GRiffin Papers
Frank Loxley Griffin Papers

Provenance: The Griffin Papers were a gift to the Reed College Library.

Ownership: The Griffin Papers are owned by the Reed College Library.

Access: Please contact the Special Collections Librarian at Reed College Library.

Size: The Griffin Papers consist of 7 manuscript boxes, or 3.5 linear feet.

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Biography

Frank Loxley Griffin was born in Topeka, KS in 1881. He attended the University of Chicago, receiving his B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. Magna Cum Laude. He was awarded special honors for his work in mathematics and astronomy. He married Mary Chambers of Portland, with whom he had four children.

He was the first faculty member selected to teach at Reed College, chosen by the first president, William Trufant Foster. Dr. Griffin had previously taught at Williams College. He taught at Reed College for 41 years from 1911 to 1952, returning from retirement in 1954 to become the 8th President. After his second retirement he was visiting professor at a number of American colleges and universities.

In 1921, Griffin’s first book, “Introduction to Mathematical Analysis”, was acclaimed by “Scientific American”. This textbook was widely used in the United States and became the first American textbook adopted by a European university. He wrote six additional books and many articles on mathematics and education.

In 1938 Dr. Griffin was honored by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, which sent four outstanding young mathematicians to work under him and learn his teaching principles.

He died in Portland, Oregon on November 9, 1969.
Scope and Content

The Griffin Papers consist primarily of the manuscripts and papers associated with Dr. Griffin’s teaching classes and books on mathematics.

Box Index

BOX 1: Classes: Math 11 to Course Materials for Math: Calculus

1:1 Classes: Math 11
1:2 Classes: Math 11 (LA): Non-Euclidian Geometry
1:3 Classes: Math 12-13
1:4 Classes: Math 21-22
1:5 Classes: Math 23-24
1:6 Classes: Math 31
1:7 Classes: Math 34
1:8 Classes: Math 41
1:9 Classes: Solutions to Exam Problems [Various Years]
1:10 College Entrance Examination Board (NY)
1:11 Correspondence: Mathematics
1:12 Course Materials for Math: Advanced Calculus
1:13 Course Materials for Math: Algebra and Trigonometry, 1937
1:14 Course Materials for Math: Analytics
1:15 Course Materials for Math: Calculus of Variation

BOX 2: Course Materials for Math: Derivatives to Course Materials for Math: Miscellaneous I

2:1 Course Materials for Math: Derivatives
2:2 Course Materials for Math: Differential Equations
2:3 Course Materials for Math: Geometry and Integrals
2:4 Course Materials for Math: Geometry of Space
2:5 Course Materials for Math: Miscellaneous I

BOX 3: Course Materials for Math: Miscellaneous II to Lectures; Talks; Presentations

3:1 Course Materials for Math: Miscellaneous II
3:2 Course Materials for Math: Plane Curves
3:3 Course Materials for Math: Pre-Meteorological Training Course [WWII]
3:4 Course Materials for Math: War Math [Math 13]
3:5 Diagrams for Book on Mathematics
3:6 Entrance Exams, Reed College
3:7 Flyers
3:8 Junior Qualifying Exams
3:9 Lectures; Talks; Presentations

**BOX 4: Materials for Book to Mathematics Work by Students**

4:1 Materials for Book: Chapter One
4:2 Materials for Book: Chapters Two and Three
4:3 Materials for Book: Outlines; Preface and Chapter Seven: “Deductive Reasoning”
4:4 Materials for Book: Typescript, pp. 1-154 and C1-C28
4:5 Mathematics Work by Griffin’s Students: Florence E. Swanson
4:6 Mathematics Works by Griffin’s Students: various

**BOX 5: Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: Drafts to Notes and Outlines, II**

5:1 Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: Draft versions, Pt. I
5:2 Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: Draft versions, Pt. II
5:3 Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: “Mathematics In Human Affairs” –Outline (1948)
5:4 Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: Notes and Outlines, I
5:5 Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: Notes and Outlines, II

**BOX 6: Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: “Typical…” to Plan for Math 41**

6:1 Ninth-Grade Math Orientation Course: “Typical Exercises on Mathematics in Human Affairs” 1949; pt. I
6:3 Non-Reed Course Notes
6:4 Notes: Undergraduate Math Research
6:5 Plan for Math 41

**BOX 7: Portland State College Seminar to Writings on Mathematics**

7:1 Portland State College Seminar 1962-1963
7:2 Pre-College Mathematics Instruction
7:3 Publications, by Others: Daniel Buchanan
7:4 Publications, by Others: Jean Chazny
7:5 Publications, by Others: Archibald Henderson
7:6 Publications, by Others: F.R. Moulton [Forest Ray]
7:7  Publications, by Others: Various
7:8  Reed College Mathematics Workshop; June 16-30, 1948
7:9  Technical Mathematics: Course Outline and Instructions; University of California; Extension Division
7:10 Williams College Materials
7:11 Writings on Mathematics by Various Authors: pamphlets; etc.