

**Roland Diggle Collection**  
**MS 50**  
**1908-1954**

Finding aid prepared by Bynum Petty  
May 6, 2016

Organ Historical Society Library and Archives

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION

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<b>Repository</b>	Organ Historical Society Library and Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Diggle, Roland, 1885-1954
<b>Creator</b>	Diggle, Mary, 1891-1970
<b>Title</b>	Roland Diggle Collection
<b>Date</b>	1908-1954
<b>Extent</b>	2 linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The collection consists of photos, scrapbook, recital programs, church service programs, and compositions that document Roland Diggle's life and career as a church musician and performing artist.

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<b>Provenance</b>	The collection of Diggle's music and papers was donated to the Organ Historical Society Library and Archives by Stephen Bertucci, Diggle's grandson, on April 21, 2016.
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## **BIOGRAPHY**

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Roland H. Diggle (1885-1954) was born in London on January 1, 1885. He was educated at the Royal College of Music, London. His organ teachers were William Stevenson Hoyte and Warwick Jordon. He studied theory with Frank Bridge and J.F. Shaw. He immigrated to the United States in 1904, and became a citizen in 1912. He served as organist-choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church, Wichita, Kansas, 1906, after which he went to St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Quincy, Illinois, 1910. He married Mary Webster in 1908, and received his Mus.Doc. in 1914 from the Grand Conservatory of Music, New York City. For the degree, Diggle composed *Fairy Suite for Orchestra* on a theme submitted by the faculty. That same year he was appointed organist-choirmaster of St. John's Episcopal Church, Los Angeles, a position that he held for forty years. He was a prolific composer with more than five hundred works bearing his name. While at St. John's, Los Angeles, he supervised the purchase and installation of Skinner Organ Co., Opus 446 (1923). In 1926, Skinner enlarged the organ under the guidance of Diggle. Roland Diggle died on January 13, 1954. Honorary pallbearers were Richard Keys Biggs, William Ripley Dorr, William A. Goldsworthy, Edward Gowan, Clarence Mader, and Stanley Williams.

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## **ARRANGEMENT**

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The collection is arranged into the following series. Series 1: Photos. Series 2: Programs. Series 3: Journals. Series 4: Printed material. Series 5: Miscellaneous. Series 6: James R. Page collection. Series 7: Unpublished works. Series 8: Works by others. Series 9: Published works for organ. Series 10: Published works for piano. Series 11: Scrapbook.

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## CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

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### Genre(s)

- Clippings
- Photographs
- Programs
- Scrapbooks

### Personal Name(s)

- Bertucci, Dorothy Mae Diggle, 1923-1983
- Bertucci, Stephen, b. 1948
- Diggle, Mary Webster, 1891-1970
- Diggle, Roland H., 1885-1954

### Subject(s)

- Church musicians—United States
- Composers
- Organ (Musical instrument)—Instruction and study
- Organ (Musical instrument)—United States
- Organists
- St. John's Cathedral (Quincy, Illinois)
- St. John's Church (Los Angeles)
- St. John's Church (Wichita, Kansas)

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## COLLECTION INVENTORY

<b>Series 1: Photos</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Roland Diggle, c. 1914.	1	1
St. John's Church, Los Angeles, c. 1926.	1	1
<b>Series 2: Programs</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Programs of church services at St. John's, Los Angeles, 1925-1951.	1	2
<b>Series 3: Journals</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<i>The American Organist</i> 21, no. 7 (July 1938). Contains a review written by Diggle.	1	3
<i>The American Organist</i> 37, no. 2 (February 1954). Contains an obituary of Diggle.	1	3
<b>Series 4: Printed Material</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
List of Diggle's compositions, c. 1955.	1	4
<b>Series 5: Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
ASCAP documents, including membership certificate and renewal agreements. Letter from Stephen Bertucci to Bynum Petty, OHS Archivist.	1	5
<b>Series 6: James R. Page Collection</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<i>Book of Common Prayer</i> publications, 1953-1955.	1	6

Series 7: Unpublished Works	Box	Folder
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<i>Fairy Suite for Orchestra</i> , c. 1914.	2	
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<i>Twelve Progressive Organ Lessons for Students and Amateurs</i> , c. 1948.	2	
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Series 8: Works by Others	Box	Folder
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Arthur Sullivan, <i>The Lost Chord</i> , arr. for piano by W.	3	
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Kuhe. London: Boosey & Co., n.d. Signed by Sullivan in lower right hand corner of title page. The upper right hand corner of the title page bears the imprint, "Charles E. Diggle." Slightly below is the imprint, "Roland Diggle, organist & composer."

Series 9: Published Works for Organ	Box	Folder
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<i>An Irish Legend</i> . New York: Edward Schuberth & Co., 1945.	4	
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<i>At the Altar Rail</i> . New York: Edward Schuberth & Co., 1952.		
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<i>At the Monastery Gate</i> . Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1931.		
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<i>Caprice Poétique</i> . New York: J. Fischer & Bro., 1928.		
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<i>Chant Elegaic</i> . New York: Edward Schuberth & Co., 1952.		
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<i>Chorale Fantasia</i> . Boston: White-Smith Music Publishing Co., 1932.		
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<i>Elegaic Poem</i> . New York: Sprague-Coleman, Inc., 1944.		
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<i>Fugal Fantasy</i> . New York: G. Schirmer, Inc., 1946.		
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<i>Hommage à Franck</i> . New York: Leeds Music Corp., 1947.		
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<i>Madrigal</i> . New York: Edward Schuberth & Co., 1951.		
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*Marche Militaire*. Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1914.

*Passacaglia and Fugue in D-Minor*. New York: White-Smith Publishing Co., 1933.

*Piece Heroique*. Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1912.

*Proclamation*. Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1912.

*Reverie Triste*. Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., 1917.

*Rustic Scherzo*. New York: Edward Schuberth & Co., 1950.

*Scherzo and Fugue*. New York: M. Witmark & Sons, 1947.

*Sonata Gothique*. Chicago: Clayton F. Summy Co., 1940.

*Song of Sunshine*. Boston: Oliver Ditson & Co., 1920.

*Toccata Pomposa*. New York: Galaxy Music Corp., 1940.

*Triumph Song*. Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1914.

Organ Works in Collections:

“Nocturne,” in David McK. Williams, *The Modern Anthology*. New York: H.W. Gray Co., 1949.

“Toccata Jubilant,” in Robert Elmore, *Eighteen Compositions for the Organ*. Bryn Mawr: Oliver Ditson Co., 1942.

Series 10: Published Works for Piano	Box	Folder
<i>Barcarole</i> . Boston: C.W. Thompson & Co., 1914.	5	
<i>By the Sea</i> . Los Angeles: R.W. Heffelfinger, 1915.		
<i>Dawn</i> . Los Angeles: R.W. Heffelfinger, 1915.		
<i>In the Moonlight</i> . Los Angeles: R.W. Heffelfinger, 1915.		
<i>Mazurka Pathetique</i> . Boston: C.W. Thompson & Co., 1915.		

Series 11: Scrapbook	Box	Folder
A large collection of recital programs by Diggle and others, newspaper and journal clippings, and photos, 1908-1943.	6	

