

Guide to the Richard Shelton Kirby Papers

MS 1104



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1104

CREATOR: Kirby, Richard Shelton, 1874-1964

TITLE: Richard Shelton Kirby papers

DATES: 1873-1956

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and research files reflecting Kirby's interest in the history of engineering. Much of the material was gathered in connection with his book, *Engineering in History*, published in 1956. Important correspondents are Ludlow S. Bull, an Egyptologist, and his co-authors, Arthur B. Darling, Frederick G. Kilgour, and Sidney Withington.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1104>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1104>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

In part, gift from Richard S. Kirby, 1940s and 1950s, and Dorothy Hooker, 1970.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Richard Shelton Kirby Papers (MS 1104). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Richard S. Kirby (1874-1964): educator; Ph.B., Yale, 1896; C.E., Yale, 1898; instructor in Sanitary Engineering, 1906-1909, Yale; assistant professor of Mechanical Drawing and Descriptive Geometry, 1915-1922; associate professor of Engineering Drawing, 1922-; chairman of the Department of Engineering Drawing, 1933-.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Richard Shelton Kirby reflect his interest in the history of engineering. A small amount of correspondence with other authors and engineers is included which deals with research questions and comments on engineering issues in their books. The only extended correspondence is with the Egyptologist Ludlow S. Bull (folder 2) concerning engineering in ancient Egypt, and with Kirby's co-authors of *Engineering in History*, Arthur B. Darling, Frederick G. Kilgour, and Sidney Withington (folder 4). Other letters from friends and colleagues are bound with photographs and newspaper clippings in a retirement volume dedicated to Kirby. An address delivered at his retirement dinner is also included. A number of certificates and diplomas can be found in the folio. There are also four letters addressed to Kirby's father, James Andrew Kirby, concerning a right-of-way and a contract for grading Westchester Avenue in Rye, New York (folder 1).

The remainder of the papers, amounting to two-thirds of the collection, consists of six short writings by Kirby on the history of engineering and research materials used for the most part in preparing *Engineering in History*, which was published in 1956. Included are notes, photostats, newspaper clippings and other printed matter, and an index card file

Portions of these papers were given to Yale University by Richard Shelton Kirby in the 1940s and 1950s and by Dorothy Hooker in 1970.

Collection Contents

Inventory, 1873-1956, undated

1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	James Andrew Kirby: letters	1873-1890
	Richard Shelton Kirby	
	Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 2	Adams, Samuel Hopkins	1950
b. 1, f. 2	Bull, Ludlow S.	1928-1941
b. 1, f. 2	Burt, Maxwell Struthers	1945
b. 1, f. 3	Chase, Mary Ellen	1936-1938
b. 1, f. 3	Dickinson, H.W.	1947
b. 1, f. 3	DuBois, A.J.	1898
b. 1, f. 3	duMaurier, Daphne	1943
b. 1, f. 3	Freeman, Douglas Southall	1946, 1948
b. 1, f. 3	Langdon, William C.	1938
b. 1, f. 3	Lewars, Elsie Singmaster	1938
b. 1, f. 3	Looney, Charles T.G.	1956
b. 1, f. 3	Morrow, Honoré Willsie	1935
b. 1, f. 3	Richter, Conrad	1940
b. 1, f. 3	Taft, L.	1927
b. 1, f. 3	Taft, William H.	1916
b. 1, f. 3	Williamson, S.T.	1937
b. 1, f. 3	Woodward, W.E.	1945
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence concerning <i>Engineering in History</i>	1939-1950, undated
	Memorabilia	
b. 1, f. 5	Scarpbook of letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs entitled "To Richard Kirby from some friends at Yale"	1943
b. 1, f. 6	Address by Hardy Cross at farewell dinner for R.S.K.	1943 January 23
b. 1, f. 7	Certificates and diplomas See also: CF26	1893

Writings

Richard Shelton Kirby > Writings (continued)

b. 1, f. 8	"Some Engineering Pioneering"; with published version. "Some Engineering Beginnings," <i>Civil Engineering</i> English	[post-1932], 1937 November
b. 1, f. 9	Review of <i>Oliver Evans: a Chronicle of Early American Early American Engineering</i> , by Greville Bathe and Dorothy Bathe	[1935?]
b. 1, f. 10	"Some Pioneer Engineers" (lectures) English	1937
b. 1, f. 11	"Henri Pitot, Pioneer in Practical Hydraulics," <i>Civil Engineering</i> English	1939 December
b. 1, f. 12	"Specifications and Plans of Ancient Times," <i>Civil Engineering</i> English	1941 July
b. 1, f. 13	"Engineer During the French Revolution" English	undated
Research materials		
b. 1, f. 14	Reprints and pamphlets re: engineering, highways, etc.	1938-1940, undated
b. 1, f. 15	Statistics on motor traffic in Paris	[pre-1941]
<u>Engineering in History</u>		
b. 1, f. 16	"Memos on Chapter 1 and 2" English	[pre-1956]
b. 1, f. 17-18	"Chapter 4. The Middle Ages. Working Note" English	[pre-1956]
b. 1, f. 19	"Chapter 5. The Renaissance" English	[pre-1956]
b. 2, f. 20-21	"Chapter 6. Sidney Withington notes" English	[pre-1956]
b. 2, f. 22-23	"Chap. 7. Rails. S. Withington notes" English	[pre-1956]
b. 2, f. 24-25	"Chap. 8. Steel. Notes" English	[pre-1956]
b. 2, f. 26	"Pargellis mss." English	[pre-1956]
b. 2, f. 27	Miscellaneous	[pre-1956]
b. 3	Index card file	[pre-1956]
b. 4	Index card file	pre-1956
Diplomas and certificates		
b. 1, f. 26	Yale University diploma	1898

Diplomas and certificates (continued)

b. 1, f. 26	Union Free School diploma	1891
b. 1, f. 26	Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers honorary membership certificate	1949
b. 1, f. 26	Marriage certificate of James Andrew Kirby	1873

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

Educators
Engineering -- Study and teaching

Occupations

Engineers

Names

Bull, Ludlow Seguire, 1886-1954
Darling, Arthur B. (Arthur Burr), 1892-1971
Kilgour, Frederick G.
Kirby, Richard Shelton, 1874-1964
Withington, Sidney, 1884-

Corporate Bodies

Yale University. Dept. of Engineering and
Applied Science
Yale University -- Faculty