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# **Finding aid for the Stuart Hoffius collection of records Collection 345**

**from the Vandenberg Center Sculpture Project, Alexander Calder's La Grande Vitesse**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections  
Department

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title:</b>	Stuart Hoffius collection of records
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 345
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1928-2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.1 Linear Feet Four boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Judge R. Stuart Hoffius (1914-2005) was one of the key players in bringing the Alexander Calder sculpture La Grande Vitesse to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Hoffius served with Nancy Mulnix and other Grand Rapids notables on the Vanderberg Center Sculpture Project Committee from 1967 through the dedication of the sculpture in June 1969. This collection includes documents relating to the sculpture project as well as some biographical information. For documentation of Hoffius work as a judge and for information on Judge Cornelius Hoffius, his father, see the Hoffius Collection located at the Bentley Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various and unknown donors, accession numbers 2004.070, 2005.012, 2008.054.

## Processing Information

Boxes 1 and 2, Accession 2004.070

Box 3, oversized

Box 4, Accession 2005.011.1-7

(Seven Grand Rapids publications and ephemera, separated from the Hoffius Collection at the Bentley Library. These items are unprocessed; some are duplicates held in other collections. 1/28/2005)  
2008.054

Box 5 (Old 3), school yearbooks, added 3/23/2006. Mold smell, possible discard; need review for unique content. 10/3/2008

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Coll. 001, Nancy Mulnix Tweddale papers

Coll. 221, the Philip Catalano Collection, documents the transportation of the stabile steel from a Detroit port to the plaza in Grand Rapids, using tractor trailer trucks.

Coll. 224, the Grand Rapids Public Library Art & Graphics Collection includes a sculpture section, with information on Calder and other sculptures in Grand Rapids.

Coll. 346, the William Hill Photograph Collection contains high quality color slides related to the Calder Dedication, plus images of the sculpture. Select items have been reproduced as photographic prints.

See also holdings at the City Archives, particularly those official documents of the City of Grand Rapids.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

- Grande Vitesse -- Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976
- personal papers

## Collection Inventory

### Series I. Biographical & Historical

#### Hoffius Memorial Service program & obituary, Jan. 2005.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

#### Immediate Source of Acquisition

2005.012

Title/Description	Instances	
A Service in Memory of the Honorable R. Stuart Hoffius. Jan. 24, 1005. Fountain St. Church.	Box 1	Folder 1
Obituary, GR Press, Jan. 22, 2005	Box 1	Folder 1
"He was tough, but he was fair : Stuart Hoffius served 29 years on Kent Circuit Court, 28 as Chief Judge" / Ken Kolker. GR Press, Jan. 21, 2005.	Box 1	Folder 1

### Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Photo. Judge Stuart Hoffius seated at a desk in his robes.	Box 1	Folder 2
<u>Immediate Source of Acquisition:</u> <b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b> 2004.070		
Swearing in of John H. VanderWal and Stuart Hoffius, Jan. 2, 1960. Robinson Studio Photo.	Box 1	Folder 2

#### General

Left to Right

- 1 John H. VanderWal
- 2 Leondar D. Verdien(?)
- 3 Fred H. Searl
- 4 Dale Souter
- 5 Stuart Hoffius

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

2004.070

### School Yearbooks

Title/Description	Instances
Central High School "Helios," 1928	Box 5
Central High School "Helios," 1929	Box 5
Central High School "Helios," 1931	Box 5

### Loose items found in yearbooks.

Title/Description	Instances
Preview of showing of Centralon. Complimentary Dinner for the Cast June 19, 1931. [Program] Stuart Hoffius listed as "Properties" staffer for the production.	Box 5
Helio 1929 paper cover. Folded.	Box 5

### Speeches

Title/Description	Instances
A Nipigon Fourth of July : Speeches of Judge Stuart Hoffius, 1976-2004. Cheboygan, Mi. : Point Nipigon Press, 2005. 2008.054	Box 4

### Poetry

Title/Description	Instances
Poems, 1976. David Cope	Box 4
The Hiroshima Watch / by David Montgomery, 1978. G.R. : Lemming Press	Box 4

### Ephemera

Title/Description	Instances
1941 file, Cornelius Hoffius. Appears to be about support for Holland during WWII. Includes FBI Law Enforcement Officers Mobilization Plan for National Defense.--Appears to be a standard form.	Box 2

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

2004.070

Related Materials:

## Related Materials

See Cornelius Hoffius files at the Bentley, Univ. of Michigan.

Harry D. Jewell, Judge of Probate. Republican Candidate for re-election. 1896.	Box 1
"This Year we Celebrate Our Fourtieth Wedding Anniversary" Image of Jerry & Betty Ford on cover. Interior has an image of the family, at least some, and a Christmas greeting.	Box 1
Photo Christmas card. Group & two cameos of sons.	Box 1
Photo Christmas, no greeting. Perhaps part of the card is cut off.	Box 1
Postcard. Printed, with printed signature. Richard Nixon. Publ. By the United Citizens for Nixon-Agnew. Shows the family + David Eisenhower. Nixon is playing the piano. Dinner setting in the background. Housed in folder with Ford greeting cards.	Box 1

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## Series II. Vandenberg Sculpture Center Project

### Subseries A. Documents

Title/Description	Instances
A Landmark in Cooperation. [ca. 1969] RE the new City & County Buildings. <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 items	Box 3      Folder 3
Red spiral bound: The Agenda for the Dedication of 'La Grande Vitesse' and itinerary of Alexander Calder. 5 copies of Feb. 12, 1968 Agreement with Calder.	Box 1
5 copies of Feb. 12, 1968 Agreement with Calder. <u>Immediate Source of Acquisition</u> : <b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b> 2004.070	Box 2
Laminated letter, peeling. Vandenberg Center Sculpture Committee, Mar. 1, 1968. "We are Honored ... " Lists the Committee and the Commissioning Panel.	Box 1
Vandenberg Center Sculpture Committee, Mar. 1, 1968. "We are Honored ... " Lists the Committee and the Commissioning Panel.	Box 1
James Johnson Sweeney Talk, April 25, 1969.	Box 1
Vandenberg Center Sculpture Committee Members & Addresses, n.d.	Box 1

Talk given by James Johnson Sweeney at Grand Rapids Museum, Apr. 25, 1969. <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Copies	Box 1
Annotated version. Talk given by James Johnson Sweeney at Grand Rapids Museum, Apr. 25, 1969.	Box 1
Letter. Sweeney. May 30, 1969. Sent from Ireland.	Box 1
Typed copy of letter from presumed Hoffius to Sweeney.	Box 1
Grand Rapids Art Museum. Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 1969	Box 1
Letter. To Hoffius from J.J.Sweeney(John Sweeney, Past Directory of the Guggenheim Museum), NYC. Apr. 28, 1969 (postal stamp) on envelop	Box 1
Red spiral ringed binder labeled "La Grande Vitesse Dedication.	Box 1
Title page title = La Grande Vitesse Dedication Ceremonies, Saturday, June 14, 1969.	Box 1
Fading copy of a letter from Millikin, June 13, 1969. (3) Loose	Box 1
Speakers' Platform (list of names) 7 copies loose at various places in the notebook. Essentially breaks down the program to one shee at a time. Individual notes written on some sheets.	Box 1
Notes on yellow legal lined paper on Copland & Fortner. Loose	Box 1
A sheet of white paper with notes on Copland & Fortner.	Box 1
1 sheet yellow legal lined paper with names handwritten. Possibly the hand written version of the folks on the speakers platform. Don't know the significance. At the bottom has: If Jerry Ford wants to speak he will.	Box 1
List of 5 assistant conductors ... on white paper, loose.	Box 1
Copies of Richard Nixon Telegram(4) loose.	Box 1
Dedication program, b/w folding version.	Box 1
Card. Speech by Hoffius, believed by his son to be from the June 1969 event.	Box 1
Vandenberg Center Sculpture Fund Balance Sheet, 1970-03-31	Box 1

## Subseries B. Project Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, Western Union telegram from Sen. Robert P. Griffin to Mayor Sonneveldt	Box 1
Correspondence, Union Bank & Trust Co.	Box 1
Correspondence concerning donations	Box 1



Correspondence, Hoffius to Calder & others, 1969	Box 1
Correspondence, Gordon Smith to Robert Blaich / Blaich to Hoffius / Hoffius to Jones, 1968	Box 1
Correspondence & items related to insurance for the Calder Stabile, 1968	Box 1
Correspondence & documents related to National Endowment.	Box 1
Correspondence, J. Paul Jones to Aida Schoenfeld, 1968-03-20	Box 1
Correspondence, Steven Dykema to Klaus Perls, 1968-02-14	Box 1
Correspondence, Mayor Sonneveldt to Pete Wege, 1968-02-12	Box 1
Correspondence, Klaus G. Perls to Nancy Mulnix, 1968-01-28	Box 1
Correspondence, unknown to Pete Wege, 1967-12-106	Box 1
Correspondence with Cartoon, 1969-05-22	Box 1
Correspondence, 1968. Mrs. Harold Lang to Judge Stuart Hoffius. RE: Endowment Grant	Box 1
Correspondence. Office of City Attorney & Office of City Planning, RE: The Calder / La Grande Vitesse, February 1968. <u>Physical Description:</u> 6 items <u>Immediate Source of Acquisition:</u> <b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b> 2004.070	Box 2
Proposed Agreement between the city and Alexander Calder concerning The Calder / La Grande Vitesse, 1968-02-29. <u>Immediate Source of Acquisition:</u> <b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b> 2004.070	Box 2
Relinquishing Copyright of Calder Stabile / La Grande Vitesse, 1969-06-24 <u>Immediate Source of Acquisition:</u> <b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b> 2004.070	Box 2
Correspondence. Rough Draft of Proposed Letter for Application for a Sculpture Grant, May 1967. <u>Physical Description:</u> 5 items <u>Immediate Source of Acquisition:</u>	Box 2

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2004.070

Agenda, 1968-04-09

Box 2

**General**

It is unclear what body this agenda is for, but item includes names and hand written notes

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2004.070

Agenda, 1968-03-06

Box 2

**General**

It is unclear what body this agenda is for, but item includes names and hand written notes

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2004.070

Drafts of Agreement with Alexander Calder, 1968

Box 2

Physical Description: 2 items

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2004.070

Partially Processed Correspondence

Box 1

**Subseries C. Newspaper Clippings & Ephemera.**

Title/Description	Instances
"Cycling 'round the Calder" 4 copies of misc. article, source unknown.	Box 1
"Grand Rapids Accepts Calder Stable." New York Times, June 16, 1969. (4 original clippings) Hoffius was evidently sending copies of these to various people, per correspondence above.	Box 1
A Blend of Grace, Irreverence. Source Unknown (3 photocopies)	Box 1
Calder's Legacy to the City that of Warm Human Being / Bernice Mancewicz. Fri., Nov. 12, 1976. GRP	Box 3 Folder 1
Alexander Calder Dies; Left City a legacy of Art. GRP, Nov. 11, 1976.	Box 3 Folder 1

La Grande Vitesse Invites You. Pen Club party, Oct. 4, 1969. Box 1  
 In shape of sculpture. Has tape on it, and not in such good  
 condition as Mulnix.

### Subseries D. Photographs.

Title/Description	Instances
Picasso.	Box 1

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### Series III. Calder Lithograph

Title/Description	Instances
Calder Lithograph Doubles in Value / Bernice Mancewicz. Section H. Jan. 10, 1974. Newspaper Clippings GRP	Box 3 Folder 1
Calder Lithograph Controversy, 1968	Box 1

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### Series IV. Other Projects & Files

#### Gerald Ford

Title/Description	Instances
Celebration on the Grand : a Great Week for Grand Rapids, 1981. <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 Copies	Box 3 Folder 4
Photo greeting cards, some with original envelopes (3 + 2)	Box 1

#### Airport

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence. Letter, May 25, 1960, to Stuart Hoffius from Thomas E. Walsh.	Box 1

#### Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Camera Shop photo. Kent County, Airport on Madison Avenue, just before new airport opened, Nov. 1963. Aerial view. Airport	Box 1
Team Photo. Central High School Football Team, 1929.	Box 3 Folder 2

#### Misc.

Title/Description	Instances
Ottawa Hills, Indian Village Section. Blueline print. Includes lot numbers.	Box 1
"New Dimensions." Fountain Street Church sermon given by Duncan E. Littlefair, 1969-01-19	Box 4
"The Art of Entertaining." Penninsular Club Directory, 1939	Box 4
Budget for 1942	Box 4
Grand Rapids Public Recreation Board. Annual Report & Calendar, 1961.	Box 4
Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report, 1960.	Box 4
City of Grand Rapids: Under Commission Manager Government. Review 1924-1925.	Box 4
Remarks by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the Dedication of "the Calder," 1969-06-14.	Box 2

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2004.070

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