Guide to MS340 Paul Dean Daniggelis papers relating to Urbici Soler

Paul D. Daniggelis

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Guide to

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


[Source: Obituary, *El Paso Times*  

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,
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


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).


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

**Container List**

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Newspaper articles and letters re: the naming of Urbici Soler street</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Articles re: the raising of the Mt. Cristo Rey statue, Daniggelis notes</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Fr. Costa's Chancery Office file</td>
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<td>Correspondence: friends, Memorial Record, 3 family photos, newspaper article</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Correspondence: John R. Nichols, Pres. New Mexico College of Agriculture &amp; Mechanic Arts</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Rogelio Rodríguez</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Edward M. Pooley, Editor, El Paso Herald Post (from John Foster, Jr.)</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Lyta F. Roca de Schiavon; Award certificate</td>
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<td>Correspondence: Germany</td>
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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