Title: Cortell, Elmer Lawrence, 1840-1916. Papers.

Date of receipt: 1925

Condition: Good.

Restrictions:

Description:

Civil engineer. Active as a consulting engineer, with an office in New York City, from the 1870's until his death in 1916. Worked on railway, bridge, hydroelectric, irrigation, jetty, levee, and other projects in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

Correspondence files, 1901-1916, in chronological order, document the technical, organizational, financial, and political aspects of engineering projects with which Cortell was involved. Major projects discussed include: a Trans-Alaskan-Siberian railway (a tunnel was proposed for the Bering Strait); a project to irrigate rice fields in Southwestern Louisiana; an electric railway to be built between Martigny, Switzerland, and Turin, Italy; and hydroelectric projects in Connecticut. Miscellaneous projects, professional activities, and personal matters are also mentioned. Chief correspondents are: Baron Leopold de Lobel (Trans-Alaskan-Siberian railway); Radcliffe Ward (Martigny-Turin); Welsan Bradford (Louisiana irrigation project); and

Special Formats: Photographs, Maps, Audio Tapes, Films, Graphics, Artifacts, Machine-readable records, Other (list: Plans)

Temporary catalog card added entries:

See attached.

Accessioned by: Julie Miller

Date: September, 1987
J. Henry Roebling (Connecticut hydroelectric projects). Related memoranda, telegrams, reports, bills, estimates, accounts, agreements, clippings, maps, and plans can be found among the letters. Some letters and documents are in French. Mixed and undated files follow the chronological files.

Eleven small notebooks contain notes, sketches, calculations, and charts for: a proposed belt route, New Orleans, Louisiana, ca.1889-1890; a bridge in New Orleans, 1893 (the two notebooks documenting this project contain the names: Cass. S. Wadsworth, and J.F. Coleman); and topography and surveys of the region between the Illinois River and Hamburg Bay, Illinois, 1890.

A journal, 1872-1875, records progress on the construction of the Sny Island Levee on the Mississippi River - a project for which Correll was Chief Engineer.

A volume contains citations, and abstracts and copies of documents used for Correll's book, A History of the Jetties at the Mouth of the Mississippi River, published, New York, 1880; manuscript drafts of the of the dedication and preface to the book are included. A volume containing manuscript copies of contracts, specifications, estimates, and agreements for the construction of the railroad bridge between Louisiana, Missouri and Pike, Illinois over the Mississippi River (begun 1873 - Correll was Chief Engineer) contains more research material for the above book.

Also included are: a "Report on Proposed Development of additional power in the Connecticut River at Windsor Locks, Connecticut," 1910, submitted by Westinghouse Charles Kerr and Co., Engineers, New York, to the Connecticut River Company; a letterbook containing carbons of Correll's letters, 1889-1891 relating to engineering projects (including some mentioned in the previously described correspondence) and some personal matters; and a scrapbook containing clippings of articles from newspapers and engineering and scientific journals, ca.1873-1879, relating to Correll's engineering projects and others.
Box

I. Correspondence, 1906-1916
   1. 1901-1913
   2. 1914-May, 1915
   3. June, 1915-1916; mixed and undated

II. Volumes, ca.1872-1910
   4. Eleven small notebooks, ca.1889-1893
      Soy Island Levee Journal, 1872-1875
      Westinghouse Church Kerr and Co. report, 1910
   5. Letterbook, 1889-1891
      Scrapbook, ca.1873-1879
      A History of the Littice..., research material; drafts of
       preface and dedication.
      Mississippi River bridge, contracts, specifications...
Bradford, Welman
Coleman, J.F.
Lobel, Baron Loicq de
Rorback, J. Henry
Wadsworth, Chas. S.
Ward, Radcliffe

Bridges—United States—New Orleans (La.)
Civil engineers
Irrigation—United States—Louisiana
Levees
Mississippi River—Jetties
Railroad bridges—United States—Illinois
Railroad engineering
Rice—Irrigation
Road construction—United States—New Orleans (La.)
Water-power—United States—Connecticut