

**Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2021**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2020086368>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms021010>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2022

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive

**Inclusive Dates:** 1891-1945

**Bulk Dates:** 1918-1919

**ID No.:** MSS86368

**Collector:** Riggs, Brett

**Extent:** 1,100 items

**Extent:** 3 containers plus 3 oversize

**Extent:** 6.1 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2020086368>

**Summary:** Correspondence, artifacts, clippings, diaries, ephemera, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs, postcards, printed matter, publications, reports, and other papers relating to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic.

## Acquisition Information

The Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive was purchased by the Library of Congress and donated in part to the Library of Congress by Brett Riggs in 2020.

## Custodial History

The items within the Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive were collected by Brett Riggs before being sold and donated to the Library of Congress in 2020.

## Processing History

The Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive was arranged and described by Chelsea Bucklin in 2021.

## Other Repositories

Three ampules and a wooden container labeled "Influenza Mixed Vaccine II," produced in 1916 by the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan were removed and transferred to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive is open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The Brett Riggs Influenza Pandemic Archive spans the years 1891-1945, with the bulk of the material dating from 1918 to 1919. The collection includes correspondence, artifacts, clippings, diaries, ephemera, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs, postcards, printed matter, publications, and reports relating to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, chiefly in the United States. Also included are advertisements for assorted treatments including Borden's Malted Milk, Ec-To Balm, Hill's Cascara Bromide Quinine pills, and Kolynos Dental Cream.

The collection documents the effects of the pandemic on the lives of ordinary Americans and on American sailors and soldiers during World War I. This includes outbreaks in local communities and at army camps throughout the United States, on United States naval ships, and among troops serving in Europe. It also documents the effects of the pandemic on civilian and military hospitals, hospitalizations, the implementation of quarantines, bans on public gatherings, the closures of schools, churches, and places of business, the wearing of masks to limit the spread of the disease, and deaths as a result of influenza and its complications. In many instances within the collection, the Influenza Epidemic is referred to by correspondents and in printed matter and advertisements by the misnomer "Spanish Influenza."

Riggs provided an inventory of the collection items that includes numbers he assigned to each item and the accompanying research he conducted. All information on the inventory was supplied by Riggs. A copy of this inventory is included in box 1. Item numbers corresponding to the inventory are recorded on the folders throughout the collection.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by material type and chronologically thereunder.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Riggs, Brett, collector.

### Organizations

United States. Army--Medical care.

United States. Navy--Medical care.

### Subjects

Communicable diseases--Europe.

Communicable diseases--History--20th century.

Communicable diseases--United States--Prevention.

Communicable diseases--United States.

Epidemics--Europe.

Epidemics--History--20th century.

Epidemics--Social aspects--United States.

Epidemics--United States.

Hospitals--United States.

Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919--Europe.

Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919--Social aspects.

Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919--United States.

Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919.  
Influenza--Europe.  
Influenza--History--20th century.  
Influenza--United States--Prevention.  
Influenza--United States.  
Medical care--United States.  
Military hospitals--Europe.  
Military hospitals--United States.  
Public health--United States.  
Quacks and quackery--United States.  
Quarantine--United States.  
Social distancing (Public health)--United States.  
Virus diseases--Europe.  
Virus diseases--History--20th century.  
Virus diseases--United States--Prevention.  
Virus diseases--United States.  
World War, 1914-1918--Europe.  
World War, 1914-1918--Health aspects.  
World War, 1914-1918--Hospitals.  
World War, 1914-1918--Medical care.  
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

#### **Places**

United States--History--1913-1921.  
United States--Social conditions--1918-1932.

#### **Occupations**

Collectors.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX OV 3	Advertisements
BOX OV 3	<i>Daily Graphic</i> , London, advertisement for a cure for the Russian Influenza, 1891, Dec. 21
BOX OV 3	<i>Illustrated London News</i> , full-page advertisement for Kruschen Salts, 1918, July 20
BOX OV 3	Full-page advertisement for Dixie Cups referencing the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, circa 1940-circa 1945
BOX OV 1	Artifacts
BOX OV 1	Ec-To Balm box (assembled), 1917
BOX OV 2	Ec-To-Balm boxes (unassembled), 1917
BOX OV 2	Boy Scouts influenza epidemic badge, circa 1918
BOX OV 2	Bronze British memorial plaque issued for Reverend Archibald Owen Carwithen Longridge, 1918
BOX OV 2	Bronze British memorial plaque issued for Horace Fogg, 1918
BOX OV 2	Brooch made from a piece of wire from a zeppelin shot down by William Leefe Robinson, circa 1918
BOX OV 1	Three medals and a military identification tag belonging to Frederick Edwin Hornblower, K11836, British Royal Navy, circa 1918
BOX OV 3	Nurse's head scarf, circa 1914-circa 1918
BOX OV 2	"1918 Epidemic Volunteer" Red Cross pin, 1918
BOX OV 2	Red Cross pins and cuff link, circa 1918
BOX OV 3	Silk handkerchief with sewn lettering "Greetings, Camp Devens, Mass., 1918," 1918
BOX OV 1	Empty bottle of Wolcott's Flu-Oil, circa 1918
BOX OV 2	Australian emergency influenza worker badge, 1919
BOX OV 1	Empty box for Hill's Cascara-Bromide-Quinine pills, circa 1919-circa 1920
BOX 2	Medaille d'Honneur des Epidemies, 1924
BOX OV 3	Broadsides
BOX OV 3	United States Public Health Service influenza broadside, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1917-1920, undated (8 folders)
BOX 2	Christmas card, 1918
BOX 2	Diaries, 1918
BOX 2	Ephemera, 1918, undated
BOX 2	Newspapers, 1918-1919
BOX OV 3	<i>Idaho World Weekly</i> , 1918, Oct. 25
BOX OV 3	<i>The Sun</i> , Bridgeport, Conn., 1920, Jan. 31
BOX 2	Pamphlets, 1918
BOX OV 3	Periodicals
BOX OV 3	<i>Theatre Magazine</i> , 1919, Feb.
BOX OV 3	<i>Youth's Companion</i> , 1919, May 22
BOX OV 3	<i>Collier's</i> , 1919, July 5
BOX 2	Photographs, 1917-1918, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Photograph album, 1918

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 3	Postcards, 1918-1919
BOX 3	Printed matter, 1918-1919, undated
BOX 3	Publications, 1918-1920 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Reports, 1918-1920
BOX OV 3	Sheet music
BOX OV 3	"The Gabby Glide," from <i>Vera Violetta</i> , 1911
BOX OV 3	"I Don't Want to Get Well," words by Harry Pease and Howard Johnson and music by Harry Jentes, 1917
BOX OV 3	"The I-N-F-L-U-E-N-Z-A Blues," words and music by Happy Klark and Arthur C. Brown, 1918
BOX OV 3	"The Influenza Blues," composed by Walter A. Moloney, 1919
BOX 3	Yearbooks, 1919