

## A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

### I. INTRODUCTION

A Century of Progress International Exposition was held in Chicago during the summers of 1933 and 1934 to commemorate the incorporation of the city in 1833. Sponsors of the fair sought to broaden its appeal by adopting a theme of universal significance - the spectacular advances of science and technology during the period 1833-1933. Chicago, according to fair boosters, was "the only city of major importance whose entire life had been passed within this remarkable century, one in which the application of science to industry had brought profound changes in both the economic and cultural structure." The exposition was to serve as "the dramatization of the progress of civilization during the hundred years of Chicago's existence."<sup>1</sup>

Although a number of suggestions for an appropriate celebration of the centennial had been advanced earlier, serious planning began in 1926 when Mayor William E. Dever, at the request of the Chicago Historical Society and the Chicago Plan Commission, appointed a Centennial Committee of 150 members. The Committee report, issued in July, 1927, called for the construction of several permanent buildings - a hospital, convention hall, and sports arena - in conjunction with a lakefront exposition. The report concluded that "the expenses incident to the financing of a celebration properly commemorative of Chicago's 100th Anniversary cannot be justified if the event is to take the character of a mere passing show."<sup>2</sup> These proposals, submitted to the new Mayor, William H. Thompson, were opposed by a group of prominent businessmen on grounds that the general public had little interest in such an exposition, and that previous fairs had been financial disasters, sometimes precipitating business depressions.<sup>3</sup> At this point, plans for a fair were abandoned.

The project was revived in November, 1927, by Charles S. Peterson, who called together a new committee of sponsors. This group, which included Samuel Insull, Bernard E. Sunny, Chauncey McCormick and others, enlisted the support of Charles G. Dawes, then Vice-President of the United States. With this backing, they appeared before the Chicago City Council in December and received approval to organize a centennial fair. In January, 1928, the sponsors received a non-profit corporate charter as the Chicago Second World's Fair Committee. Officers elected were Rufus C. Dawes, President; Charles S. Peterson, Vice-President; Daniel H. Burnham, Secretary; and George Woodruff, Treasurer. An Executive Committee was appointed with full power to act between meetings of the Board. The corporate name was changed to A Century of Progress on July 15, 1929.

Financing for the fair came entirely from private sources. The Financial Committee, headed first by Samuel Insull and later by Charles G. Dawes, raised \$271,400 for initial operating monies by the sale of Founder and Sustaining Memberships at \$1,000 and \$50 during January - February, 1928.<sup>4</sup> A World's Fair Enrollment

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<sup>1</sup>Lenox R. Lohr, Fair Management. Chicago: The Cuneo Press, Inc., 1952, p.14.

<sup>2</sup>Fair History files: Chicago Centennial Committee: Edward N. Hurley, Report, "Survey of Plans," p. 4

<sup>3</sup>Fair History files - "Secretary's History", p. 13

<sup>4</sup>Comptroller: Administrative files - Department history, p. 2

Committee sold advance memberships to the general public at \$5.00; wide distribution of these certificates, which could be exchanged for ten admission tickets, helped promote popular interest in the fair. The bulk of the financial support, however, was obtained through the sale of \$10,000,000 in gold notes at 6% interest, guaranteed against 40% of the gate receipts and secured by pledges of individual guarantors. Advance sales of exhibit space (begun in 1931, before the buildings were constructed) and tickets provided additional funds. Finally, goods and services needed for fair construction and valued at more than \$2,500,000 were contracted with gold notes as payment. After the close of the fair, demolition and restoration of the site, and liquidation of all claims, the corporation had a surplus of approximately \$160,000, which was divided, according to previous contract, among the Chicago Park District (successor to the South Park Commission), the Museum of Science and Industry, the Art Institute, the Adler Planetarium, and other institutions which had made substantial contributions to the success of the exposition.

A Century of Progress was held on the lakefront from 12th Place to 39th Street, including Northerly Island and the lagoons. Although the lakefront had been considered the prime site from the earliest plans for an exposition, securing authority for its use required careful negotiation with the South Park Commission who held jurisdiction over the area. The enabling act authorizing the South Park Commissioners to conclude a contract with the fair corporation was passed by the Illinois General Assembly in June, 1929; the Century of Progress Ordinance was not issued by the Commissioners until April, 1930. Provisions of the ordinance included posting of a substantial performance bond as well as agreement to completely clear and restore the site to the satisfaction of the Commissioners. A second ordinance was passed, incorporating slight changes in the site boundaries, to cover the operating period 1934. After demolition of the fair in 1935, the status of obligations between the Century of Progress and the Chicago Park District was settled by decree of the Superior Court, December 29, 1937.

In the early stages of preparation, fair officials sought assistance in developing master plans in two critical and interrelated areas - architecture and scientific exhibits. The theme of scientific progress was to be developed not only through exhibits but also by the buildings which housed them. Thus the fair architecture would represent application of the most advanced concepts in design and construction to the problem of effective display of scientific exhibits.

An Architectural Commission was appointed in March, 1928, with responsibility for determining the overall development of the buildings and grounds. The Commission produced an asymmetrical plan of "modern" design which recommended extensive use of the water areas to balance the long narrow site. Mass application of a vivid color scheme for exteriors and interiors was presented as a means of defining aspects of individual buildings and unifying the diverse structural forms. Illumination of the fairgrounds by night for decorative effect was also an important feature of the plans. Eventually the site was divided into sections, each architect preparing designs and preliminary drawings for at least one building. Undoubtedly, the structure with the most architectural impact was the Travel and Transport Building, designed by E. H. Bennett, H. Burnham, and J. A. Holabird. It featured a dome with

interior dimensions of 125 feet high and 200 feet across, hung by an intricate cable system. The dome enclosed the "largest unobstructed area beneath a roof" which had been constructed up to that time, and represented the "first important application to architecture of the suspension bridge principle of support."<sup>5</sup>

Scientific expertise was secured through the cooperation of the National Research Council, which endorsed the fair in October, 1928, and named a large Science Advisory Committee. The preliminary report of this committee, issued April 8, 1930, called for the construction of a "temple of science" to house exhibits in biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics; a mountain range for exhibits in earth sciences; and a Maya Temple for anthropological exhibits. In addition, 750,000 square feet of exhibit space was to be allotted to displays of applied science and technology.<sup>6</sup> These recommendations were so inclusive that their implementation would have required virtually the entire space of the fair as finally constructed. Because of the stringent financial limitations following the stock-market crash in October, 1929 (the day after the gold notes were issued), major cut-backs had to be made in the proposals of the architectural and scientific advisory boards. The Works and Exhibits Departments were charged with producing plans that could be carried out within the budget. Their scaled-down plans did result in some drastic changes in the original proposals. For example, the Hall of Science, conceived as the architectural and conceptual focal point of the fair, was originally to be built astride 16th Street bridge over the lagoon. This type of construction was rejected as too costly, and a design intended for a general exhibits building was modified to serve as the Hall of Science. Ralph Walker's proposal for a massive tower of water and light at the lower end of the lagoon was also eliminated because of cost, the Skyride being substituted. The Exhibits Department consolidated the Science Advisory Committee recommendations under broad general categories and solicited exhibits from industry in areas where the fair could not afford to construct its own. The donor was allowed to display a product trade name on such exhibits - e.g., mining equipment for a metallurgical display - a practice resulting in charges of commercialization.

Administration of the fair was highly centralized in the office of the General Manager, Lenox Riley Lohr. Lohr was responsible only to the President, and had direct control over all operating departments. He named all department heads, approved all expenditures, and signed all contracts. In the attempt to minimize operating expenses in 1934, the department organization was abandoned. Administrative authority was delegated to special assistants to the General Manager who were responsible for specific operating functions (revenue control) or districts (12th - 23rd St.) of the fair.

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<sup>5</sup>Skidmore, Louis, "Expositions Always Influence Architecture," American Architect, May, 1932, pp. 28-29. See also: Architectural Forum, October, 1931, pp. 449-456, 501-506.

<sup>6</sup>"Preliminary Report of the Science Advisory Committee to the Trustees of A Century of Progress." [Chicago: Cuneo Press?] 1930. Pamphlet, 12pp.

Principle fair features were the scientific and industrial exhibits; historical replicas of old Fort Dearborn and a group of buildings associated with Abraham Lincoln; pavilions of the states and federal government; foreign villages; including the notorious "Street of Paris;" and the Midway and Enchanted Island amusements. The Art Institute cooperated by staging an important exhibit with the theme, "A Century of Progress in American Collecting."<sup>7</sup> The Adler Planetarium was operated as an attraction, and special events and athletic contests were held in nearby Soldier Field. The fair sponsored a pageant of transportation entitled, "Wings of a Century," as well as nationality days, visits by distinguished guests, conferences and professional meetings, and miscellaneous publicity stunts.

A Century of Progress was originally scheduled to run from May 27 - November 12, 1933, but the attendance (c. 22.3 million)<sup>8</sup> ran far below the projection of 60 million<sup>9</sup> with the result that the bondholders had been paid only 50% on their investment. The decision to operate a second year was based on the estimate that the overhead expenses could be reduced to a minimum resulting in a larger daily take from the gate receipts which could be used to retire the gold notes. This estimate proved correct. The 1934 fair, billed as the beginning of a New Century of Progress, attracted over 16 million paying customers<sup>10</sup> from May 26 - October 31 and resulted in a slight surplus after the bondholders had been paid in full. This successful financial conclusion is cited as the outstanding accomplishment of the fair officials, especially in view of the opposition of many of the leading Chicago businessmen and the depressed economic conditions of the country.

According to the terms of the Century of Progress Ordinance, the site was to be cleared and restored to the satisfaction of the South Park Commissioners. In practice this meant that certain improvements - service roads, utilities, etc. - were retained by the Park Board, which also took over the Administration building for its headquarters until 1940. All other structures were razed - the sole exception being a commemorative marble column to General Italo Balbo and the Italian aviators who flew to the fair in 1933. This was given by Italian government to City of Chicago and stands on the fair site off Lake Shore Drive.

## II. PROVENANCE

Provenance of A Century of Progress records is difficult to trace. The Manuscript Section of the Library, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, received the records in 1968 as part of the Lenox Riley Lohr Collection, which also included records of the Chicago Railroad Fair (1948-1949) and Lohr's personal papers. Each of these groups was handled as a separate collection. A Century of Progress papers became part of the Lohr Collection as follows:

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<sup>7</sup>"Catalogue of A Century of Progress Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture, Lent from American Collections; the Art Institute of Chicago, June 1 to November 1, 1933." Daniel Cotton Rich, ed. Chicago, 1933.

<sup>8</sup>Fair History Appendices: Attendance Statistics Report, 1933.

<sup>9</sup>"General Information on A Century of Progress Relative to Site, Area, Possible Attendance," Previous Fair file: Statistics, [1930?].

<sup>10</sup>Fair History Appendices: Attendance Statistics Report, 1934.

The Century of Progress corporation continued in existence a number of years after the close of the exposition to supervise demolition, settle legal claims, and close the accounts. The General Manager was charged by the Board of Trustees with writing the official history of the fair; Lohr's staff went through the files and removed specific items to compile special subject folders, chronologies, and department histories. These items, as well as certain important record groups, were sent to Lohr's New York office when he became President of NBC in 1936. Meanwhile, the bulk of the corporate records were transferred from the Administration building on the fairgrounds to a downtown Chicago office under the supervision of the Secretary. Selected series were loaned out to persons working on the official history.

In 1940, when Lohr returned to Chicago to become President of the Museum of Science and Industry, he proposed that A Century of Progress office be closed and all records be transferred to the Museum. The Museum also assumed all outstanding obligations and claims of the corporation. A Century of Progress memorial exhibit was dedicated on May 27, 1942. In the course of these moves, some of the records were lost or destroyed, although no systematic appraisal and disposition was carried out. The official fair history was not published until 1952, when Lohr revised sections of the manuscript and issued it as Fair Management. After Lohr's death in 1968, the Century of Progress papers were offered to the Library.

The size of accession (555 ft.) made it necessary initially to adopt some simplified arrangement. The collection included a guide to the original content and physical location of the filing cabinets in the Administration building: for example, file cabinets #1-9 contained general correspondence; files #21-22 contained correspondence with federal, state, and local governments. The cataloger identified the material - much of which was loose - and shelved it in this numerical order, indicating gaps where material was missing or was in a form not suitable for shelving, such as a card index. This preliminary control proved unsatisfactory for several reasons. First of all, the file units did not correspond with record series: some numbers included more than one record series, e.g., #31 contained correspondence of Rufus C. Dawes and the committee reports of the Science Advisory Committee. Some record series were split into two or more files, e.g., Legal Papers, which appeared in #26 and #52. The file units also had no logical relationship to one another - salvage sales catalogues from 1935 were filed between the General Manager's papers and the President's correspondence. To adequately outline the structure and operation of A Century of Progress corporation with the records in this numerical arrangement would have required a cumbersome index of cross references. The cataloger therefore chose to identify record series and arrange them logically to reflect the functioning organization. Whenever possible, material within a series retains the original order. (The numerical arrangement can be examined by consulting the guide to the files which accompanied the collection.)

The following items were discarded because of limited utility or duplication of information:

1. Insurance release cards for Skyride passengers.
2. Certificates of appreciation to employees (index retained).
3. Invitations and address list for Sears Roebuck tea.

4. Demolition permits (index retained).
5. Demolition personnel - time cards
6. Exhibitors' and concessionaires' application permits, sales agreements (duplicated in another index).
7. Alphabetical and numerical list of form numbers.
8. Construction orders (duplicated in another index).
9. Galleries for Fair Management, 1952.

The following record series are missing and presumed destroyed by the donor:

1. Operations and maintenance files.
2. Works Department.
3. Design and construction files for exhibitors.

### III. ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF RECORD SERIES

1. General Correspondence, 1927-1935. 543 boxes  
Card index (alphabetical)

Correspondence dealing with all aspects of fair planning, operation and demolition, arranged alphabetically by name or title of correspondent.

2. Government Correspondence, 1927-1935 76 boxes  
Card index (alphabetical)

Correspondence, enabling legislation, contracts and miscellany detailing official participation in the fair, in the following order: States (alphabetical), U. S. federal government, City of Chicago, Cook County, foreign governments.

3. Board of Trustees, 1926-1936 6 boxes

By-laws, minutes of meetings, correspondence, memoranda.

4. President: Rufus C. Dawes, 1927-1935 9 boxes

Correspondence, 1927-1935; report to trustees, May, 1930; Correspondence referred to General Manager, 1929-1932; Speeches, 1928-1934.

5. Committees: 28 boxes

A complete list of all committees followed by a more specific description of key committees: Agriculture, Amateur Radio, Amusements, Appreciation, Architecture, Art, Auditing, Boosters, Buildings and Grounds, Church, Conventions, Electrical Generation, Engineering, Enrollment, Executive, Finance, Historical, Horticulture, Housing, Insurance, Legal, Licenses, Medical, Members, Music, Nationalities, Nominating, Public Information, Publications, Traffic Control, Resolutions, Scope and Plan, Social Functions, Solomon's Temple, Sports.

- A. Architectural Commission, 1928-34. Appointments, correspondence, contracts, minutes of meetings and resolutions.
  - B. Executive Committee, 1928-1936. Correspondence, minutes of meetings.
  - C. Membership (corporate members), 1928-1934. Minutes of meetings, ballots.
  - D. Science Advisory, 1928-1934. Correspondence, general and National Research Council; Expenditures record; Minutes of meetings, 1929-1930; Press releases; Radio broadcasts; Subcommittee correspondence, Minutes and reports; Preliminary report to the Board of Trustees, April 8, 1930.
6. General Manager: Lenox R. Lohr, 1929-1935. 22 boxes

Building Code Board, Memos and correspondence, 1932-34. Coordinating Board Meetings, 1932-34; General orders and operating instructions; Administrative and technical assistants' reports, 1931-1934; Memoranda, 1929-1934; Correspondence, 1928-1935.

\*Organization Charts. Business Research Corporation Reports, 1930; Lohr miscellaneous notes on departmental organization; file on previous world's fairs, including: World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893; Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, 1904; Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, 1915, and Philadelphia Sesquicentennial, 1926.

7. Legal Department, 1927-1938. 8 boxes

Carnahan and Stusser: Correspondence, 1927-1938 (and card index with abstract, alphabetical by name and subject); Conferences with department heads, 1931-1932; B. L. Grove - daily reports, 1931-1934; Frederick Dickinson - opinions, 1931; Claims and summons, 1933-34; Memoranda, 1931-1937; Report of General Attorneys, April 16, 1935; Cases pending, April 15, 1936.

8. Comptroller: Arthur Anderson, succeeded by M. M. Tzeter, 1930-1941. 40 boxes and 15 vols.

A. Administrative files: Correspondence re: gold notes (and card index of payments made by A Century of Progress in gold notes); weekly summary of payroll, subscription status, 1930-32; monthly operating reports, 1930-31; attachment and garnishment suits; general subject files; daily cash statements, 1934-35; Final report, December 1, 1934; departmental history.

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\*Marks material which cataloger has identified as a record sub-group and filed with the originating department.

- B. Accounting Department 6 boxes  
 Attendance statistics, 1933-34; cashiers, banking, insurance, ticket control, personnel files; general memoranda, 1927-1934
- \*C Financial Records - Miscellaneous  
 Monthly Cash statements, 1935-41  
 Bank account, 1935-41  
 Check record, 1935-41  
 Payroll, 1935-41
- \*D. Insurance 18 boxes  
 All-risk certificates - and alphabetical card index of claimants and payment.  
 Contractors and demolition - performance bonds and policies.  
 Exhibitors, concessionaires policies.  
 Receipts for borrowed items and alphabetical card index listing value of loan items.
9. Confidential files, 1928-35. 8 boxes  
 Correspondence re: labor disputes, financing and gold note issue, labor board. Charles and Rufus Dawes.  
 Material pulled from general files: accounting, exhibits, concessions, insurance, legal, operation and maintenance, Secretary, works.
10. Secretary: Daniel H. Burnham 144 boxes  
 A. Administrative files: 1930-1935. 8 boxes. Orders, departmental forms, Instruction memoranda, demolition orders and forms, Personnel, Membership, and Miscellaneous lists and rosters (Box 1-4)  
 \*B. Documents, 1928-1933. 6 boxes (Box 9-11)  
 Card index (numerical)  
 Copies of all pertinent documents including articles of incorporation, trust indenture, South Park ordinance, Numerical arrangement with index #1-230.  
 C. Contract files: 1 box and 5 vols.  
 General indexes: index (alphabetical)  
 Includes exhibit and concession contracts, construction orders, loan certificates, sales agreements, service contracts, demolition orders. Also, card index file, arranged by department, alphabetically thereunder, listing exclusive privilege contracts for exhibitors, concessionaires, etc.

1. Construction Contracts, Works Dept., W #1-117. 11 boxes. (Box 15-26)  
Numerical index
2. Construction Orders, 1933. CO #1-2795. 8 boxes. Alphabetical index (Box 7-34)
3. Exhibits Contracts, 1933. #1-844. 17 boxes. Alphabetical index, 1933-34, 1 vol., 4 to. Also incorporates Concessions (35)
4. Exhibits Contracts, 1934, #2001-2587. 18 boxes. Numerical index. 2 vols., 8 vo.
5. Concessions Contracts, 1933, #1-399. 14 boxes. Alphabetical index, includes subconcessions. See also: Alphabetical index, 1933-34, 1 vol., incorporating exhibits, and concessions.
6. Concessions and Subconcessions, 1934 - #101-1810. Numerical and alphabetical card indexes only. Collection lacks the actual documents.
7. Miscellaneous Contracts [General Services], 1933. M#1-502. 8 boxes.
8. Miscellaneous Permits - Operation and Maintenance. 1 box.
9. Contract Purchase Orders, 1933. #27-2010. 5 boxes. Alphabetical card index.
10. Contract Purchase Orders - Works Department, 1933-34. DC #201-1650, 7 boxes. DW #400-4299. Numerical index, 5 vols., 8 vo.
- \*11. Salvage sales, 1934-35 and card index - alphabetical by purchaser. 2 boxes.
12. Demolition: Exhibits - #2001-2587, Numerical order. 24 boxes.
13. Demolition: Concessions - alphabetical order. 11 boxes.
- \*D. Certificates of Appreciation, 1933-1934, and alphabetical card index. 3 boxes
- E. Tickets, passes, badges, etc. 1 vol. See 10-13904, 10-13905
11. Exhibits Department, 1930-1934. 22 boxes
  - A. Administration: Director's Memoranda, 1932-1933 (G.W. Fitch); Director's Correspondence and Memoranda, 1930-31 (John Sewell).
  - Design Section: Louis Skidmore, Memoranda, 1932-33. Color Section-Miscellaneous
  - Development Section: Memoranda; Dioramas, 1932-34.

\*Layouts and Space Assignment forms, 1934.

Department Meetings, August - November, 1930

- B. Federal and State Participation Division - Index to Federal, State and Foreign, 1 vol., Correspondence, Memoranda, Promotion releases, 1931-33.
- C. Foreign Participation - London Office, 1930-1933. Correspondence, Memoranda, Accounting records.
- D. Social Science Division, 1931-1934. Correspondence, Memoranda.
12. Concessions Department, 1930-34. 22 boxes
- Correspondence, operations and Maintenance forms and requisitions, financial and personnel records, Memoranda, rules for businesses operating for profit - both those owned by A Century of Progress and independents, in following order:  
Amusements, Chinese Temple [Bendix Lama Temple]. Enchanted Island, Fort Dearborn, Pageant of Transportation, Skyride, World of a Million Years Ago.
13. Transportation Section, 1934-1936. 27 boxes
- Correspondence and forms re: routing, freight costs, etc., of goods arriving at A Century of Progress for exhibits.
14. Promotion Department 32 boxes and 19 vols.
- Press Releases, looseleaf vols., January - December, 1933.  
Promotion Stories, Series I, January - October, 1934.  
Promotion Stories, Series II, January - December, 1934.  
Daily Programs, May - October, 1934.  
News Releases - loose-subject-classified by cataloger in following order: General information, architecture, illumination, color, construction, landscaping, organization and management, finance, attendance, operation and maintenance, demolition, exhibits, concessions, publicity, special events, clippings, 19 vols., April, 1931 - October, 1934.
15. Fair History, 1935-41, 1952. 21 boxes
- Series incorporates both the early manuscript, including notes and source material, and the later version, published in 1952. (Galley for 1952 book have been discarded); the cataloger has arranged this material by chapter in the order of the 1952 volume. Drafts are identified by author and date when possible.
- Manuscript organization: Correspondence among persons working on drafts, publisher, etc., 1936-41, 1950-52; Chapter outlines; Style and Make-up, format; Acknowledgements; "first" draft with Rufus C. Dawes' annotations.

- "Early History": Chapter drafts; Chronologies, 1923-32; Centennial organization Committee papers, including Hurley Report, 1926-1927; \$5.00 Enrollment Committee Material, 1928-1930; Priority schedule, 1930.
- "Organization and Management": Chapter drafts; General Manager's office - Minutes of Meetings, August 20-21, 1930; Legal Section, Personnel data, Secretary's Department.
- "Finances": Chapter drafts; Audit, Dec. 31, 1935; Bond waiver data, Oct. 19, 1933; \$5.00 Enrollment Committee, 1930; Reports.
- "Physical Layout": Chapter drafts; Building code and cost statistics; Design section and drafting room histories; Development Division - Works Department; Design and Construction Division, Reports on site, utilities, buildings, road construction; Recorder's Office.
- "Architecture": Chapter drafts; Minutes of Architectural Commission, Press releases; Periodicals, October, 1931 - July, 1933.
- "Color": Chapter drafts; Joseph Urban correspondence, 1932; Painting - contracts, costs, procedures; Press releases; Speeches.
- "Interiors": Chapter drafts
- "Landscaping": Chapter drafts
- "Decorative Features": Chapter drafts re: Gadgets, sculpture, murals
- "Illumination and Electrical Section": Chapter drafts; Correspondence, 1932-1935; Advisory Committee Minutes of Meetings, 1930-1932; Periodicals, March, 1932 - October, 1934; Press releases.
- "Operations and Maintenance": Chapter drafts; Administration and General services; Area and gate supervision; Buildings and grounds; Refuse, cleaning, and sanitation; Utilities, telephone, public address system; Insurance - health, public protection; Special features; Traffic control; Official entertainment; Events.
- "Exhibits": Chapter drafts; Financial and Statistical data; Design section and diorama studio histories; Minutes of department meetings, August 20-21, 1930; Lectures and radio broadcasts; Murals; Rules for exhibitors; Salesmen's instructions, report and summaries; Press releases.
- "Concessions": Chapter drafts; Department history; Operations and licensing; statistics on Century of Progress and other concessions.
- "Promotion and Publicity": Chapter drafts; Memoranda, 1930-34; Press releases; Humor.
- "Demolition and Restoration of Site": Chapter drafts; general orders, statistics

## Appendices: [Series compiled in February, 1936]

1. Documents: (see also: Secretary's file)  
Incorporation, 1927-29; By laws, 1928-1934; Trust Indentures, 1929-35; Forms and contracts; Federal legislation, 1929-34; Illinois legislation, 1929-34; Other state legislation, 1931-32; City of Chicago, 1924-26; South Park Commissioners: Ordinances, 1929-34, Building code, 1932; Litigation vs. Chicago Park District, 1936-37; Litigation - General, 1933; Rufus C. Dawes Report to Trustees, March 11, 1936; Corporation annual reports and miscellany, 1936-1941.
2. Lists: Officers, committees, members, exhibitors, concessionaires
3. Diagrams, sketches: Buildings and grounds
4. Statistics: Building costs; construction costs for roads, walkways, Basic science exhibits; operation and maintenance, attendance, 1933-34.

The following series were grouped on basis of type of material - publications, photographs, etc.

16. Publications, 1928-34: 26 boxes. Card index, alphabetical by issuing organization, includes Century of Progress Corporation, exhibitors, and advertisements.

Bibliographies and checklists of official and non-official publications, (John Crerar Library).

## A. Periodicals:

- "Progress" - Newsletter, April 1, 1931 - May 15, 1934
- Commerce, 1931 - 1934
- World's Fair Weekly, May - November, 1933

## B. Official publications

## 1. Advance publicity, speeches, miscellaneous

- 1933: \$5.00 Enrollment Committee pamphlets
  - "Studies in Traffic, 1933" March, 1931
  - "A Century of Progress in the Making" July 19, 1931
  - "The Why, What and When of A Century of Progress"
  - "A Century of Progress, 1933. A Statement of Its Plan and Purpose"
  - Advertising and miscellaneous leaflets
- 1934: "A Century of Progress, 1934" January 3, 1934  
(also in French and German)  
"The New World's Fair of 1934"  
"What It Will Cost You to See Chicago's New 1934 World's Fair"

2. Guide-books: "Official Book of the Fair Giving Pre-Exposition Information"
  - "Official Guide Book of the Fair" [1933]
  - "Official Guide Book of the Fair", 1933 [Souvenir Edition]
  - "Official Guidebook of the World's Fair of 1934"
  - "Chicago World's Fair Souvenir, 1933-34"
  - "Seeing A Century of Progress with the Riggs Reporter", 1933-1934
  
3. Rules and Regulations
  - Exhibits, 1933 - Booth Construction, May 10, 1932
  - Exhibits, 1933 - Rules January 21, 1931; July 15, 1932
  - Exhibits, 1934 - Rules November 21, 1933; February 1, 1934
  - Concessions, 1933 - Rules, September 15, 1931; January, 1933
  - Concessions - Rules - Accounting and Revenue Control
  - Concessions - Rules - Foods and Beverages, Sept., 22, 1932
  - Concessions, 1934 - Rules Nov. 1, 1933; Feb. 1, 1934
  - Concessions, 1934 - Rules - Accounting and Revenue Control
  - Foreign Participation, 1934. December 21, 1933
  - Press Passes
  - Printed Instruction Pamphlets, 1933-34
  - Shipping Instructions - Domestic and Foreign, Oct., 1932; Mar., 1934; Aug., 1934
  
4. Miscellaneous
  - Report of the President to the Board of Trustees, March 14, 1936
  - Rufus Cutler Dawes Memorial, March 15, 1940
  
- C. Official Photographs
  - 1933: "A Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933"
    - [Sketches and photos]
    - "Official Pictures, 1933"
    - "Official View Book, 1933"
    - "Official World's Fair in Pictures, 1933"
    - "The Official Pictures of A Century of Progress." - Introduction by James Weber Linn
    - Aerial photograph
    - Views of fairgrounds and Chicago, Cardinell Century Photographers
    - Pictorial Map of A Century of Progress
    - Miscellaneous - postal cards, etc.
  
  - 1934: "Century of Progress in Pictures. Chicago...1934"
    - "Official Pictures of the 1934 World's Fair"
    - "Official Pictures of A Century of Progress Exposition, 1934"
    - "Official Pictures in Color, 1934"

## D. Series sponsored by A Century of Progress

World's Fair Series, Bulletins #1-4, 1933. Published by  
A Century of Progress  
A Century of Progress Wonder Library. 12 pamphlets in series.  
Colortext Publications, Chicago, 1933  
Century of Progress Series [science], Williams and Wilkins  
Company, Baltimore, 1933. 10 vols.

E. Material distributed by Exhibitors [subject grouped in original  
order - card index, alphabetical by issuer]

Agriculture - Foods  
Attractions and Amusements  
Bridges  
Buildings - alphabetical order, Agriculture - U. S. Government  
Chicago Booster  
Fine Arts - Ceramics, Color, Murals, Sculpture, etc.  
Foreign countries - General files; alphabetical, China - Sweden  
Miscellaneous - Maps, Site maps, bound volumes, including  
Henry J. Smith, Chicago's Great Century, 1833-1933.  
Published for A Century of Progress by Consolidated  
Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1933.

## 17. Iconographic Materials, 13 boxes. [all oversized materials are indexed]

- A. Photographs: Negatives of site, construction, buildings,  
exhibits, and miscellaneous. Subject-classified, chrono-  
logical thereunder. 6.5 boxes  
Glass slides: views of grounds, lecture on A Century of  
Progress, etc.; Black and white, 1-50; tinted, 3 series,  
200 items  
Publicity prints - Feature pictures, alphabetical by subject,  
some with publicity captions. 6 boxes  
Commemorative albums. 3 vols. f.
- B. Plans for site: Aerial views, studies and sketches, executed  
chiefly by Bennett, Parsons and Frost, 1929-1930. c.  
10 items [oversize].
- C. Layouts: Utilities location; 2 items color scheme for buildings,  
2 items [oversize]
- D. White prints: Administration building - heating, electricity,  
roof framing, foundation plans, landscaping. 18 items  
[oversize]
- E. Blueprints and Layouts: Fairgrounds and buildings,  
c. 175 items [oversize]  
\*
- F. Miscellaneous: Etchings and posters. 11 items [oversize]

\* See also: Proegmann, Robert. Helalinda & Roof, Vol. 3, pp. 231-266.  
\* NA 737. H558 .A4 1991.

18. Miscellaneous (*sketches*)  
 Phonograph records of opening day ceremonies  
 Jigsaw puzzle - site sketch  
 Research thesis, John W. Phillips, Wharton School of Finance and  
 Commerce, Philadelphia, May 1, 1924

IV. RELATED COLLECTIONS:

1. University of Illinois at Chicago Circle Library: Lenox Riley Lohr Papers. Manuscript collection includes General Manager's confidential files; correspondence, 1928-1935; daily calendar and reports, 1930-35; documents; notes from European trip, 1930; instruction memoranda, 1933-34; invitations; letters of appreciation, 1934-34; post-fair correspondence, 1936-1967. 2 ft.
2. Chicago Art Institute. Ryerson Library.  
 Pamphlets and miscellaneous publications on fair features grouped by subject and catalogued.

Periodicals. Burham index to architectural periodicals has numerous entries for A Century of Progress including preliminary sketches and studies for general plan which appeared in Western Architect, 1928-1931; discussion of the fair by Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect's Journal (July 17, 1933), etc.

3. Chicago Historical Society  
 Library has extensive catalogued entries including pamphlets issued by A Century of Progress, advertisements, material distributed by exhibitors, catalogues, guidebooks as well as special number newspapers, periodicals and secondary sources on the fair. Also, fiction with the fair as subject, scrapbooks compiled by Mrs. Herbert L. Stern, Secretary of Illinois Host House.

Manuscript Section and prints and photographs division have scattered holdings.

4. Chicago Public Library  
 Pamphlets, guides and standard secondary references as well as advance publicity, speeches, press releases and some promotional photographs are catalogued. Social science division has holdings of meetings of the Chicago City Council for the pertinent years. Art department has clippings and mounted photographs.
5. John Crerar Library. Illinois Institute of Technology. The standard bibliography and checklist of A Century of Progress Publications was compiled at Crerar in 1933 and 1934. The library's holdings are catalogued and include the standard published material; the card catalogue has been published.

The Century of Progress Papers provide material for a number of re-search possibilities. The fair as an event in Chicago's political history has received only cursory attention. The relationships among the fair corporation, the City Council, and the South Park Commissioners warrant careful examination, especially in view of the litigation required to settle the corporate obligations after demolition. The collection could also be utilized for a case study in organization and management. Published comparisons between A Century of Progress and other world's fairs have largely been impressionistic, and Lohr's Fair Management gives only a superficial treatment of the complex financing and intricate organizational structure. An elite network study of the corporate directors, officers, and principal fair officials might prove interesting in terms of their subsequent positions in Chicago on such governing boards as the Metropolitan Fair and Exposition Authority. Labor relations - hiring practices, jurisdiction, strikes - were handled by a special committee chaired by the General Manager; the construction of buildings, exhibits, and concessions under a building code different from the city's presented unusual problems. A recent article dealt briefly with racial discrimination in hiring,<sup>1</sup> but general labor practices, including the use of military personnel for official reception duties, have not been clarified.

The fair can also be viewed as an example of American attitudes toward science and technology.<sup>2</sup> The present Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago is in many ways an outgrowth of A Century of Progress, and one could trace the development of attitudes and techniques for presenting scientific information to the mass public.

In short, A Century of Progress has had only an "official" history and scattered attention by others without access to the main body of records. It seems time for a fresh look at the event based on primary sources.

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<sup>1</sup>Auguste Meier and Elliott M. Rudwick, "Negro Protest at the Chicago World's Fair, 1933-1934," Illinois State Historical Society Journal, Summer, 1966. This article was drawn entirely from columns in the Chicago Defender.

<sup>2</sup>For some preliminary observations on this topic, see Charles Weiner's article in November, 1970, issue of Physics Today, "Physics in the Great Depression."

*Virginia Stewart September 1971*