



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: Bork Family Papers

Creators: Albert William (Bill) Bork, Catherine C. (Kay) Bork Freeman

Dates: 1863-2002

Quantity: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

System of arrangement: System is arranged by subject; then chronologically within subject. Collection is arranged in the following series:

- Series 1: Personal Records of the Bork family
- Series 2: Smoki Papers
- Series 3: Philatelic Covers from Territorial to Statehood
- Series 4: Photos of the Bork Family and Smoki People

Abstract: Albert William (Bill) Bork was a second-generation native of Prescott, born in August 1906 in the Arizona Territory. After receiving his Doctor in Letters he accepted a position in Mexico City where he later served as a Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Mexico City College. The collection consists of personal records of the Bork family as well as materials from Mr. Bork's involvement with the Smoki People in Prescott. He was also an avid philatelic collector and his collection is included. Photographs of the Bork family and Smoki People are also included in the collection.

Identification: SHM MS-19

Languages and Scripts of the Materials: English and German

Biographical History

Albert William (Bill) Bork was a second-generation native of Prescott, born in August 1906 in the Arizona Territory. He began his education in Lincoln School on Park Avenue a year or so after it opened, for four years, and then attended Washington School through the eighth grade.

Bill graduated from Prescott High School in May 1925. In the book, "Meeting the Four



O'clock Train," Dixon Fagerberg Jr. writes: "My unqualified nomination for the most accomplished PHS scholar during my 1924-1927 tenure would be William Bork." He held Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Arizona at Tucson, and was Doctor in Letters, with a specialty in History, from the National Autonomous University in Mexico City. After the outbreak of World War II, Bork accepted a position in a wartime cultural exchange program at the University of Mexico and moved to Mexico City. Bork received his Doctorate in History from the University of Mexico, served as Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Mexico City College, and, in 1944, came back to the States and went to Washington State College. During WWII he taught history of the United States at the National University in Mexico City after efforts to serve in other ways were rejected. He also taught Spanish and Portuguese literature and the history of Spain and Mexico. His doctoral work resulted in a dissertation on the history of the Santa Fe (Independence, Mo., to Santa Fe, N.M.) trade during the years 1824-1846, as recorded in Mexican government archives. Before his retirement in 1974, he was director of the Center for Interamerican Studies at Southern Illinois, University at Carbondale and professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

Bill spoke and wrote Spanish fluently. His teaching career included tenures at the University of Arizona, briefly at Washington State College (in the 1940s), and at the National University of Mexico, as well as a year as a Fulbright scholar at the National University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru.

He also served as director of personnel and labor relations with General Electric SA. de C. in Mexico City, 1953-1957.

When his wife, Nadyne, retired as instructor in Spanish and French at Southern Illinois University, they returned to Prescott, where he devoted himself to writing on postal history and local pioneer history. He had joined the Prescott Historical Society (Sharlot Hall) in the 1920s. He joined the Smoki in 1926 and participated in the Smoki ceremonies and Snake Dance (1980-1990) and as a docent at the Smoki Museum in Prescott. He also served as Chief Cahagatonga (White Hair) of the Smoki People.

Mr. Bork belonged to several Arizona and International philatelic and historical associations. He was active in the Prescott Corral of Westerners and the Rat Finks of Prescott, Arizona, a "small, self-selected group of fun-loving historians." He was an honorary member of the Prescott Rotary Club, and his writings would fill several volumes.

He was married to Marguerite Nadyne for nearly 70 years. Mr. Bork passed away on March 30, 2006.

Catherine Caroline Bork Freeman was born in Prescott on July 23, 1908. She was the daughter of Albert William Bork and Bessie Ethel Hatz Bork, and the granddaughter of



Daniel Hatz and Catherine Shanberger Hatz, pioneer Prescott residents. Daniel Hatz helped to build the Governor's Mansion, now located on the grounds of the Sharlot Hall Museum.

Kay Freeman graduated from Prescott High School. She later attended the Milwaukee School of Art. She was employed as an executive secretary, serving the Commandant of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Panama Canal Zone during World War II. She resided in Bogota, Colombia following the war while her husband, Kenneth A. Simpson (who she married in 1928) was employed by the Worthington Pump Company. After her return to the United States, her husband died. She married an old family friend, Harold C. Freeman, in 1953. He passed away in the 1990's. Kay lived the last years of her life in Whittier, CA. She died in Anaheim (CA) General Hospital on October 9, 1999. She was survived by her brothers, Albert William Bork, of Prescott and Carbondale, IL, Henry W., of Pittsburgh and John T., of Phoenix; her sister, Elizabeth V.; and several nieces and nephews.

The Smoki People Organization

On May 26, 1921, a group of Prescott businessmen participated in a Wild West Show at the Prescott Fairgrounds to raise money to help the Annual Fourth of July Frontier Days Rodeo. Because they had a collection of snakes available, they decided to perform the Hopi Snake Dance, and a local resident, who had lived on the Hopi Reservation, taught them the steps. The performance evoked a very positive response, and the businessmen decided to repeat the show the following year. Continued success led to repeating the show once a year for the next seventy years.

This group decided to call themselves the Smoki People and created an organization that met regularly to plan the dances, prepare costumes and equipment and have family pot lucks and barbecues. In 1922, the group convinced Sharlot Hall to write a small 16 page book about the Smoki People to give them a "history."

They dedicated themselves to keeping alive the cultures of the Southwest Indian tribes at a time when the government had outlawed tribal ceremonies and was compelling Indian children to attend boarding schools to learn non-Indian practices. Each year they put on one show that included three to five ceremonials and Navajo sand painting with the Hopi Snake Dance as the finale. The women in the organization usually did at least one of the dances including one that involved diving into a lake dug into the fairgrounds. In addition to the lake, they built a backdrop that looked like a large pueblo and entire families dressed in costumes to give the appearance of a village.

In 1932, the group built a clubhouse on Arizona Avenue and included a small museum to house artifacts they had collected. With the depression in 1935, the Emergency Relief Association of Arizona decided to use federal work funds to build a larger museum next to the clubhouse. An architect designed the building to look like a very large pueblo and



added a number of special features like a double Zuni-type fireplace and a flagstone floor. The Smoki people added hand-chiseled furniture, hand-made display cases and special light fixtures.

The Smoki people participated in parades as far away as Philadelphia, spreading knowledge of the organization and its ceremonials. A particularly famous member of the Smoki was Barry Goldwater, who often served as an announcer at the shows. He also made some significant contributions to the Museum.

By the 1980's, the Smoki had trouble recruiting younger members and, as a result, had increasing difficulty with staging a vigorous show. In 1990, a delegation from the Hopi reservation observed the show. They protested, contending that the Smoki dance emphasized entertainment, while their ceremony was very religious. In response, the Smoki discontinued the show and concentrated on maintaining the Museum. A few years later, they disbanded and set up a non-profit organization to manage the Museum.

Scope and Content

Notes, correspondence and ephemera relating to Albert William (Bill) Bork, a leader of the Smoki People of Prescott, and the Smoki Museum. These include photocopies of Bill Bork's philatelic collection (Series 1-2 through 1-9), and correspondence from Mrs. A.W. (Bessie Hatz) Bork relating to a belt buckle donated to Sharlot Hall Museum (series 1-10). Series 2 includes correspondence, news articles, Indian cultural materials, Indian songs and chants, Smoki history, Smoki membership, obituaries, newsletters, papers, financial data, minutes of the Smoki Council Board of Directors, photos and other materials regarding the Smoki Collection of Bill Bork.

The photo collection includes pictures of such notable features as the Governors' Mansion (~1870-1880), Pioneer Hotel (same), County Court House (1879), Goldwater or Lynx Lake (undated), Lincoln School (~1913/14) Park Avenue (c. 1910), a cabin in Groom Creek (c. 1921-22) and Montezuma Street (undated). There are also Bork family photos (Series 1-13) of the Bork residence, A.W. Bork, Sr., Bessie Hatz Bork (from age 3 ½ through 30), Lillian Seng, Mrs. Ralph Haight, Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Bork, Jr. (Marguerite N. Butts), Catherine Bork (Kay Freeman), Daniel Bork, and Elizabeth V. Bork. Hatz family photos (Series 1-14) include images of John Shanberger (1850's-1890), George Probst (Catherine Hatz' brother-in-law), Mrs. Elizabeth Shanberger (mother of Catherine Hatz – 1860's), Maria Hatz (mother of Daniel Hatz – 1860's/70's), Catherine Hatz (1860-1910), Viola Hatz (c. 1880), Mrs. John Riggs Thompson (1890's), Daniel Hatz (1860's-1910), Mr. and Mrs. John Raible (c. 1870's), Maggie, Kate and Yonda Barrington (nieces of Catherine Shanberger, Catherine Hatz and cousins of Bessie and Violet Hatz – 1880's-1900), and A.J. Hatz, Jr. (1880's-1920's). There are also three photo albums: a baby album of Catherine C. Bork (Kay Freeman), a family album from



the 1920's and '30's apparently compiled by Kay Bork Freeman, and an undated Bork/Hatz family album.

The Bork Family Collection was donated in four separate accessions. Mrs. Kay Freeman (Catherine C. Bork) donated the correspondence related to the buckle (acc #99.039) and Bill Bork donated the remaining materials in the collection (acc #99.041). Don Ogden donated the miscellaneous Smoki papers (acc #2008.178). Theo Bork Kirch (niece of Elizabeth Bork) donated miscellaneous Bork family materials.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

People

[Bork, Albert William](#)

Bork, Betsy Hatz

Bork, Billy

Bork, Catherine

Freeman, Catherine C. Bork

Subjects

[Stamp collections](#)

Places

American Ranch

Arizona Territory

[Clarkdale \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Douglas \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Grand Canyon \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Stoneman Lake \(Ariz. : Lake\)](#)

[Tombstone \(Ariz.\)](#)



[Tucson \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Valentine \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Whipple Barracks \(Ariz.\)](#)

Organizations

[Smoki Museum](#)

[Smoki People, Inc.](#)

[Stamp collections](#)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Accession Numbers:

79.099 Albert William (Bill) Bork

83.023 Albert William (Bill) Bork

1999.039 Bork Collection (Catherine C. [Kay] Bork Freeman)

1999.041 Bork Family Collection (Catherine C. [Kay] Bork Freeman)

2007.056 Joanne Bork Craig

2008.178 Bill Bork/Smoki Collection

2009.013 Bork Collection (addition)

2009.017 Joanne Bork Craig

The collection was donated to the Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives by Don Ogden via the family of Bill Bork in 2008, including materials donated by Mrs. Kay Freeman (Catherine C. Bork), sister of A.W. Bork, Jr., in 1999.

Related Materials

Smoki Collection – MS-11

PO-660P – A group photo with H. M. Maus, Amy Nelson, Albert Bork, Bessie Hatz and Annie Smith.

Arizona and the Wild West, No. 19, 1977, page 65-84, *The O.K. Corral Fight at Tombstone*.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Murray Smolens using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)* between June 2011 and March 2012.



Container List

Title: Bork Family Collection – MS - 19

Dates: 1906-2002

Scope and Content: Correspondence, notes, photos, copies of articles, stamps, postcards of Bill Bork; correspondence of Bessie Hatz Bork to daughter Catherine C. Bork; papers and photos of Bork/Hatz family.

Series 1: Personal Records of the Bork Family		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.1	Bork biography including <i>Prescott's Hometown Historian and International Scholar</i> by Mona Lange McCroskey	1906-2006
1.2	Correspondence from Bessie Bork to daughter	Feb 22, 1934
1.3	Personal papers of Elizabeth V. Bork	1912-1983
1.4	Personal papers of Henry W. Bork	1914-2002
1.5	Certificates of Henry W. Bork (oversize)	Dec 1966-Jan 1967
1.6	William Bork Manuscript for Corral of Westerner's Presentation (formerly DB 413,f7)	1999

Title: Bork Family Collection – MS – 19

Dates: 1922-2000

Scope and Content: Notes, correspondence and ephemera relating to the Smoki People of Prescott and the Smoki Museum.

Series 2: Smoki Papers		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.7	Correspondence	1924-1997
1.8	Indian cultural materials	Undated
1.9	Indian protests	1938-96
1.10	Indian songs and chants	Undated
1.11	Legal papers	1983, 1992-93
1.12	Financial data	1987-97
1.13	Minutes of Smoki Council, Board of Directors	1991-95
1.14	Newspaper clippings	1922-94
2.1	Smoki Ceremonial Programs	1922-92
2.2	Smoki history	Undated
2.3	Smoki membership	1928-98
2.4	Museum miscellany	1927-2000



2.5	Museum miscellany	Undated
2.6	Smoki obituaries	1988,91,93,94
2.7	<u>Smoke Signals</u> , etc., newsletters	1927, 1981-2000

Title: Bork Family Collection – MS – 19

Dates: 1863-2000

Scope and Content: Philatelic covers from territorial times to statehood. Copies of stamps and postcards, notes and correspondence from the philatelic collection of A.W. “Bill” Bork.

Series 3: Philatelic Covers		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
2.8	Bill Bork’s cancelled postcards and envelopes	1863-4, 1870’s
2.9	Bill Bork’s notes and copies of collection	1873-1909
3.1	Cancelled postcards from “Karl” to “Albert” (A.W. Bork)	1875-1910
3.2	Originals and copies of cancelled postcards, AZ territory and state	1879-1929
3.3	News articles (copies, one retyped)	1886,1950,1967
3.4	Cancelled covers from “Art” (Springer?)	1906-1929
3.5	Miscellaneous notes, map, lists; 16 actual stamps marked “Mile High Stamp Club, Prescott-1945-Arizona, Home of the Smoki” in 4 colors of 4 each	1924, 1945, 1989
3.6	Correspondence between A.W. Bork and Owen Kriege	1977-1989
3.7	Philatelic Cover Data (CD, also on I Drive/Collections/Bork Postal Collection)	Various
3.8	<p>Series I (95 items): Prescott 19th Century including John N. Goodwin, John C. McCormick, Cephes Brainerd, Jefferson Harrison Lee (American Ranch), Lillian Lee, John Shanberger, John Le Munds, Charles R. Drake</p> <p>Billy Bork, Catherine Bork, Helen A. McNutt (postmaster), Ylano Cedillo, George W. Young, Hattie Cavanaugh, Yavapai Motors Inc., Amy Stull</p> <p>Series II (65 items): Incoming Arizona Territory including C. L. Cummings, Frank B. Austin Esq. J. V. Vickers (Tombstone, AZ), John H. Robinson, Frances Munds, John H. Robinson, Jessie G. Lee (Simmons, AZ), Illinois Equal Suffrage Association, C. W. Fairfield (Clarkdale, AZ), C. E. Gentry, Prescott great</p>	1863-1953



	<p>fire, A.J. Carroll, Bashford-Burmister, E. E. Pattice, J.R. Mason, Santan Arizona, Stoneman Lake.</p> <p>Series III (39 items): Closed AZ P.O. including Eric Lindhult, Ben L. Cash, H. K. Behn, Charles M. Egge, J. T. Pierce, Southern Arizona Bank and Trust, Evelyn Perkins (Perkinsville), Grace Sparks, P. E. Woodson, Nellie G. Harshberger (Valentine)</p> <p>Series IV (38 items): Fancy-Cancel Railroad including fancy cancel stamps used in Prescott, Prescott Frontier Days 40th anniversary, Yavapai Motors and Ash Fork.</p> <p>Series V (6 items): Grand Canyon including Kaibab (Ariz.) and Bright Angel Camp.</p> <p>Series VI (9 items): Sachets (reduced JPG images are on CD in folder, but tif files are on the I Drive/Collections/Bork Postal collection) including Douglas International Airport, Douglas (Ariz.), Southern Transcontinental Route (Route 33), First Flight Southern Transcontinental, Adoption of Standard Time and Tucson (Ariz.)</p> <p>Series VII (9 items): Including Jerome (Ariz.), Switzerland, and Prescott National Bank.</p>	<p>1904-1950</p> <p>1904-1952</p> <p>1897, 1916, 1825, 1927-1929</p> <p>1928, 1934, 1938-1939</p> <p>1928-1938</p> <p>1898-1899, 1900, 1928, 1951, unknown</p>
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Title: Bork Family Collection – MS – 19

Dates: 1850's-2002

Scope and Content: Individual photos and albums of the Bork and Hatz families and the Smoki People

Series 4: Photos		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
3.9	Index for photos 1-56, series 4	
3.10	Photos of Pioneer Hotel, Montezuma St., Courthouse Square	1870-1890
3.11	Prescott area photos, including Tilton's Mechanical Hospital, Bork Residence, Park Ave., Lincoln School, Cabin in Groom Creek, Governor's Mansion, Jerome-Prescott Hwy., Goldwater or Lynx Lake	1906-1922
3.12	A.W. Sr./Bessie Hatz Bork Family photos	1882-2002
3.13	Hatz Family photos (1)	1850's-1910
3.14	Hatz Family photos (2)	1850's-1910
4.1	Baby book of Catherine Caroline Bork (Kay Freeman); Bork/Hatz Family album	1900's
4.2	Catherine Caroline Bork Family photo album	1920's-1930's
4.3	Daniel Bork photo log of Navy career; some family photos	1940's
4.4	Smoki People photos, news clippings	1921-1994
4.5	Two photos of a woman and a birth certificate for Caroline Amelia Theresa Dressel (in German). (These materials were previously PB 150, f9 and identified the Bork Family Collection, however, no relationship has been established.)	1836
4.6	Cactus Pine Bork Collection – Prescott area related negatives (previously X.089) (7 negatives)	1925, 1928, unknown