

# **Guide to the Lawrence Pratt Collection Concerning Arizona v. California and the Colorado River**

**WA MSS S-2613**



by Jennifer Meehan

2009

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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-2613

**CREATOR:** Pratt, Lawrence F.

**TITLE:** Lawrence Pratt collection concerning Arizona v. California and the Colorado River

**DATES:** 1948-1960

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of printed exhibits, engineering reports, witness testimony, and speeches relating to the court case, Arizona v. California, which concerned water rights to the Colorado River and its tributaries and which also involved a boundary dispute between the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation and the Colorado River Indian Reservation. These materials were seemingly collected by Lawrence Pratt in his position as Senior Hydraulic Engineer at the Colorado River Board of California, and shed particular light on California's side of the court case.

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

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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.pratt>.

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 Marc Selvaggio, Bookseller on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2008.

## **Custodial History**

From the collection of an unidentified, retired engineer in San Diego.

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## **Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.

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## **Conditions Governing Use**

The Lawrence Pratt Collection Concerning Arizona v. California and the Colorado River 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**

Lawrence Pratt Collection Concerning Arizona v. California and the Colorado River. 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, and competing priorities. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a medium level of processing in 2009. Processing included removing material from original three-ring binders and rehousing it in acid-free folders and boxes. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles were supplied by staff during processing.

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## **Lawrence Pratt**

Lawrence Pratt was a civil engineer based in Los Angeles, and also served as Senior Hydraulic Engineer with the Colorado River Board of California from 1949 to at least 1958 and possibly later. In 1958, he testified as an expert witness for the California defendants in the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation and Colorado River Indian Reservation boundary dispute.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The collection consists of printed exhibits, engineering reports, witness testimony, and speeches relating to the court case, Arizona v. California, which concerned water rights to the Colorado River and its tributaries and which also involved a boundary dispute between the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation and the Colorado River Indian Reservation. These materials were seemingly collected by Lawrence Pratt in his position as Senior Hydraulic Engineer at the Colorado River Board of California, and shed particular light on California's side of the court case.

## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. California Exhibits, 1956-1958. II. Other Records, 1948-1960.

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## Collection Contents

### California Exhibits, 1956-1958

*1.5 linear feet*

Printed exhibits, including folding maps, charts, tables, and reprints of primary documents which shed light on the historical background of California's long-term use of Colorado River water.

b. 1, f. 1-4	Exhibit No. 1-100	1956-1958
b. 1, f. 5-7	Exhibit No. 101-170	1956-1958
b. 1, f. 8-12	Exhibit No. 171-270	1956-1958
b. 1, f. 13-16	Exhibit No. 271-351	1956-1958
b. 1, f. 17-19	Exhibit No. 371-449	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 20-22	Exhibit No. 371-446	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 23-26	Exhibit No. 450-550	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 27-30	Exhibit No. 2000-2099	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 31-33	Exhibit No. 2100-2174	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 34	Exhibit No. 2200-2217	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 35	Exhibit No. 2301, 2401, 2402, 2620	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 36	Exhibit No. 2643-2644, 2701-2723, 2901-2904	1956-1958

**Other Records, 1948-1960***0.5 linear feet*

b. 2, f. 37	Arizona Exhibits	1956-1958
b. 2, f. 38-41	"Arizona v. California: Gila River Basin - Physical Data Book" Reports prepared by hydraulic engineers from Colorado River Board, covering topics such as topography, drainage, climate, vegetation, water source and quality, history of development, agriculture, industry, business, and irrigation, among others. Included are numerous folded maps.	1956
b. 2, f. 42	"Engineering Data Urgently Required for Preparation of California Defendants" A compilation of reports and memos, presumably for internal circulation for Colorado River Board, regarding water resources and use in Arizona, with estimates regarding the proposed Central Arizona Project and Arizona's use of Colorado River water.	1956
b. 2, f. 43	Testimony of Lawrence Pratt on Fort Mojave Indian Reservation and Colorado Indian Reservation Boundary Controversies Pratt's copy of his own testimony, including three folding maps and eight original snapshots.	1958
b. 2, f. 44	Use of Water by California Agencies and Reasonableness of Use	circa 1956
b. 2, f. 45	Coker, C. E., "Arizona versus California"	
b. 2, f. 46	Raver, Paul J., Hydro - The Energy Base of the Northwest: An Address Before the Institute for Social Action, First Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon	1948
b. 2, f. 47	Steiner, Wesley E., Arizona v. California: Presentation to Hydraulics Group of Los Angeles Section, American Society of Civil Engineers	1960

## **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**

Indians of North America -- Water rights  
Water rights -- Arizona  
Water rights -- California  
Water rights -- Southwest, New  
Water rights -- Southwestern States  
Water-supply -- Arizona  
Water-supply -- California  
Water-supply -- Southwest, New  
Water-supply -- Southwestern States

### **Geographic Names**

Arizona -- Trials, litigation, etc.  
California -- Trials, litigation, etc.  
Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico) -- Water rights  
Colorado River Indian Reservation (Ariz. and Calif.)  
Fort Mojave Indian Reservation

### **Corporate Body**

Colorado River Board of California