

# George C. Biggar Papers

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## Collection Summary

**Identifier:** MA 1

**Title:** George C. Biggar Papers

**Dates:** 1916-1988

**Extent:** 0.84 linear feet (2 document cases)

**Creator:** Biggar, George C. (George Cecil) 1899-1989

**Language:** English

**Repository:** South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

**Access Note:** Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

**Preferred Citation:** Title or description of item, date, MA 1, box number, folder number, George C. Biggar Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

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## Abstract

The George Biggar Papers document the career and activities of a broadcaster active in agricultural communication and radio production from the 1920s through the 1960s. The collection includes biographical materials, photographs, correspondence, clippings, scripts, writings, and an M.S. thesis that reflect Biggar's work in rural and agricultural broadcasting, radio programming, and wartime agricultural reporting. A substantial portion of the collection relates to a World War II agricultural tour and includes diaries, interviews, maps, speeches, research notes, and related documentation. Additional materials address agriculture, economic studies, and professional recognition. Together, the papers provide insight into the development of agricultural radio, the relationship between media and agriculture, and Biggar's professional career within the broader history of American broadcasting.

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## Biography

The George Biggar Papers document the career of a South Dakota-born broadcaster whose work in agricultural communication and radio production spanned from the 1920s through the 1960s. The collection likely includes materials related to Biggar's early education and student publications at South Dakota State University, his professional correspondence and scripts from WLS in Chicago and WLW in Cincinnati, and documentation of his contributions to rural broadcasting and wartime agricultural reporting. His involvement in creating the National Barn Dance program and his oversight of farm and entertainment programming illustrate his role in shaping early American radio.

George Biggar played a significant role in the development of rural and agricultural radio in the United States. His work bridged the fields of agriculture, mass communication, and entertainment during a formative period for radio broadcasting. His participation in international agricultural tours during World War II reflects the connection between media and agricultural policy. Biggar's career demonstrates the influence of South Dakota State University alumni in national broadcasting history and agricultural outreach.

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## Scope and Content

This collection contains a variety of materials documenting historical, personal, and professional narratives. It includes biographical sketches, photographs, clippings, collected scripts, writings spanning several decades, and an M.S. thesis. A significant portion is dedicated to a World War II trip, featuring correspondence, diaries, interviews, maps, speeches, research notes, and collected materials. Other highlights include tributes, miscellaneous items, and materials related to agriculture and economic studies. The collection offers a comprehensive view of various topics and periods, emphasizing key historical events and personal experiences.

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## Access Points

### Subjects

- Radio broadcasting
- Radio in agriculture

## Names

- Biggar, George C. (George Cecil), 1889-1989
- Morrison, Herb
- WLS (Radio station : Chicago, Ill.)
- WLW (Radio station : Cincinnati, Ohio)

## Genre

- Audiocassettes
- Photographs

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## Container List

Box	Folder	title	Dates
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

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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
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