

Guide to
MS 037
Urbici Soler collection
Span Dates, 1930-2000
Bulk Dates, 1933-1940

2 inches (linear);
one oversized document



Processed by Michael Reyes
21 July 2016

Donated by Edgar T. Ruff, Mary Ann Plaut, Baxter Polk, Bud Newman, and Mrs. Grace Goodell.

Citation: Urbici Soler collection, 1930-2000, MS 037, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography

Urbici Soler was born in Farran, Lerida, Spain on June 21, 1890. He attended public schools in Barcelona and went on to study at the Barcelona Fine Arts Academy. Soler received his masters from Munich Academie der Bildenden Kunste and later established a sculpture school in Munich under his name. Soler's notable works include: "Heroes of September", "Cardinal Juan Benlloch Vivo", "High relief", "Diego Rivera", "Sihaute" and "Cristo Rey". His work can be found in the United States, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Chile, and Argentina.

In 1937 Soler was commissioned by Reverend A.J. Schuler to make "Christ the King" on Mount Cristo Rey. He completed the project in three years. He left El Paso briefly but returned to make El Paso his permanent home. Soler applied to the College of Mines for a teaching position, but encountered many difficulties. The school did not want to hire him due to his age and even questioned his credentials. After months of conflict, Soler was finally hired as a guest instructor. Soler still faced difficulty with then president Dr. D.H. Wiggins about using live nude models for his sculpture class.

Soler passed away on January 17, 1953 from a heart attack.

[Sources: *Rodant Pel Mon (Roaming About the World) With Urbici Soler – Sculptor (1890-1953)* by Paul Dean Daniggelis and newspaper clipping found in this collection]

Series Description or Arrangement

Series I: Biographical information – correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, manuscripts, notepads, magazine, and a program. Arranged in chronological order.

Series II: Photographs - photographs of Urbici Soler, various individuals, busts, pottery, and Mt. Cristo Rey, students working in classes, statues, negatives, and an oversized print. Arranged in approximate chronological order within material types.

Scope and Content Notes

The Urbici Soler collection dates 1933 – 2000. Types of records include photographs, clippings, articles, manuscripts, and other printed materials. These materials help document Soler's life and his career as an artist.

The **Biographical information** series contains translated diary entries, original

notepads, magazine articles about Urbici Soler, and original newspaper clippings which contain death and funeral information.

The **Photographs** series includes original photos of Urbici Soler, busts, statues, pottery, Mount Cristo Rey, and an oversized print of the Rio Grande, Ojinaga, Chihuahua.

Provenance Statement

The Urbici Soler collection was donated to the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department of the University of Texas at El Paso Library in 1970 by Baxter Polk and Bud Newman, in 1972 by Mrs. Grace Goodell, on April 25, 2000 by Mary Ann Plaut, and on June 1, 2000 by Edgar T. Ruff.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Urbici Soler collection must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Urbici Soler collection, MS037, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

The oversized box contains a fragile document.

See also:

Daniggelis, Paul Dean. *Rodant Pel Mon – Roaming about the World: With Urbici Soler, Sculptor (1890-1953)*. El Paso, TX: International Association for the Visual Arts, 1995.

Cleofas Calleros papers, MS 231.

Paul Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler, MS 340.

Container List

Series I: Biographical information

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Program and Notepads	Circa 1933 – 1940
1	2	Excerpts from Urbici Soler's diary, translated by Jesus Ochoa	22 August 1939 – 24 August 1939
1	3	Articles, Manuscripts [newspaper clippings]	17 January 1953 – 1972
1	4	<i>New Mexico Magazine</i>	November 1998
1	5	Letter from Edgar Ruff regarding Urbici Soler	12 May 2000
2 [Over-sized box]		"The Committee of Three" paper [FRAGILE]	17 October 1940

Series II: Photographs

1	6	Photographs of Urbici Soler, various individuals, busts, pottery, and Mt. Cristo Rey	1930 – 20 November 1968
1	7	Photographs of Urbici Soler, busts, statues, students working, pottery, negatives	1930s – 20 November 1968
Map Case Drawer #17	[Over-sized map folder]	Print of Rio Grande, Ojinaga, Chihuahua	Undated