

3-2003

Guide to MS340 Paul Dean Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler

Paul D. Daniggelis

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MS340
Paul Dean Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler

Span Dates, 1890-1995
Bulk Dates, 1925-1986

6 feet 2 inches (linear)

March 2003

Donated by Paul D. Daniggelis, May 1996; February 2012; April 2016.

Citation: Paul Dean Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler, MS340, 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

Paul Dean Daniggelis (August 16, 1933 – October 28, 2017) worked at the El Paso Natural Gas Company and was an author. Daniggelis graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 1968 and retired from the El Paso Natural Gas Company in 1995. In 1996, his biography of sculptor Urbici Soler, *Rodant Pel Mon: Roaming around the World with Urbici Soler, Sculptor (1890- 1953)*, won a Southwest Book Award from the Border Regional Library Association. Daniggelis's book about the Brontë family, *Brontë Moments: A Compilation* was published in 2013.

[Source: Obituary, *El Paso Times*

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/elpasotimes/obituary.aspx?n=paul-daniggelis&pid=187149784>, accessed on November 19, 2020]

Sculptor Urbici José Francisco Soler y Manonelles was born in Spain in 1890. He began an apprenticeship at age ten, won his first major competition at 14, and was awarded a scholarship to study classical sculpture in Germany at 23. Soler worked in several European countries before winning a contract in 1925 to decorate public buildings in Buenos Aires, which was followed by a contract from the government of Spain to make anthropological busts of the native types of Latin America. This collection of busts, which Soler entitled *The World*, is today considered the artist's masterwork (there is a plaster copy of his *Capulican* from the series in the UTEP Library Special Collections archives). In 1931, Soler executed his first sandstone bust of Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, which he was subsequently unable to sell (on display in the Special Collections lobby). While living and working in Mexico, Soler received commissions for portraits of Mexican president Abelardo Rodríguez and poet Enrique González Martínez (in 1932 and 1934). It was during his Mexican period that Soler found himself thrown into exile by the Spanish Civil War. Reduced circumstances compelled him to jump at the next available paying job, which happened to be *Cristo Rey* in El Paso. Although the project was never completed to his satisfaction due to lack of funding, *Cristo Rey* is Soler's best-known work. The monument was dedicated in 1940. Soler afterward spent time in New Orleans, California, New York, and South America before returning to El Paso in 1944. He taught at the Texas School of Mines (later the University of Texas at El Paso) and collaborated on a dual portrait project with painter Tom Lea in 1946. Urbici Soler died in his home at the foot of Mount Cristo Rey in 1953. He was posthumously honored in his hometown in Spain.

Series Description or Arrangement

This collection is minimally processed.

Materials fall into the following categories: Correspondence, Photographs, Manuscript,

Publications, Scrapbooks, and Sketches.

Scope and Content Note

The Paul Dean Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler, MS340, contains correspondence, photographs, and research material for Daniggelis's biography of sculptor Urbici Soler, as well as a manuscript of the completed book, *Rodant Pel Mon* (El Paso, TX: International Association For The Visual Arts, c1995). The book follows Soler's youth and apprenticeship in Spain, travels in Europe and Latin America, and career in El Paso, Texas.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Paul D. Daniggelis, May 1996. Accretions in February 2012 and in April 2016.

Restrictions

No access restrictions.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from these papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Paul Dean Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler, MS340, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Index Terms

Soler, Urbici, 1890-1953.
Sculptors – Biography
Cristo Rey (Statue : Anapra, N.M.)
Statues – New Mexico – Anapra
Monuments – New Mexico – Anapra
Mount Cristo Rey (Anapra, N.M.)

Notes to the Researcher

See also:

Urbici Soler collection, MS037

Rodant Pel Mon: Roaming About the World with Urbici Soler, Sculptor (1890-1953) by Paul Dean Daniggelis (El Paso, TX: International Association for the Visual Arts, c1995).

Urbici Soler I Manonelles: un escultor internacional amb orígens a la Segarra (1890-1953) per M. del Carme Diví López (Estaràs, Lleida: Ajuntament d'Estaràs, 2014).

Some of the materials suffered insect damage before being donated to the UTEP Library. Please handle with care.

Container List

Box 1	Folder 1	Newspaper articles and letters re: the naming of Urbici Soler street
	Folder 2	Articles re: the raising of the Mt. Cristo Rey statue, Daniggelis notes
	Folder 3	Correspondence: Fr. Costa's Chancery Office file
	Folder 4	Correspondence: friends, Memorial Record, 3 family photos, newspaper article
	Folder 5	Correspondence: John R. Nichols, Pres. New Mexico College of Agriculture & Mechanic Arts
	Folder 6	Correspondence: Rogelio Rodriguez
	Folder 7	Correspondence: Edward M. Pooley, Editor, El Paso Herald Post (from John Foster, Jr.)
	Folder 8	Correspondence: Lyta F. Roca de Schiavon; Award certificate
	Folder 9	Correspondence: Germany
	Folder 10	Correspondence: Asst'd.
	Folder 11	Correspondence: Asst'd.
	Folder 12	History Paper, articles re: statue and film on sculptor
	Folder 13	Correspondence: Asst'd. 1937-1940
	Folder 14	Articles and newspaper clippings
	Folder 15	Correspondence: Germany
	Folder 16	History Paper, Asst'd. articles and notes
	Folder 17	Railroad related material
	Folder 18	Correspondence: Daniggelis research; articles
	Folder 19	Correspondence: Daniggelis research
	Folder 20	Correspondence: Daniggelis research

- Folder 21 Correspondence: Daniggelis research
- Folder 22 Correspondence: Asst'd.
- Folder 23 Articles
- Folder 24 Footnotes
- Folder 25 Correspondence: Daniggelis research
- Folder 26 3 Address/telephone books belonging to Urbici Soler
- Folder 27 Assorted utility and insurance bills, bank and tax statements-Urbici Soler
- Folder 28 Photographs, negatives
- Box 2 Folder 29 Photographs, negatives
- Folder 30 Photographs, negatives
- Folder 31 Photographs, negatives
- Item 32 History Seminar Paper: "The Monument of Christ the King"
- Item 33 Manuscript: "Rodant Pel Mon" (in 3-ring binder)
- Item 34 Scrapbook: articles and Daniggelis notes
- Item 35 3 etched printer's blocks (image)
- Item 36 20 glass-plate negatives
- Box 3 Item 37 29 pencil sketches (6.5"x 8.5" to 10"x 13")
- Box 3 Item Scrapbook of clippings and other Urbici Soler materials
- Box 4 Item Binder containing Danigellis' manuscript, notes, and correspondence
- Box 5 Folder 1 Clippings about Urbici Soler
- Folder 2 Photographs and correspondence from Jordi Gonzalez Soler

Additional materials

49 slides