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## George C. Biggar Papers

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# George C. Biggar Papers

## COLLECTION SUMMARY

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IDENTIFIER

MA 1

TITLE

George C. Biggar Papers

DATES

1916-1988

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

0.84 linear feet [2 document cases

NAME OF CREATOR(S)

Biggar, George C., 1899-1898

LANGUAGE

English

REPOSITORY

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Hilton M. Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241, Box 2115  
1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
Email: [arcrefs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

ACCESS NOTE

Open. This material does not circulate and may be used in-house only.

PREFERRED CITATION

Name of item, Collection identifier, box #, folder #, Collection Title, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

ABSTRACT

George C. Biggar served as a program director, shaping radio content in Chicago, Illinois, and Cincinnati, Ohio. His papers highlight his notable contributions to agricultural and entertainment programming, featuring radio scripts, interviews, photographs, and materials from his time at stations like WLS in Chicago and WLW in Cincinnati. Additionally, the collection provides insights into Biggar's personal background and his role in historical events, notably his observations during a trip to Great Britain in 1943-1944, focusing on wartime agriculture.

## BIOGRAPHY

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George Biggar, born on January 11, 1899, near Aurora, South Dakota, attended South Dakota State University, earning a BS in agriculture in 1921 and an MS in Dairy Husbandry in 1922. Noteworthy for his involvement in campus publications, he served as editor of the Industrial Collegian newspaper and contributed to the Jackrabbit yearbook. Transitioning to journalism after graduation, Biggar began his radio career in 1924 at station WLS in Chicago, focusing on agricultural and farm programs. His notable contributions included producing the National Barn Dance, a launching pad for many country performers, and dispatching Herb Morrison to cover the Hindenburg landing. In 1938, he joined WLW in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he managed rural and entertainment programs. Invited by the British Information Service, Biggar visited Great Britain during World War II, documenting agricultural practices during the conflict. After retiring from WLW in 1964, he acquired station WLBK in DeKalb, Illinois, where he concluded his career. Later relocating to Laguna Beach, California, and Fargo, North Dakota, Biggar passed away on March 19, 1989.

## CONTENTS NOTE

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This collection encompasses materials related to George Biggar's career in radio, highlighting his contributions to agricultural and farm programs, as well as entertainment broadcasts. The collection is composed of a wide range of materials including audiocassettes, biographical sketches, clippings, scripts, a Master of Science thesis, miscellaneous items, photographs, publications, tours documentation, tributes, writings, and materials related to a World War II trip. These items offer insights into various aspects spanning from personal history to historical events, with a particular focus on the World War II trip and its related materials.

## SUBJECT HEADINGS

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- Agriculture
- Agriculture--Great Britain.
- Biggar, Genevieve, 1898-1983
- Biggar, George C. (George Cecil), 1899-1989
- Morrison, Herb.
- National Barn Dance (Radio program)
- Radio broadcasting
- Radio broadcasting—History
- Radio in agriculture
- WLS (Radio station : Chicago, Ill)
- WLW (Radio Station : Cincinnati, Ohio)
- World War--(1939-1945)
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Great Britain

## ACCESS

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### CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

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Researchers conducting extensive research are asked to make an advance appointment to access archival material. Please call or e-mail prior to visiting the collection and indicate as much detail as possible about a particular topic and intended use.

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## CONTAINER LIST

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Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Audiocassettes	1988, undated
1	2	Biographical sketches	1916, 1943, 1979, undated
1	3	Clippings	1938-1991, undated
1	4	Collected scripts	1927-1929
1	5	M.S. thesis	1922
1	6	Miscellany	1925, 1928, 1963, undated
1	7	Photographs	1942-1943
1	8	Prairie Farmer	1949
1	9	Tours	1955, 1958
1	10	Tributes	1965, 1988
1	11	Writings	1920-1929
1	12	Writings	1930-1939
1	13	Writings	1940-1949
1	14	Writings	1950-1959
1	15	Writings	1960-1969
1	16	Writings	1970-1987
2	1	World War II Trip: Collected materials	1940-1957 undated
2	2	World War II Trip: Correspondence	1943-1944
2	3	World War II Trip: Diary	1943-1944
2	4	World War II Trip: Interviews	1943-1944, undated
2	5	World War II Trip: Maps	undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	6	World War II Trip: Miscellaneous	1940-1947, undated
2	7	World War II Trip: Newspaper clippings/excerpts	1943-1944, undated
2	8	World War II Trip: Published articles	undated
2	9	World War II Trip: Research notes	1939-1943, undated
2	10	World War II Trip: Speeches	1943-1944
2	11	World War II Trip: Statistics	1943
2	12	World War II Trip: William T. Price materials	undated
2	13	World War II Trip: Writings	1943-1944, undated
2	14	World War II Trip: Collected Material "Agriculture in the British Economy" - Proceedings of conference	1957