

Wendell Berge Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Washington, D.C.
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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78012468>

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Revised by Melinda K. Friend

Collection Summary

Title: Wendell Berge Papers

Span Dates: 1907-1950

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1947)

ID No.: MSS12468

Creator: Berge, Wendell, 1903-1955

Extent: 12,000 items ; 55 containers plus 6 oversize ; 23.7 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Lawyer and public official. Correspondence, speeches and writings, daily calendars, business diaries, agenda, printed matter, clippings, and photographs relating primarily to Berge's official activities at the Department of Justice culminating in his position as assistant attorney general in charge of the Antitrust Division.

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.

People

Berge, George W., 1864-1925. George W. Berge business records. 1907.

Berge, Wendell, 1903-1955.

Brownell, Herbert, 1904- --Correspondence.

Chapman, Oscar L. (Oscar Littleton), 1896-1978--Correspondence.

Childs, Marquis W. (Marquis William), 1903-1990--Correspondence.

Daniels, Jonathan, 1902-1981--Correspondence.

Ewing, Oscar R. (Oscar Ross), 1899-1980--Correspondence.

Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965--Correspondence.

Jackson, Robert Houghwout, 1892-1954--Correspondence.

Warren, Earl, 1891-1974--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Department of Justice.

United States. Department of Justice. Antitrust Division.

Subjects

Antitrust law.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Public officials.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Wendell Berge, lawyer and public official, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Wendell Berge in 1956.

Processing History

The papers of Wendell Berge were arranged and described in 1958. The finding aid was revised and parts of the collection were rearranged in 2011.

Additional Guides

The Berge Papers are described in *Wendell Berge: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1958). Further descriptions of the Berge Papers appear in *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, 15, no. 31 (30 July 1956), p. 408, and *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, 14, no.3 (May 1957), p. 124

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Wendell Berge is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Wendell Berge are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Wendell Berge Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1903, Apr. 24	Born, Lincoln, Neb.
1925	A.B., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.
1926	Married Laura Elizabeth Whelpley
1927	LL.B., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
1928-1930	With law firm of Root, Clark, Buckner, and Ballantine, New York, N.Y.
1930	Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. Appointed special assistant to attorney general
1931	Admitted to District of Columbia bar
1935-1937	Chief of Appellate Section, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice
1937-1940	First assistant to head, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice
1941	Appointed assistant attorney general
1943-1947	Head, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice
1944	Published <i>Cartels: Challenge to a Free World</i> . Washington, D.C.: Public Affairs Press
1946	Published <i>Economic Freedom for the West</i> . Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press
1947	Resigned as assistant attorney general

1947-1955 Private law practice
1955, Sept. 25 Died, Kensington, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Wendell Berge (1903-1955) span the years 1907-1950, with the bulk of the material dating from 1920 to 1947. The papers are organized into the following series: [Daily Calendars and Diaries](#), [Personal Correspondence](#), [George W. Berge Business Papers and Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speech and Article File](#), [Subject File](#), [Printed Matter and Clippings](#), and [Oversize](#).

The papers emphasize the period from 1930 to 1947, when Berge served sequentially as special assistant to the attorney general, chief of the Appellate Section of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, first assistant and head of the Antitrust Division, and finally as assistant attorney general. The material for the years from 1941 to 1947 fully covers his activities as assistant attorney general.

The [Daily Calendars and Diaries](#) contain calendars and lists of agenda items for each working day from 1935 to 1947, and diaries from 1935 to 1947 consisting largely of summary sentences, people seen, and telephone calls made for each working day.

The [Personal Correspondence](#) with relatives, friends, and business associates covers almost continuously the years 1919-1945 and in most cases includes both letters received and carbon copies of letters sent. There are gaps, however, for the periods from July 1925 to November 1926, March 1929 to November 1934, and for the years from 1945 to 1955. A large section of the [General Correspondence](#) consists of memoranda and letters sent and received in the period of his government service, and reflects his attitude and work during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and throughout World War II. Among the correspondents are Herbert Brownell, Oscar L. Chapman, Marquis W. Childs, Jonathan Daniels, Oscar R. Ewing, Felix Frankfurter, Robert Houghwout Jackson, and Earl Warren.

The [George W. Berge Business Papers and Correspondence](#), kept by Berge's father, contains bills, receipts, letters, leases, rental agreements, loan papers, and newspaper clippings.

The [Speech and Article File](#) includes Berge's speeches and articles in handwritten or typewritten drafts and in their finished and often published form. This group of material begins with his early compositions as a member of debating groups in high school, and proceeds through his university years and his business and government career. These files include also some correspondence relating to content and arrangements for speeches and articles, and in some cases source material also. Personal and newspaper comments are often included.

[Printed Matter and Clippings](#) contains material directly relating to Berge and his work in the Department of Justice and to specific cases handled by the Antitrust Division. [Oversize](#) consists of clippings organized by subject and photographs.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Daily Calendars and Diaries, 1935-1947](#)
- [Personal Correspondence, 1917-1947](#)
- [George W. Berge Business Papers and Correspondence, 1907-1926](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1930-1947](#)
- [Speech and Article File, 1919-1947](#)
- [Subject File, circa 1940-1947](#)
- [Printed Matter and Clippings, 1919-1950](#)
- [Oversize, 1935-1947](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-4	<u>Daily Calendars and Diaries, 1935-1947</u> Business calendars and diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5-17	<u>Personal Correspondence, 1917-1947</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by periods of one to three years, and within these periods alphabetically by correspondent. Correspondence in last four containers is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with declined invitations at the end.
BOX 18-20	<u>George W. Berge Business Papers and Correspondence, 1907-1926</u> Mainly letters received, with a few carbon copies of letters sent, and bills and receipts. Arranged by type of material with correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
BOX 21-29	<u>General Correspondence, 1930-1947</u> Chiefly letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically. Two files from 1936-1940 are separately alphabetized by correspondent, the first including mostly correspondence from 1938, the second mostly from 1940.
BOX 30-42	<u>Speech and Article File, 1919-1947</u> Handwritten and typewritten drafts, notes, printed pamphlets, near-print material, and correspondence. Arranged chronologically with undated material and bound statements in the last container.
BOX 43-46	<u>Subject File, circa 1940-1947</u> Memoranda, correspondence, pamphlets, clippings, mimeographed and printed reports, and photostats. Arranged alphabetically by topic.
BOX 47-55	<u>Printed Matter and Clippings, 1919-1950</u> Printed matter including pamphlets, clippings, and press releases. Arranged by topic and therein in rough chronological order.
BOX OV 1-6	<u>Oversize, 1935-1947</u> Clippings and photographs. Clippings are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-4	Daily Calendars and Diaries, 1935-1947 Business calendars and diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1935-1939
BOX 2	1940-1942
BOX 3	1943-1944
BOX 4	1945-1947
BOX 5-17	Personal Correspondence, 1917-1947 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by periods of one to three years, and within these periods alphabetically by correspondent. Correspondence in last four containers is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with declined invitations at the end.
BOX 5	By date
BOX 5	Aug. 1917-June 1925
BOX 6	Dec. 1926-Mar. 1928
BOX 7	Apr. 1928-Feb. 1929
BOX 8	Dec. 1934-Mar. 1936
BOX 8	Apr. 1936-May 1937
BOX 8	A-M
BOX 9	N-Z
BOX 9	June 1937-June 1938
BOX 10	July 1938-Sept. 1939
BOX 10	Oct. 1939-Dec. 1940
BOX 10	A-I
BOX 11	I-Z
BOX 11	Jan.-Dec. 1941
BOX 11	A-Q
BOX 12	R-Z
BOX 12	Jan. 1942-Apr. 1943
BOX 13	Apr. 1943-1945
BOX 14	By name
BOX 14	A-Case
BOX 15	Catron-Goss
BOX 16	Grace-Milan
BOX 17	Declined invitations
BOX 18-20	George W. Berge Business Papers and Correspondence, 1907-1926 Mainly letters received, with a few carbon copies of letters sent, and bills and receipts. Arranged by type of material with correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

George W. Berge Business Papers and Correspondence, 1907-1926

Container

Contents

BOX 18	Correspondence, 1907
BOX 19	Bill and receipts, 1919-1924
BOX 19	Correspondence
BOX 19	1917-1923
BOX 20	1925-1926
BOX 21-29	General Correspondence, 1930-1947 Chiefly letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically. Two files from 1936-1940 are separately alphabetized by correspondent, the first including mostly correspondence from 1938, the second mostly from 1940.
BOX 21	June 1930-June 1932
BOX 22	July-Dec. 1932
BOX 22	1935-1936
BOX 23	1937-1938
BOX 24	1939-1942
BOX 25	1936-1940 (mostly 1938)
BOX 26	1936-1940 (mostly 1940)
BOX 27	1943
BOX 28	1944
BOX 29	Jan. 1945-Apr. 1947
BOX 30-42	Speech and Article File, 1919-1947 Handwritten and typewritten drafts, notes, printed pamphlets, near-print material, and correspondence. Arranged chronologically with undated material and bound statements in the last container.
BOX 30	General
BOX 30	1919-1922
BOX 31	1923-1927
BOX 32	Apr. 1938-Jan. 1941
BOX 33	Feb. 1941-July 1942
BOX 34	Aug. 1942-Feb. 1944
BOX 35	Mar.-June 1944
BOX 36	July-Sept. 1944
BOX 37	Oct.-Dec. 1944
BOX 38	Jan.-May 1945
BOX 39	June 1945-Apr. 1946
BOX 40	40 May-July 1946
BOX 41	Aug. 1946-Dec. 1947
BOX 42	Undated
BOX 42	Statements, Oct. 1943-Jan. 1947
BOX 43-46	Subject File, circa 1940-1947 Memoranda, correspondence, pamphlets, clippings, mimeographed and printed reports, and photostats. Arranged alphabetically by topic.

Subject File, circa 1940-1947

Container

Contents

BOX 43	Antitrust, general
BOX 43	Berge, Wendell
BOX 43	General
BOX 43	Resignation and farewell dinner, 1947
BOX 43	Commendatory letters
BOX 44	Fahrney, Mary ("Merry") Falange Española de las Juntas Ofensivas Nacional-Sindicalistas <i>See</i> <i>Container 46, Spanish Falange</i>
BOX 44	Fish, Hamilton (1888-1991)
BOX 44	Geiger, Ferdinand A., hearings
BOX 44	Geneva Steel Insurance Bill, S. 1362
BOX 44	Investment banking
BOX 44	Jackson, Robert Houghwout
BOX 44	Hearing on nomination
BOX 44	Speeches as attorney general
BOX 45	Speeches as attorney general
BOX 45	Kilgore Committee, hearings, 1944-1945
BOX 46	Labor unions, restrictions
BOX 46	Military commission
BOX 46	Motion pictures
BOX 46	Nebraska judgeship candidacy
BOX 46	O'Brian, John Lord
BOX 46	Powell, Thomas Reed
BOX 46	<i>Reader's Digest</i>
BOX 46	Rubinstein, Serge
BOX 46	Social justice
BOX 46	Spanish Falange
BOX 46	Trade associations
BOX 46	United States v. Brown (Works Progress Administration case)
BOX 46	Webb-Pomerene Act
BOX 47-55	Printed Matter and Clippings, 1919-1950
	Printed matter including pamphlets, clippings, and press releases. Arranged by topic and therein in rough chronological order.
BOX 47	Printed matter
BOX 47	High school and college
BOX 48	High school and college
BOX 49	Regarding Berge
BOX 49	1935-1950
BOX 50	1935-1950
BOX 51	Miscellaneous
BOX 51	1935-1950
BOX 52	1935-1950
BOX 53	1935-1950
BOX 53	Justice Department, releases, 1943-1946
BOX 54	Clippings

Printed Matter and Clippings, 1919-1950

Container

Contents

BOX 54	By date
BOX 54	1938-1942
BOX OV 1-6	Oversize, 1935-1947 Clippings and photographs. Clippings are arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX OV 1	Clippings
BOX OV 1	Cases, 1943-1944
BOX OV 1	Personal and special articles
BOX OV 1	Foreign comments
BOX OV 1	Social
BOX OV 2	Aluminum
BOX OV 2	Associated Press
BOX OV 2	Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co.
BOX OV 2	Bausch and Lomb Optical Co.
BOX OV 2	Batteries
BOX OV 2	Cartels, general
BOX OV 2	Antitrust and small business
BOX OV 2	Dupont Co.
BOX OV 2	Rohm and Haas Co.
BOX OV 2	Titanium
BOX OV 2	National Press
BOX OV 2	Chemicals
BOX OV 2	Cement
BOX OV 2	Cheese
BOX OV 2	Coal
BOX OV 2	Cotton
BOX OV 2	Culverts
BOX OV 2	Diamonds
BOX OV 2	Fish
BOX OV 2	Garment Carriers
BOX OV 2	General Electric Co.
BOX OV 2	General Electric Co. and G. Westinghouse & Co.
BOX OV 2	Glass
BOX OV 2	Gypsum
BOX OV 2	Hart-Carter Co.
BOX OV 2	Insurance
BOX OV 2	Liquor
BOX OV 2	Loans
BOX OV 2	Labor unions
BOX OV 2	Building material
BOX OV 2	Dairy
BOX OV 2	Matches
BOX OV 2	Mica
BOX OV 2	Medicine
BOX OV 2	Drugs

Oversize, 1935-1947

Container

Contents

BOX OV 2	Vitamin D
BOX OV 2	Wisconsin alumni
BOX OV 2	Research foundations
BOX OV 3	Motion pictures
BOX OV 3	Oil
BOX OV 3	Open mesh bags
BOX OV 3	Packers
BOX OV 3	Patents
BOX OV 3	Permutit Co.
BOX OV 3	Railway springs
BOX OV 3	Securities
BOX OV 3	Steel
BOX OV 3	Surplus disposal
BOX OV 3	Television
BOX OV 3	Tombstones
BOX OV 3	Transportation
BOX OV 3	Vanadium
BOX OV 3	G. Westinghouse & Co.
BOX OV 3	Wood alcohol
BOX OV 3	Women's sportswear
BOX OV 4	Resignation, 1947
BOX OV 4	Speeches of Ellis Arnall and Joseph Borkin
BOX OV 4	Books
BOX OV 4	<i>Cartels: Challenge to a Free World</i>
BOX OV 4	<i>Economic Freedom for the West</i>
BOX OV 4	Bulwinkle Bill
BOX OV 4	Miscellaneous cases, 1945-1946
BOX OV 5	Photographs
BOX OV 5	1935-1947
BOX OV 6	Undated