

# Thorvald Solberg Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2013

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013111>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78055335>

Prepared by David Mathisen

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Thorvald Solberg Papers

**Span Dates:** 1882-1949

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1897-1930)

**ID No.:** MSS55335

**Creator:** Solberg, Thorvald, 1852-1949

**Extent:** 4,100 items ; 13 containers ; 5.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Register of copyrights. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, drafts of copyright legislation, speeches, articles, books, biographical and bibliographical material, financial records, notebooks, photos, and printed matter relating to Solberg's duties as register of copyrights and his efforts to protect literary rights in America and abroad.

## 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

Archer, William, 1856-1924--Correspondence.  
Bowker, R. R. (Richard Rogers), 1848-1933--Correspondence.  
DeWolf, Richard C.--Correspondence.  
Fiske, Willard, 1831-1904--Correspondence.  
Garrison, Wendell Phillips, 1840-1907--Correspondence.  
Hanson, J. C. M. (James Christian Meinich), 1864-1943--Correspondence.  
Ludwig Salvator, Archduke of Austria, 1847-1915.  
Maschner, Marie--Correspondence.  
Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950--Correspondence.  
Solberg family--Correspondence.  
Solberg family--Genealogy.  
Solberg family.  
Solberg, Thorvald, 1852-1949.

### Organizations

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.  
Library of Congress. Copyright Office.

### Subjects

Book industries and trade--Spain--Balearic Islands.  
Copyright, International--Congresses.  
Copyright, International.  
Copyright--United States.  
Copyright.  
Genealogy.

### Places

Europe--Description and travel.  
Scandinavia--In literature.

### Titles

*Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886)*  
*Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1908)*  
*Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1928)*

### Occupations

Public officials.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Thorvald Solberg, register of copyrights, were given to the Library of Congress by his estate in 1949. Additional material was purchased in 1981.

### Processing History

The Solberg Papers were processed in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

### Copyright Status

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

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of Thorvald Solberg 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, Thorvald Solberg Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1852, Apr. 22	Born, Manitowoc, Wis.
1876-1889	Staff member, Library of Congress
1880	Married Mary Adelaide Nourse (died 1920)
1886-1937	Authored articles, books, and bibliographies on copyright
1889-1897	Manager, Library Department, Boston Book Co.
1893	Attended International Copyright Congress, Barcelona, Spain
1894	Attended International Copyright Congress, Antwerp, Belgium
1897-1930	First register of copyrights, Library of Congress
1900	Official delegate, International Copyright Congress, Paris, France
1908	Official delegate, International Copyright Congress, Berlin, Germany
1910	Official delegate, International Copyright Congress, Luxembourg
1925	Official delegate, International Copyright Congress, Paris, France

1928	Official delegate, International Copyright Congress, Rome, Italy
1929	Compiled <i>Bibliography of the Balearic Islands</i>
1949	Died, Washington, D. C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Thorvald Soberg (1852-1949) consist of correspondence; memoranda and reports; drafts of copyright legislation; handwritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches, articles, and books; genealogical and biographical material; financial records; notebooks; photographs; and printed matter dated between 1882 and 1949, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1897-1930 while Solberg was register of copyrights in the United States.

The greatest part of the collection relates to Solberg's efforts to protect literary rights in America and abroad. As part of this effort Solberg carried on extensive correspondence with leaders in this field such as William Archer, Willard Fiske, Wendell Phillips Garrison, and Bernard Shaw and represented the United States at the international conference in Rome in 1928 that revised the convention for the protection of literary and artistic works. Solberg collected a large file of material relating to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works of 1886 and the Berlin convention of 1908 as well as material dating from 1887 to 1940 relating to congressional legislation affecting copyright. Subjects include the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works of 1896, the revision of the convention in 1908, and the congress in Rome, Italy, leading to its 1928 revision. Copies of his speeches, articles and monographs on copyright matters are also in the papers.

The biographical files include material on Solberg's Norwegian genealogical background, family and personal life, his career in the Library of Congress, and his trips to Europe. Solberg's bibliographical interest concentrated on the book production of the Balearic Islands and the writings of Ludwig Salvator (Archduke of Austria, 1847-1915), and writings in English on Scandinavia.

Correspondents include R. R. Bowker, Richard C. DeWolf, J. C. M. Hanson, Marie Maschner, Bernard Shaw, and several members of Solberg's family.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are organized by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX	Solberg, Adelaide (wife), 1887-1918
BOX 1	Solberg, C. B. Solberg, 1932-1939
BOX 1	Solberg, Edith, 1932-1933
BOX 1	Solberg, Karl, 1932-1940
BOX 1	Solberg, Maren, 1931-1938
BOX 1	Solberg, Elise, 1932-1940
BOX 1	Solberg, Etta, 1887-1945
BOX 1	Solberg, Ragnvold, 1932-1945
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1887-1946
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	“A-W” miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 1	Bowker, R. R., 1907-1932
BOX 1	De Wolf, Richard C., 1918-1946
BOX 1	Hanson, James Christian Meinich, 1932-1939
BOX 1	Maschner, Marie, 1930-1937
BOX 1	Shaw, Bernard, 1926, 1934
BOX 1	Topical correspondence
BOX 1	Letters after Adelaide Solberg’s death, 1920-1921, undated (7 folders)
BOX 2	Appointment as register of copyrights, 1897, June-Aug., undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Reappointment and retirement, 1928-1930
BOX 2	Copyright file
BOX 2	General correspondence, 1882-1949 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works
BOX 2	Berne Convention, 1886
BOX 2	Berlin Convention, 1908
BOX 2	Rome Convention, 1928
BOX 3	Congressional legislation
BOX 3	General, 1887-1940, undated (7 folders)
BOX 3	Printed matter
BOX 3	1891-1940 (4 folders)
BOX 4	1941-1944, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Memoranda and notes (3 folders)

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 4	Printed matter (4 folders)
BOX 5	(6 folders)
BOX 6	(2 folders)
BOX 6	Resolutions and reports
BOX 6	Speech, article, and book file (4 folders)
BOX 7	(4 folders)
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 7	Biographical material
BOX 7	Genealogy
BOX 7	Family and personal (4 folders)
BOX 8	Library of Congress (2 folders)
BOX 8	Travels (4 folders)
BOX 8	Miscellany
BOX 8	Balearic Islands, Ludwig Salvator
BOX 8	General (2 folders)
BOX 9	(7 folders)
BOX 9	Printed catalog cards (2 folders)
BOX 9	Printed matter
BOX 10	Miscellany
BOX 10	Miscellany
BOX 10	Financial and real estate papers
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings (3 folders)
BOX 10	Notebooks (2 folders)
BOX 11	(5 folders)
BOX 12	(2 folders)
BOX 12	Notes
BOX 12	Photographs (2 folders)
BOX 12	Printed matter
BOX 12	Scraps, lists, and other material
BOX 13	Addition, 1914-1945
BOX 13	Personnel file
BOX 13	Writings
BOX 13	<i>A Great Church, the Cathedral at Plama</i> , by Solberg
BOX 13	<i>Letters from the Balearic Islands</i> , by Mary Adelaide Solberg
BOX 13	Miscellany
BOX 13	Photographs (3 folders)
BOX 13	Picture postcards

## Container List

*Container*

*Contents*

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BOX 13

Clippings