
Inventory of the Fletcher Bowron Collection, 1934-1970

The Huntington Library

San Marino, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Fletcher Bowron Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1934-1970

Creator: Bowron, Fletcher

Extent: Approximately 20,000 manuscript items, many printed reports and brochures
21 boxes of clippings

Repository: The Huntington Library

San Marino, California 91108

Language: English

Provenance

Gift of Mrs. Fletcher Bowron, 1974 and 1976

Materials in addenda received 12/9/83, 5/31/84 and 1/10/85

Access

Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information please go to following [URL](#) .

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Preferred Citation

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Biography

Fletcher Bowron (1887-1968), who was mayor of the city of Los Angeles from 1938 to 1953, came into office as a reform candidate in a recall election. His goal was to eradicate political corruption and establish a professional municipal government. For 15 years he was continually reelected to this important position-fifteen years of tremendous growth and unusual problems for the Los Angeles area.

Mayor Bowron had spent the years 1911 to 1917 as a newspaper reporter, followed by a return to college for a law degree, two years in private practice, then six years as Judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. During his terms as mayor, World War II brought the sudden expansion of war-related industries to Los Angeles and the immediate need for laborers, public housing, mass transportation, and pollution control. As mayor he worked not only for solutions to these problems but also for the creation of long range city planning and commercial development.

After his years as mayor, Bowron was reelected to the bench as Judge of the Superior Court. In 1962 he retired and devoted himself to a Metropolitan History Project. When Judge Bowron passed away in 1968, the project continued under the supervision of Mrs. Bowron and reached its fruition in the publication of the bibliography of Los Angeles history, *Los Angeles and Its Environs in the Twentieth Century*, with Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., as editor.

Subject Matter

The collection is divided into three main sections. The first consists of carbon copies of Bowron's letters while he was mayor of Los Angeles, personal correspondence (1934-1965), reports, and information on the election campaigns of 1945, 1947, 1949, and 1950. The second section pertains to Bowron's Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project. The source material he gathered is filed alphabetically by subject and contains information on city planning and zoning, public housing, sanitation, transportation, water and power and many other topics. Following this are the notes, outlines, drafts, bibliographical material, card index files, etc., for the project. The third main section consists of boxes of clippings which are arranged in folders in chronological order, some with listings of subjects. There are also three photograph albums and some memorabilia.

Bibliography

NUNIS, Doyce Blackman, Jr. ed., *Los Angeles and Its Environs in the Twentieth Century*, Ward Ritchie Press, Los Angeles, 1973. (With Foreward by Mrs. Fletcher Bowron)

SECTION I - Correspondence and papers of Fletcher Bowron

Box 1	Carbon copies of letters from mayor's office. 1939-1946
Box 2	Carbon copies of letters from mayor's office. 1947-1948
Box 3	Carbon copies of letters from mayor's office. 1949-1953
Box 4	Personal correspondence. 1934-1938
Box 5	Personal correspondence. 1939-1942
Box 6	Personal correspondence. 1943-1965
Box 7	Commendations (Index numbers 1 - 500), Jan. 1939-June 1940
Box 8	Commendations (Index numbers 501 - 775), Jan. 1941-July 1951
Box 9	Greetings (Index numbers 1 - 200), 1939-1943
Box 10	Greetings (Index numbers 201 - 500), 1943-1948
Box 11	Greetings (Index numbers 501 - 725), 1948-1950
Box 12	Index cards to Invitations
Box 13	Index cards to Invitations (continued)
Box 14	Invitations (Index numbers 3320-4200, Dec. 1944-May 1946
Box 15	Invitations (Index numbers 4201-4500, July 1946-Feb. 1947
Box 16	Invitations (Index numbers 4501-4800, Feb. 1947-Aug. 1947
Box 17	Invitations (Index numbers 4801-5075, June-Dec. 1947
Box 18	Invitations (Index numbers 5076-5350, Nov. 1947-May 1948
Box 19	Invitations (Index numbers 5351-5650, Apr.-Aug. 1948
Box 20	Invitations (Index numbers 5651-5850, Aug.-Nov. 1948
Box 21	Invitations (Index numbers 5851-6125, Nov. 1948-Feb. 1949
Box 22	Invitations (Index numbers 6126-6325, Feb.-May 1949
Box 23	Invitations (Index numbers 6476-6750, July-Sep. 1949
Box 24	Invitations (Index numbers 6751-7025, Oct. 1949-Mar. 1950
Box 25	Invitations (Index numbers 7026-7375, Mar.-Sep. 1950
Box 26	Invitations (Index numbers 7376-7675, Aug. 1950-Jan. 1951
Box 27	Invitations (Index numbers 7676-7950, Jan.-May, 1951
Box 28	Invitations (Index numbers 7951-8150, May - Sep. 1951
Box 29	Invitations (Index numbers 8151-8400, Sep. 1951-Feb. 1952
Box 30	Invitations (Index numbers 8401-8700, Jan.-Sep. 1952
Box 31	Invitations (Index numbers 8701-8925, Sep. 1952-Jan. 1953
Box 32	Invitations (Index numbers 8926-9200, Jan.-June 1953
Box 33	Speeches and Press Statements. 1938-1941 (with index at front)
Box 34	Speeches and Press Statements. 1942-1945 & 1946
Box 35	Speeches and Press Statements. 1946-1949
Box 36	Speeches and Press Statements. 1950-1953 (and miscellaneous speeches)
Box 37	Elections - 1945, 1947, 1949 - Correspondence, campaign literature, etc.
Box 38	Elections - 1949 - Letters of congratulation
Box 39	Election - 1949 - Letters of congratulation and acknowledgment
Box 40	Election - 1949 - Letters of congratulation and acknowledgment
Box 40a	Election Campaigns, 1938-1956
Box 41	Election - 1953 - Book of Precinct Boards
Box 42	Special reports and speeches by Los Angeles County Counsel, Harold Woodworth Kennedy. 1955-1957

SECTION II - Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project

Part 1 - Research material (including printed items)

Box 43	<p>Master Index Agriculture Air pollution (see Pollution, also Smog) Architects The Arts - Music - Theatre-Radio-Motion Pictures Automobile Club of Southern California - Minutes of Board of Directors - 1900-1924 Automotive History</p>
Box 44	<p>Aviation Aviation - Douglas Aircraft Co. (printed book, <i>Flight Plan for Tomorrow</i>) Aviation - Garrett Corporation Aviation - Lockheed Aircraft Corporation Aviation - Los Angeles - Department of Airports - Report Aviation - Los Angeles Airways</p>
Box 45	<p>Aviation - North American Aviation, Inc. Aviation - Northrop Corporation Aviation - United Airlines (printed book, <i>High Horizons</i> by Frank J. Taylor) Beaches, Parks, Recreation Bench & Bar (see also Legal) Building Chamber of Commerce</p>
Box 46	<p>Charter Charter - Claude E. Hawley Charter - Mayor Chronological Lists of Events Chronological Record of City Officials Citizens Committee - Revenue & Taxation (1948) Citizens Committee - Zoning (1968) City Government - Information City News Service City Planning (see Planning & Zoning)</p>
Box 47	<p>Civil Service Climate Consolidation County Boundaries County-City Officials (Correspondence) Court (Early) Court - Superior Crime & Corruption Economy Education Electricity Engineering Financial Institutions (Banking)</p>
Box 48	<p>Fish & Wildlife Flood Control Flora - Native Freeways Grand Juries Griffith, Van M. (Police Union) Harbor Haynes Foundation</p>

SECTION II - Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project

Part 1 - Research material (including printed items)

	Historic Preservation
	Hollywood
Box 49	Housing (mainly Public Housing)
Box 50	Housing (including Elections on Prop. No. 10, etc.)
Box 51	Housing (City Attorney's Opinions, etc.)
Box 52	Industry
	Japan
	Japanese
	Japanese American
	Law
	Legal (see also Bench & Bar)
	Library
	Los Angeles (printed magazine,1964-1967)
Box 53	Los Angeles History (Misc.)
	Los Angeles History (Misc. printed bulletins, etc.)
	Los Angeles Bar Bulletin (printed,1960-1968)
	Los Angeles High School
	Los Angeles Year Book (printed,1940-1962)
	Mayors of Los Angeles
Box 54	Metropolitan Government (printed material)
	Metropolitan Government (miscellaneous reports)
Box 55	<i>Metropolitan Government - A Study in Integration</i> (printed series)
Box 56	Municipal League
	Names to Contact
	Oil
	Oil Drilling
	Personalities
	Petroleum (see Oil)
Box 57	Planning & Zoning (printed brochures)
Box 58	Planning & Zoning
	Planning & Zoning - Problem
	Planning Commission - Accomplishments (printed, 1945-1960)
	Planning, Regional
Box 59	Police (see also Griffith, Van M.)
	Police - Deputy Auxiliary Program
	Political History
	Pollution
	Population
	Public Housing (see Housing)
Box 60	Public Works
	Publicity, Press
	Real Estate
	Religion
	Retail Trade (see also Industry)
	Rubbish Report
	Sanitation & Refuse Disposal
	Sewer
	Sewer - Hyperion Report
Box 61	Smog
	Southern California Research Council - Reports 1961-1964
Box 62	Street Railways (Manuscript)
Box 63	Street Railways (Manuscript, continued)
Box 64	Taxes
	Telephone
	Tourism
	Towns & cities
	Traffic (see also Freeways)

SECTION II - Metropolitan Los Angeles History Project

Part 1 - Research material (including printed items)

Transportation

(see also Street Railways)

- Box 65 **Union Bank**
- Box 66 **Water and Power (Utilities)**
Water and Power - Metropolitan Water Department (printed brochures)
Whitnall, Gordon
Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous Information - Historical
1880 History of Los Angeles County
-

Part 2 - Bibliographic Section, etc.

- Box 67 *Index*
Bibliography
- Box 68 **Research: Needs and accomplishments (correspondence, publicity, etc.)**
- Box 69 **Some Approaches to the Study of Urban History - Notes, Memos, historical data by Judge Bowron**
- Box 70 **Interviews**
- Box 71 **City History: Suggestions on Methodology**
Outline
Chapter Outlines
Drafts of Chapters, etc.
- Box 72 **Card index - Subject file**

Physical Description: (3 x 5 cards)
- Box 73 **Card index - Subject file**

Physical Description: (6 x 8 cards)

SECTION III - Clippings

Box 74	Clippings, 1943
Box 75	Clippings, Jan. - Apr. 1944
Box 76	Clippings, May - Sep. 1944
Box 77	Clippings, Oct. 1944 - Mar. 1945
Box 78	Clippings, Apr. - Aug. 1945
Box 79	Clippings, Nov. 1945 - Feb. 1946
Box 80	Clippings, Mar. - May 1946
Box 81	Clippings, June - Sep. 1946
Box 82	Clippings, Oct. - Nov. 1946
Box 83	Clippings, Dec. 1946 - Feb. 1947
Box 84	Clippings, Feb. - May 1947
Box 85	Clippings, June - Aug. 1947
Box 86	Clippings, Sep. - Nov. 1947
Box 87	Clippings, Dec. 1947 - Feb. 1948
Box 88	Clippings, Mar. - May 1948
Box 89	Clippings, June - July 1948
Box 90	Clippings, Aug. - Oct. 1948
Box 91	Clippings, Nov. - Dec. 1948
Box 92	Clippings, 1951 (filed by subject, A - C)
Box 93	Clippings, 1951 & 1950 (filed by subject, F - R)
Box 94	Clippings, 1950 (filed by subject, R - Z & Misc.) & 1965
Box 95	Clippings, Misc. clippings and printed material

SECTION IV - Photograph albums

Box 96

Trips to Argentina and Japan; Water System for Lerma, Mexico

Physical Description: 3 photograph albums

OVERSIZE ITEMS

Folder of campaign placards (printed)
Map (printed) - Los Angeles Planning Commission
Roll map of Los Angeles (printed by Thomas Bros.)

Box Box 1

Correspondence

Recall campaign

Box Box 2

Campaigns, elections, speeches

Box Box 3

Administrative issues as mayor

Box Box 4

Awards, honors, special events

(see also Oversize Folder 2)

Box Box 5

Superior Court Matters

(see also Oversize Folder 3)

History Project

Trips

(see also Oversize Vol 50)

Box Box 6

Biographical Material (with photograph)

Invitations and programs, etc.

Box Box 7

Photographs - [Armed services?]

Box Box 8

Photographs - [Armed services?]

Box Box 9

Photographs - A - Bo (with index)

Box Box 10

Photographs - Br - D (with index)

Box Box 11

Photographs - L - P (with index)

Box Box 12

Photographs - U - Y (with index)

Box Box 13

Photographs - Miscellaneous

Volume Vol 1-40

Bound volumes of Bowron's addresses (1938-1953, with 2 index vols.)

Box Box 14

Clippings, printed material, etc.

Box Box 15

Magazines and miscellaneous printed items

Volume Vol 41

Album of phonograph records of Testimonial dinner honoring Fletcher Bowron at the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. 1951

Volume Vol 42

A Decade of Progress (letters commemorating Fletcher Bowron's 10 years as mayor of Los Angeles). 1948, Sep. 17

Volume Vol 43

Tenth Anniversary Salute (letters of tribute to Fletcher Bowron). 1948, Sep. 26

Volume Vol 44

Mayor Fletcher Bowron - 14th Anniversary. 1952

Volume Vol 45

Mayor Fletcher Bowron (letters presented by his co-workers). 1953

Volume Vol 46

Scrapbook of clippings. 1939-1940

Volume Vol 47

Scrapbook of photographs, clippings, etc., re Civilian Defense. 1942-1944

Volume Vol 48-53

[see OVERSIZE VOLUMES]

Oversize OS Folder 1

Campaign cartoons

Physical Description: (6 pieces)

Oversize OS Folder 2

Citations, honors, etc.

Physical Description: (23 pieces)

Oversize OS Folder 3

Certificates and photos re Superior Court (1917-1939)

Oversize OS Folder 4

Ephemera

placque Plaques

2 mounted plaques

Volume OS Vol 48-49

Scrapbooks of clippings. 1950-1953

Physical Description: (2 vols.)

Volume OS Vol 50

Scrapbook - Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Around the World Trade Tour. 1951

Volume OS Vol 51-52

Memorial scrapbook containing obituaries, tributes, etc. 1968.

Physical Description: (2 vols.)

Volume OS Vol 53

Photograph album honoring Fletcher Bowron

Physical Description: 5 rolled photographs