

The Filson Club Historical Society

**The Added Papers of
Robert Worth Bingham**

The added papers of Robert Worth Bingham, lawyer, Mayor of Louisville, publisher of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James, were received as a gift.

For information regarding literary and copyright interests for these papers, see the Curator of Manuscripts, James J. Holmberg.

Size of Collection

1 cubic foot

Locator Number Mss.\A\B613b

Scope and Content Note

The Robert W. Bingham papers include correspondence, 1894-1944 and undated; a memorial (1913) regarding the accidental death of his first wife, Eleanor Miller Bingham; receipted bills; and miscellaneous items.

Correspondence includes his and his wife's correspondence, 1895-1913, during their courtship and after their marriage discussing his legal business, personal matters, and their children. Other correspondence includes letters from family members and from the three Bingham children: Robert Henrietta, and Barry.

Papers also include Eleanor M. Bingham's memorial written after she died of injuries sustained after the car in which she was riding was hit by an inter-urban car; Robert W. Bingham's receipted bills for purchases, mostly books, from businesses in Louisville, London, and New York; and miscellaneous items from his ambassadorship to England, 1933-1937.

Biographical Note

- 1871 Born in Orange Co., North, Carolina, 8 November.
- 1888 Graduated from the Bingham Military School in Asheville, N.C.
- 1889-1892 Attended the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia.
- 1892-1896 Taught Latin and Greek at the Bingham Military School.
- 1896 Married Eleanor Miller and moved to Louisville, Kentucky
- 1897 Received a law degree from the University of Louisville and formed a firm with long time friend W.W. Davies.
- 1905 Appointed Mayor of Louisville
- 1907 Appointed and then elected Jefferson County Attorney.
- 1911 Appointed chancellor of the Jefferson Circuit Court
- 1913 Bingham's wife, Eleanor, died as a result of an automobile accident.
- 1916 Married Mary Lily (Kenan) Flagler, widow of Henry Flagler, on 15 November.
- 1917 Eight months after their marriage Mary Lily Flagler Bingham died of a heart condition. Under a codicil to her will, Bingham received \$5 million.
- 1918 Purchased the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and the *Louisville Times*.
- 1924 Married Aleen Lithgow (Muldoon) Hilliard, widow of J. Byron Hilliard, on 21 August.
- 1933 Appointed ambassador to England by President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 1937 Died of abdominal Hodgkin's disease at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, 18 December.

Folder Listing

Box 1

- 1. Correspondence, Sept., 1894 - Aug., 1895
2. Correspondence, September - October, 1895
3. Correspondence, November - December, 1895
4. Correspondence, 1896-1898
5. Correspondence, 1899
6. Correspondence, 1900-1901
7. Correspondence, 1902-1903
8. Correspondence, June, 1906

Box 2

9. Correspondence, July - August, 1906
10. Correspondence, September - December, 1906
11. Correspondence, January, 1908 - June, 1909
12. Correspondence, July - December, 1909
13. Correspondence, 1910-1911
14. Correspondence, 1913
15. Correspondence, 1915-1944
- 16. Correspondence, undated (Henrietta Bingham)
- 17. Correspondence, undated (Robert Bingham)

Box 3

- ✓ 18. Correspondence, undated
- ✓ 19. Correspondence, undated
20. Receipted bills, "A-F"
21. Receipted bills, "G-P"
22. Receipted bills, "R-Z"
- 23. Eleanor M. Bingham's death, 27 April 1913
- 24. Miscellaneous