

# **Abram P. T. Elder Papers**

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

**Prepared by Brad E. Gernand with the assistance of Andrew  
M. Passett**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2008**

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009035>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Abram P. T. Elder Papers

**Span Dates:** 1890-1916

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1903-1916)

**ID No.:** MSS58594

**Creator:** Elder, Abram P. T. (Abram Peter Turner)

**Extent:** 3,280 items; 11 containers plus 1 oversize; 5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Biographer and publisher. Correspondence, biographical files, business records of the National Biographical Society, illustrated materials, photographs, and other papers pertaining primarily to Elder's creation and publication of biographical directories for the society.

## 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.

### Personal Names

Chickering, Charles F., 1827-1891.  
Corcoran, W. W. (William Wilson), 1798-1888.  
Currier, Moody, 1806-1898.  
Du Pont, H. A. (Henry Algernon), 1838-1926.  
Eddy, Mary Baker, 1821-1910.  
Elder, Abram P. T. (Abram Peter Turner)  
Emerson, Isaac E. (Isaac Edward), 1859-1931.  
Fairbanks, Charles W. (Charles Warren), 1852-1918.  
Field, Marshall, 1834-1906.  
Fleischmann, Julius, 1872-1925.  
Grant, Ulysses S., 1852-1929.  
Guggenheim, Solomon R. (Solomon Robert), 1861-1949.  
Guggenheim, William, 1868-1941.  
Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909.  
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1837-1904.  
Hershey, David N., b. 1818.  
Heurich, Christian, 1842-1945.  
Huntington, Henry Edwards, 1850-1927.  
Kellogg, Charles, 1825-1892.  
Knowles, Henry Miles, 1850-1903.  
Lamont, Daniel Scott, 1851-1905.  
Lippincott, Craige, 1846-1911.  
Longworth, Nicholas, 1869-1931.  
McCormick, Cyrus Hall, 1809-1884.  
Mills, Darius O. (Darius Ogden), 1825-1910.  
Morgan, J. Pierpont (John Pierpont), 1837-1913.  
Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920.  
Muhlhauser, Gottlieb, b. 1836.  
Newlands, Francis G. (Francis Griffith), 1848-1917.  
Pullman, George Mortimer, 1831-1897.  
Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1833-1904.

### Organizations

Panama-Pacific International Exposition (1915 : San Francisco, Calif.)

## Subjects

Capitalists and financiers--Biography.  
Directories.  
Exhibitions--California--San Francisco.  
Philanthropists--United States--Biography.  
Politicians--United States--Biography.  
Presidents--United States--Biography.  
Publishers and publishing--United States.

## Locations

Middletown (R.I.)--History.

## Related Names

Grosvenor, Charles Henry, 1833-1917. Book of the presidents, with biographical sketches. 1902.  
National Biographical Society (Washington, D.C.) National Biographical Society (Washington, D.C.) records.

## Occupations

Biographers.  
Publishers.

# Administrative Information

## Provenance:

The papers of Abram P. T. Elder, biographer and publisher, were given to the Library of Congress by Elder's daughter, Althea Elder, in 1979.

## Processing History:

The collection was processed in 1992. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

## Copyright Status:

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

## Access and Restrictions:

The Elder Papers 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, Abram P. T. Elder Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
circa 1890	Married Emma Elizabeth Householder (died 1945)
1896	Coauthored with E. H. Elder <i>The Light of the World: Or Our Savior in Art</i> . Chicago: Elder Co. (Republished London, New York: British-American Co., 1899)
1902-1903	Published Charles H. Grosvenor's <i>The Book of the Presidents, with Biographical Sketches</i> . Washington, D.C.: Continental Press

circa 1903-1912	Published biographical directories entitled <i>The National Memorial of the United States</i>
circa 1930	Died, California

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Abram Peter Turner Elder (circa 1890-circa 1930) span the years 1890-1916, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1903-1916, and include correspondence, illustrated material, photographs, biographical files, and miscellaneous matter. The collection is divided into three series: [Correspondence](#), [Biographical Case Files](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Little is known of Elder's life or career outside the professional associations and productions illuminated by his papers, other than that he was involved in creating and marketing specialty publications. In 1896 Elder and a relative published a compendium of religious art, apparently marketed by private subscriptions and published by a family corporation in Chicago. In 1899 they reissued the book through a worldwide publishing firm. There is no information, however, in the Elder Papers concerning these ventures. In 1902 Charles H. Grosvenor began compiling *The Book of the Presidents, with Biographical Sketches*, a customized biographical directory for sale by private subscription. The National Biographical Society, a commercial firm of which Elder was an official, became involved in Grosvenor's work, eventually assuming control of most or all aspects of its publication, which is noted in correspondence in the Elder Papers and is graphically represented in four-color engravings of title sheets, sample page proofs, and other publishing matter.

Between approximately 1903 and 1912, Elder assisted in the preparation of another customized biographical directory, marketed via subscription and published under the auspices of his firm, entitled *The National Memorial of the United States*. [Correspondence](#) and related records in Elder's papers provide an in-depth view of the efforts to publish the *National Memorial*, with extensive detail concerning contracts, quality of work which printing firms promised or submitted, internal personnel matters, efforts to identify a subscriber audience and increase sales, and outreach, including an award-winning exhibit in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915-1916 in San Francisco. Most of the correspondence regarding the *National Memorial* was generated by several officials of the National Biographical Society, including Elder, but was not signed and is impossible or difficult to identify by author. Prominent among the correspondents are society officials Charles H. Grosvenor, Robert E. Doan, Lucy S. Bahnsen, R. E. Montague, and Richard R. McMahon.

The [Biographical Case Files](#) contain correspondence, background information, clippings, and other printed matter, as well as photographs and biographical entries regarding the individuals profiled in the *National Memorial*. Many of the people featured were prominent local, state, and national politicians, capitalists, and philanthropists, including Charles F. Chickering, W. W. Corcoran, Moody Currier, H. A. Du Pont, Mary Baker Eddy, Isaac E. Emerson, Charles W. Fairbanks, Marshall Field, Julius Fleischmann, Ulysses S. Grant II, Solomon R. Guggenheim, William Guggenheim, Edward Everett Hale, Marcus Alonzo Hanna, David N. Hershey, Christian Heurich, Henry Edwards Huntington, Charles Kellogg, Henry Miles Knowles, Daniel Scott Lamont, Craige Lippincott, Nicholas Longworth, Cyrus Hall McCormick, Darius O. Mills, J. Pierpont Morgan, Levi P. Morton, Gottlieb Muhlhauer, Francis G. Newlands, George Mortimer Pullman, and Matthew Stanley Quay.

A small number of records document the organization, function, and mission of the National Biographical Society, including statements of intent, bylaws, articles of incorporation, and sample stockholder certificates. A very small amount of correspondence concerns the maintenance of Elmhyrst, the Elder family summer estate in Middletown, Rhode Island, and is virtually the only reference in this collection to Elder's nonprofessional life.

## Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Correspondence, 1897-1916](#)
- [Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916](#)
- [Miscellany, circa 1902-circa 1916](#)
- [Oversize](#)

## Description of Series

### *Container*

### *Series*

BOX 1-2

#### **Correspondence, 1897-1916**

Letters to and from Elder, Charles H. Grosvenor, Lucy S. Bahnsen, and Richard R. McMahon regarding efforts to publish specialty biographical directories and to promote the National Biographical Society's business.

Arranged chronologically by year, month, and day.

BOX 3-10

#### **Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916**

Correspondence, background information, photographs, press articles, and other materials regarding the individuals profiled in *The National Memorial of the United States*.

Arranged alphabetically by surname of case file subject.

BOX 11

#### **Miscellany, circa 1902-circa 1916**

Legal and organizational records of the National Biographical Society, including bylaws and articles of incorporation, marketing advice given to society sales agents, subscriber lists, and sample pages from *The Book of the Presidents* and *The National Memorial of the United States*.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX OV1

#### **Oversize**

Oversize page proofs, title pages, illustrated matter, and other items described according to the series, folder, and boxes from which they were removed.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-2</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1897-1916</b> Letters to and from Elder, Charles H. Grosvenor, Lucy S. Bahnsen, and Richard R. McMahon regarding efforts to publish specialty biographical directories and to promote the National Biographical Society's business. Arranged chronologically by year, month, and day.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Feb. 1897-Apr. 1904 May 1904-Dec. 1905 Aug. 1906-Feb. 1911 Mar. 1911-Dec. 1912 Jan. 1913-Mar. 1914
<b>BOX 2</b>	Apr.-Oct. 1914 Nov. 1914-Feb. 1915 Mar.-July 1915 Aug. 1915-May 1916, undated Undated
<b>BOX 3-10</b>	<b>Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916</b> Correspondence, background information, photographs, press articles, and other materials regarding the individuals profiled in <i>The National Memorial of the United States</i> . Arranged alphabetically by surname of case file subject.
<b>BOX 3</b>	Adams-Carter Adams, Alvin Bradford, William Henry Campbell, Felix Carr, Jessie Williamson Carr, Julian Shakespeare Carter, William Thornton Cary-Castree Cary, Richard Casement, James S. Castree, John Chickering-Cleveland Chickering, Charles F. Childs, G. W. Chisholm, William Clark, Alexander S. Clarke, Dumont Cleveland, Merritt A. Cochran-Corcoran Cochran, James Henry Coldewey, Anton F.

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

---

	Conarroe, George Mecum
	Corbin, Henry Clarke
	Corcoran, W. W.
	Corlies-Coxe
	Corlies, Samuel Fisher
	Coster, Charles Henry
	Cotton, John B.
	Covel, Alphonso S.
	Coxe, Alexander Brinton
	Cramp-Croxtan
	Cramp, Charles Henry
	Crawford, Charles Martin
	Croxtan, John G.
	Currier
	Currier, Moody
	Curtis-Cutting
	Curtis, John B.
	Cutting, William Bayard
	Davis-Dederick
	Davis, David
	Davis, Henry Gassaway
	Dean, Charles Leroy
	Dederick, P. K.
<b>BOX 4</b>	Dennis-De Peyster
	Dennis, Graham Barclay
	Denny, Arthur Armstrong
	Denny, Harman
	De Peyster, J. Watts
	Devereux-Dingley
	Devereux, J. H.
	Dewhurst, James B.
	Dexter, Henry
	De Young, Michael H.
	Dick, Charles
	Dickinson, Don M.
	Dines, Josiah
	Dingley, Nelson
	Doane-Douglas
	Doane, William H.
	Dodge, David Child
	Dodge, Henry Lee
	Douglas, William Harris
	Dubois-Duffy
	Dubois, John Ezekiel
	Duffy, Walter B.
	Duncan-Dwyer

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

---

Duncan, Daniel  
Dunn, William Mckee  
Du Pont, H. A.  
Durant, Henry Fowle  
Duncan-Dwyer  
Dwyer, Jeremiah  
Eastman-Eddy  
Eastman, Joseph  
Eaton, Benjamin Harrison  
Eddy, Mary Baker  
Eells-Emerson  
Eells, Dan Parmelee  
Elder, Abram Peter Turner  
Elkins, Stephen Benton  
Ellis, John Washington  
Emerson, Isaac E.  
Emery-Everard  
Emery, Lewis, Jr.  
Emery, Matthew Gault  
England, Thomas Y.  
Everard, James  
Failing-Fanning  
Failing, Henry  
Fairbanks, Charles W.  
Fall, Charles Gershom  
Fanning, David Hale  
**BOX 5** Farrel-Fay  
Farrel, Franklin  
Farwel, Charles B.  
Farwel, John V.  
Fay, Frank B.  
Fell-Fisher  
Fell, Jesse  
Ffoulke, Charles Mather  
Field, Marshall  
Firestone, Clinton D.  
Fisher, Newton D.  
Fleischmann-Foss  
Fleischmann, Julius  
Fletcher, Henry E.  
Fobes, Hiram  
Foerderer, Robert H.  
Fort, Greenburg L.  
Foss, Eugene Noble  
Freiburg-Frye  
Freiburg, Julius

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

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French, Carlos  
Fry, Henry D.  
Frye, William P.  
Gage-Gayley  
Gage, Lyman J.  
Gary, E. H.  
Gaston, William Alexander  
Gay, Henry  
Gayley, James  
Gibbons-Goddard  
Gibbons, James  
Gilman, Daniel Coit  
Ginn, Edwin  
Glover, C. C.  
Goddard, Hiram  
Goddard, William Henry  
Goldthwaite-Gould  
Goldthwaite, George  
Goodnow, Edward A.  
Gould, Charles A.  
Grant-Griffin  
Grant, Ulysses S., II  
Greene, Jacob L.  
Greenhut, Joseph B.  
Greer, C. H.  
Greist, John M.  
Griffin, Eugene  
Griffith-Griscom  
Griffith, Frederick W.  
Griffiths, John L.  
Grinnell, Frederick  
Griscom, Clement A.  
Grosvenor  
Grosvenor, Ebenezer O.  
Grosvenor, William  
Grout-Guggenheim  
Grout, William L.  
Guggenheim, Solomon R.  
Guggenheim, William  
Haberkorn-Hale  
Haberkorn, Christian H.  
Hackley, Charles H.  
Hague, James D.  
Hale, Edward Everett  
Hall-Hanna  
Hall, Edward J.

BOX 6

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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Hamlin, Henry  
Hammer, D. Harry  
Hanna, Henry  
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo  
Hardin-Harris  
Hardin, George A.  
Harlow, Willis Poe  
Harriman, Oliver, Jr.  
Harris, Norman W.  
Harrison-Harvey  
Harrison, Lynde  
Harter, Michael D.  
Harrison-Harvey  
Harvey, George B. McClellan  
Haskell-Hawes  
Haskell, Horace S.  
Haven, Franklin  
Hawes, Kirk  
Hawley-Hayes  
Hawley, Jessie G.  
Hawley, Joseph Roswell  
Hay, John  
Hayes, Joel Addison  
Haynes-Hazen  
Haynes, John C.  
Hays, Franklin William  
Hazeltine, Abram J.  
Hazen, David Henry  
Head-Henderson  
Head, Addison E.  
Hearst, Phoebe A.  
Heath, Daniel Collamore  
Hegeman, John R.  
Heinze, Arthur Philip  
Henderson, David B.  
Henderson, J. B.  
Hershey-Hill  
Hershey, David N.  
Heurich, Christian  
Hewitt, Henry, Jr.  
Hicks, Radcliffe  
Hill, James J.  
Hitchcock-Horton  
Hitchcock, Peter M.  
Hitt, Robert R.  
Hobart, Garret Augustus

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 7

Holden, Liberty Emery  
Holland, John Philip  
Horton, Harry Lawrence  
Hotchkiss-Hoyt  
Hotchkiss, Henry Oaks  
Houston, H. H.  
Howard, Edmonds J.  
Howes, Seth B.  
Hoyt, Colgate  
Hubbard-Huff  
Hubbard, Thomas Hamlin  
Hudnut, Richard A.  
Hudson, John E.  
Huff, George Franklin  
Huidekoper-Hunt  
Huidekoper, Frederic Wolters  
Hulbert, William P.  
Hull, Calvin E.  
Hull, Charles J.  
Hunt, Wilson G.  
Huntington-Hutchins  
Huntington, Henry Edwards  
Hurlbut, Hinman B.  
Hurst, John E.  
Hutchins, Stillson  
Hutton-Irwin  
Hutton, William Edward  
Hyde, Louis K.  
Irwin, Dudley M.  
Janes-Jenkins  
Janes, Henry  
Jarvis, George A.  
Jay, William  
Jayne, David  
Jenkins, James G.  
Jesup-Jones  
Jesup, Morris K.  
Jones, Charles  
Jones, Fernando  
Jones, Frank J.  
Keene-Kendall  
Keene, James R.  
Kellogg, Charles  
Kellogg, William Pitt  
Kelly, William H.  
Kempner, H.

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

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	Kendall, Nathaniel Wyeth
	Kibbey-Kohler
	Kibbey, William B.
	Kilbourne, James
	Kimball, William S.
	Kirk, James A.
	Knabe, William
	Knowles, Francis B.
	Knowles, Henry Miles
	Kohler, Charles
	Lafean-Lamont
	Lafean, Daniel F.
	Laird, William Harris
	Lamont, Daniel Scott
	Lane-Law
	Lane, Henry S.
	Lanius, William H.
	Lauterbach, Edward
	Law, George
	Law, Hartland
	Lawrence
	Lawrence, Mortimer J.
	Lawrence, William Van Duzer
<b>BOX 8</b>	Leaming-Leiter
	Leaming, Thomas
	Ledyard, Lewis Cass
	Lee, Fred E.
	Leeds, William B.
	Leeson, Richard L.
	Leidersdorf, B.
	Leiter, Levi Z.
	Lenman-Littauer
	Lenman, John T.
	Lewis, George H.
	Lippincott, Craige
	Lippitt, Charles Warren
	Littauer, Lucius N.
	Logan-Longley
	Logan, Frank G.
	Logan, John A.
	Logan, Walter S.
	Longley, Charles E.
	Longworth-Loree
	Longworth, Nicholas
	Longyear, John M.
	Loomis, John Mason

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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	Lore, Charles B.
	Loree, Leonor Fresnel
	Loudenslayer-Lowe
	Loudenslayer, Henry C.
	Lounsbery, Richard P.
	Lowden, Frank O.
	Lowe, Arthur H.
	Lucas-Lunt
	Lucas, Anthony F.
	Luce, Stephen B.
	Lunt, Orrington
	MacArthur-Manning
	MacArthur, Arthur
	Mackay, Clarence H.
	Magee, Chris L.
	Manning, Daniel
	Marie-Marquis
	Marie, Peter
	Markle, Alvan
	Markle, John
	Marquis, Milton Scott
	Martin-Matthews
	Martin, Milton D.
	Mason, Beverly R.
	Mason
	Matthews, Stanley
	McCall-McCormick
	McCall, John A.
	McCord, Warren E.
	McCormick, Cyrus Hall
<b>BOX 9</b>	McCoy-McKim
	McCoy, Daniel
	McDermott, Allan, L.
	McIntosh, David G.
	McIntyre, Thomas A.
	McKeen, W. R.
	McKim, Charles F.
	McKim, Randolph
	McWilliams-Merrill
	McWilliams, Lafayette
	Mead, Oliver D.
	Menefee, Flournoy
	Merrill, Sherburn S.
	Merritt-Milburn
	Merritt, H. P.
	Merritt, John A.

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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Messmer, Sebastian G.  
Milburn, John G.  
Miller  
Miller, Andrew G.  
Miller, Charles  
Miller, Conrad  
Miller, Frederick A.  
Miller, Lewis  
Miller, Warner  
Mills-Mitchell  
Mills, Anson  
Mills, Cyrus T.  
Mills, Darius O.  
Mitchell, John H.  
Moerlein-Morton  
Moerlein, Christian  
Moore, Edward W.  
Moore, James H.  
Morgan, J. Pierpont  
Morton, Levi P.  
Morton, Paul  
Muhlhauser-Murphy  
Muhlhauser, Gottlieb  
Murphy, Frank M.  
Murphy, Franklin  
Neff-Newlands  
Neff, Jacob H.  
Netcher, Charles  
Nevins, David  
Newcomb, H. Victor  
Newhouse, Samuel  
Newlands, Francis G.  
Newmyer-Nixon  
Newmyer, John S.  
Nichols, Charles H.  
Nicol, Robert  
Nixon, Samuel F.  
Norton-Nunnemacher  
Norton, Henry B.  
Noyes, Crosby S.  
Nunnemacher, Rudolph  
O'Connell-Orme  
O'Connell, Monsignor  
Ogleboy, Earl W.  
Oglesby, Joseph H.  
Olmstead, Marlin Edgar

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 10

Orme, Charles H.  
Osborne-Otis  
Osborne, John H.  
Osgood, Hugh H.  
Otis, Harrison Gray  
Otis, Norton P.  
Palmer-Pardee  
Palmer, Lowell M.  
Palmer, Stephen S.  
Parchen, Henry M.  
Pardee, George C.  
Parlin-Payne  
Parlin, William H.  
Parsons, John D.  
Parsons, William Henry  
Patterson, John H.  
Patton, Alexander E.  
Payne, Henry C.  
Peabody-Perkins  
Peabody, Arthur J.  
Peacock, Alex R.  
Pennypacker, Samuel W.  
Perkins, George C.  
Perkins, Lucius H.  
Phillips-Plankinton  
Phillips, Duncan C.  
Phillips, John C.  
Pillsbury, Charles A.  
Plankinton, John  
Platt-Pond  
Platt, Henry Clay  
Platt, Orville H.  
Platt, Thomas C.  
Powers, Samuel L.  
Pond, E. B.  
Poor-Portner  
Poor, Henry W.  
Pope, George A.  
Porter, Washington  
Portner, Robert  
Potter-Pullman  
Potter, Isaac M.  
Price, Vincent C.  
Pullman, George Mortimer  
Quackenbush-Quincy  
Quackenbush, Peter

## Biographical Case Files, circa 1890-1916

### Container

### Contents

---

Quay, Matthew Stanley  
Quincy, Henry P.  
Reeves  
Reeves, David  
Scattergood-Shober  
Scattergood, Thomas  
Schley, Winfield Scott  
Shober, Samuel L.  
Shoenberger-Witt  
Shoenberger, John H.  
Spaulding, Edward R.  
Willard, D.  
Witt, Stillman  
Untitled

BOX 11

#### Miscellany, circa 1902-circa 1916

Legal and organizational records of the National Biographical Society, including bylaws and articles of incorporation, marketing advice given to society sales agents, subscriber lists, and sample pages from *The Book of the Presidents* and *The National Memorial of the United States*.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 11

Legal and other records  
Marketing advice to agents  
Page proofs, title pages, and illustrated matter [\*See Oversize\*](#)  
Potential subscribers  
Subscriber lists

BOX OV1

#### Oversize

Oversize page proofs, title pages, illustrated matter, and other items described according to the series, folder, and boxes from which they were removed.

BOX OV 1

Miscellany  
Page proofs, title pages, illustrated matter, and other material (Container 11)