loose postcards depicting the irrigation project works, Glacier National Park, the Blackfeet Indian

Reservation and Siksikaitsitapi people, and the Flathead Indian Reservation and members of the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreilles tribes. Also present are 4 typescript reports with 69 photographs and 36 blueprints for St. Mary's Canal bound in, produced by the United States Department of the Interior; 3 printed maps of United States Reclamation Service projects and 3 printed topographical folding maps of Montana; 2 pamphlets produced by the Great Northern Railway Company; and other printed articles and booklets relating to the Milk River Project and Montana. Included in the collection are Scott's resume, list of references, and notebook from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, circa 1909-1926.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into five series: I. Milk River Project Reports, 1913-1915. II. Milk River Project Photographs and Postcards, circa 1909-1931, undated. III. Printed Materials, 1909-1913. IV. Maps, 1905-1908. V. Personal Papers, circa 1909-1939.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Milk River Project Reports, 1913-1915

English

Series I contains 4 typescript reports with 69 photographs and 36 blueprints for St. Mary's Canal bound in, produced by the United States Department of the Interior as part of the Milk River Project. There is a table of government equipment and number of employees also produced by the Department of the Interior and loose manuscript notes.

Series I is arranged chronologically.

b. 4, f. 20	Table of government equipment and number of employees	1912 June 30
b. 1, f. 1	St. Mary storage feature of Milk River Project: Feature history, volume 5	1913
b. 1, f. 2	St. Mary storage feature of Milk River Project: Feature history, volume 12	1915
b. 1, f. 3	St. Mary storage feature of Milk River Project: Feature history, volume 13	1915
b. 1, f. 4	St. Mary storage feature of Milk River Project: Feature history, volume 14	1915
b. 1, f. 5	Loose notes	1909 January, undated

## **Series II: Milk River Project Photographs and Postcards, circa 1909-1931, undated**

English

Series II contains 240 photographs and 12 postcards, many with captions, in 3 photograph albums and 20 loose photographs and 2 loose postcards depicting the irrigation project works of the Milk River Project, Glacier National Park, the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Siksikaitsitapi people, and the Flathead Indian Reservation and members of the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreilles tribes. Accompanied by 2 manuscript notebooks identifying 74 photographs.

Series II is arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 6	Photograph album	circa 1909-1912
b. 2, f. 7	Photograph album	circa 1911-1912
b. 2, f. 8	Photograph and postcard album	1915-1917, undated
b. 2, f. 9	Postcards	1915, undated
b. 2, f. 10	Photographs	1923-1931, undated
b. 2, f. 11	Notebook with partial list of photographs	1910, undated

**Series III: Printed Materials, 1909-1913 March 25, undated**

English

Series III contains 2 booklets and 1 pamphlet on the Milk River Project, produced by the United States Department of the Interior; 1 booklet on irrigation bonds produced by Trowbridge & Niver Co.; 3 articles on Montana; and 2 promotional pamphlets produced by the Great Northern Railway Company. There is also a newspaper article on Helena, Montana, as a tourist destination.

Series III is arranged alphabetically.

b. 3, f. 12	Advertisement, proposal and specifications: Milk River Project, Montana	1913 March 25
b. 3, f. 13	Articles and booklets about Montana	undated
b. 3, f. 14	Irrigation bonds based on the world's greatest industry	1909
b. 3, f. 15	Laws and regulations relating to the reclamation of arid lands by the United States	1913 February 6
b. 4, f. 21	Newspaper article on Helena, Montana	undated
b. 3, f. 16	Pamphlets	1909



**Series IV: Maps, 1905 July-1908 August**

English

Series IV is arranged chronologically.

Series IV contains maps of the Shoshone Project in Wyoming, and the Huntley Project and Milk River Drainage Basin in Montana produced by the United States Reclamation Service. There are also 3 topographical folding maps of Montana as part of a United States geological survey.

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b. 4, f. 22	Topographical folding maps of Montana	1905 July
b. 4, f. 23	United States Reclamation Service project maps	1906 April-1908 August

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**Series V: Personal Papers, circa 1909-1939**

English

Series V contains Horace L. Scott's resume, list of references, and notebook from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. There is also a bank letter addressed to Scott and 2 postcards from Scott to his sister, Minnie Ann Scott.

Series V is arranged chronologically.

b. 3, f. 17	Notebook	circa 1909
b. 3, f. 18	References, experience statements, and letter of introduction	1909 August-1926 May
b. 3, f. 19	Letters and postcards	1912-1939

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Engineering drawings  
Great Northern Railway Company (U.S.)  
Indian reservations -- Montana  
Indians of North America -- Montana  
Irrigation -- Montana  
Kootenai Indians -- Montana  
Maps  
Milk River Project (U.S.)  
Postcards  
Salish Indians -- Montana  
Siksika Indians -- Montana  
United States -- Department of the Interior  
United States Reclamation Service  
Water development projects -- Milk River  
(Mont. and Alta.)  
Water resources development -- Montana

### Occupations

Civil engineers -- Montana -- 20th Century

### Geographic Names

Blackfeet Indian Reservation (Mont.) -- Pictorial works  
Flathead Indian Reservation (Mont.) -- Pictorial works  
Glacier National Park (Mont.) -- Pictorial works  
Milk River (Mont. and Alta.) -- Pictorial works  
Montana -- Pictorial works  
Saint Mary River (Mont. and Alta.) -- Pictorial works

### Genres / Formats

Blueprints  
Pamphlets  
Photograph albums  
Photographs  
Topographical maps

### Acquired From

William Reese Co., bookseller