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William Barclay Parsons papers4079202

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Parsons, William Barclay, 1859-1932
Title:	William Barclay Parsons papers
ID:	4079202
ID:	MS#0981
Date [inclusive]:	1899-1915
Physical Description:	1 box 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Barclay Parsons papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

William Barclay Parsons (1859-1932) was a civil engineer, who attended Columbia University (AB, 1879; CE, 1882). As chief engineer, Parsons designed and built the first units of the Rapid Transit System of New York (1899-1904). In 1898, he directed a survey of Chinese railroads (1898-1899) primarily on the line from Hankow to Canton. Parsons was appointed to the international Board of Consulting Engineers for the Panama Canal (1905). In 1905, he was also selected chief engineer of the Cape Cod Canal (1905-1914). Parsons served in both the Spanish-American and World War I. He is the author of *An American Engineer in China* (1900), *The American Engineers in France* (1920), and other works relating to engineering.

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Summary

This collection contains correspondence, including letters from U.S. President Grover Cleveland (1837-1908), Canadian author Gilbert Parker (1862-1932), and printed monographs and magazine articles. Please note that Parsons' diaries covering his Panama Canal years and World War I service have been catalogued as book manuscripts.

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Arrangement

Diaries have been catalogued as book manuscripts. All other archival items have been arranged alphabetical by material type within the online finding aid.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Revision Description

Replaced PDF with a structured finding aid containing edited and enhanced description.
cml 2020-08-18

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Parsons, William Barclay, Jr. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1958. Accession number--M-58.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 08/--/89.

Custodial History

Gift of William Barclay Parsons, Jr., 1958.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Local transit -- New York (State) -- New York
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives
- Railroads -- China
- Canals -- Panama
- Canals -- Massachusetts -- Cape Cod
- Panama Canal (Panama) -- Description and travel
- Cape Cod Canal (Mass.) -- Description and travel
- United States -- History
- Diaries
- Civil engineers
- Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908

- Parker, Gilbert, 1862-1932
- Rapid Transit System of New York

Collection Inventory

I. William Barclay Parsons papers, 1899-1915	
Title/Description	Instances
Catalogued Manuscripts	
Diaries	
Panama Canal	
General	
"Not found" as of June 22, 1967. The RBML x-manuscripts collection contains a bound volume of brochures and correspondence titled "Panama Canal" (Call No. X386.C33), but there is no evidence of any connection to Parsons, so it is assumed to be unrelated.	
Rapid Transit System of New York, 1900-1904	box Call No.: X385.7 P25 v.1,2,3.
Scope and Contents	
3 volumes [NOTE: Volumes 1 and 2 are misnumbered as 2 and 1 respectively, on spines.]	
World War I	box Call
Scope and Contents	No.:
2 volumes	X940.91 P25 v.1,2.
Correspondence	
Cleveland, Grover (1837-1908) (22nd and 24th U.S. president (1885-1889) and (1893-1897))	box 1
Parker, Gilbert (1862-1932) (Canadian novelist, editor, and politician)	box 1
Magazine articles	box 1
Monographs--printed	box 1

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