



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

AUDITOR Land Department

An Inventory of Its Correspondence With the Hibbing Office

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. State Auditor. Land Department.
- Series Title:** Correspondence with the Hibbing Office.
- Dates:** 1912-1934.
- Abstract:** Correspondence regarding the operation and output of iron mines on state trust fund lands, oversight of these mines, general management of the state's mineral lands, and administration of the Hibbing office.
- Quantity:** 3.0 cu. ft. (21 v. in 3 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Correspondence, largely of the state auditor or deputy auditor with Frank A. Wildes, chief inspector (later superintendent) of mines and his deputies, headquartered at Hibbing; some is with mining companies, leaseholders, and other interested parties. All has been bound into volumes.

It concerns the development, operation, and output of iron mines and occasionally other extractive activities on state lands; Wildes' oversight and inspection of these mines; general management of and income from the state's mineral lands and mining leases; and the administration, personnel, and expenses of the Hibbing office.

Early volumes include Wildes' detailed reports of his inspections of mines and mining properties. After about 1919-1920, these dwindle in number and detail, more of the correspondence is with the Hibbing office deputies and agents rather than with Wildes himself, and it pertains more to general leasing matters, logistics of the office's management, and transmittal of income and expenditures.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE RECORDS

The volumes are numbered in a generally chronological sequence, although there are several aberrations.

OTHER FINDING AIDS

Most of the volumes include indexes that list the other correspondents.

RELATED MATERIALS

The companion series for post-1920 is Letters Sent, Superintendent of Mines (cataloged separately). The probable predecessor series is Reports of Inspectors of State Mines and Mineral Lands, 1904-1914 (cataloged separately).

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Mines and mineral resources--Minnesota.
- Iron mines and mining--Minnesota.
- Mineral lands--Minnesota.
- Mine inspection--Minnesota.
- Mining leases--Minnesota.
- Mining corporations--Minnesota.
- Immigration--Minnesota.
- Agricultural exhibitions--Minnesota.
- Trust fund lands--Minnesota.

Places:

- Hibbing (Minn.).

Persons:

- Wildes, Frank A.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page here]. Minnesota State Auditor: Land Department.
Correspondence with the Hibbing Office. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: The list that follows records the spine title or cover title of each volume (whichever appeared to be more accurate), with notations on content given only where it differs appreciably from the content of the series as a whole. Volume numbers are those recorded on the labels.

To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
111. B.20.9B	1	Volume 1. Hibbing Mines Reports and Correspondence, August 1914 – May 1915. Volume 2. “Hibbing Mines Reports and Corres., 1915.” Actually contains miscellaneous auditor’s correspondence, 1912-1916, largely regarding advertisement of state lands and the promotion of immigration to Minnesota. Appears to be bound alphabetically by name of correspondent. Includes some maps, brochures, and clippings. Volume 3. Hibbing Mines Reports and Correspondence: Squatters Letters, 1915-1918. The auditor’s correspondence with Lisle E. Moody and A. E. Allen, squatter agents, regarding the leasing of state lands for occupation and use by mining companies and their employees, and occasionally by other parties. They acted as agents for the auditor’s office in negotiating and managing these leases. Post-1918 correspondence is bound in with the general letters. Volume 4. State Mines Reports and Correspondence of F. A. Wildes, January-September, 1916. Volume 5. Hibbing Mine Reports and Correspondence, October 1916 – October 1917. Volume 6. Hibbing Mine Reports and Correspondence, August 1917, October 1917 – July 1918.

Location	Box	
111.B.20.10F	2	<p>Volume 7. Hibbing Mines Reports and Correspondence, August 1918 – May 1919.</p> <p>Volume [8]. Mining Dept. Hibbing and St. Paul Special Correspondence, 1918-1922. Correspondence regarding general aspects of the administration, personnel, and budget of the Hibbing office; management and leasing of state lands; iron mining and activities of mining companies; and miscellaneous matters. No inspection or mine reports. Content is similar to that of other post-1920 volumes.</p> <p>Volume 9. Hibbing Mine Reports and Correspondence, April 1919 – March 1920.</p> <p>Volume 10. Mineral Department Letters, November 1929 – December 1931. General administration of state lands, mining activities, and the Hibbing office. Largely carbon copies of letters between the state auditor and the Hibbing office personnel; few originals to or from either office.</p> <p>Volume 11. Hibbing Mine Reports and Correspondence, March-December 1920.</p> <p>Volume 12. Hibbing Office Mining Department, 1922.</p> <p>Volume 13. Hibbing Mine Letters, 1923.</p>
111.B.20.11B	3	<p>Volume 14. Hibbing Mine Office Correspondence, 1924.</p> <p>Volume 15. Letters from F. A. Wildes, 1921. With auditor's office replies (carbon copies). Also labeled "Dept. of Mines Statistical Letters," but the correspondence is of the same general nature as that in other volumes.</p> <p>Volume 16. Hibbing Office Letters, 1925-1926.</p> <p>Volume 17. Correspondence Relating to State Mining Exhibits, State Fairs, Mining Congresses, Development Associations, County Fairs, and Other Exhibits, 1925-1927. Auditor's office correspondence regarding exhibits of Minnesota's natural resources and agricultural and industrial products in general, as well as Wildes' correspondence regarding the products of extractive industries.</p>

Location	Box	
111.B.20.11B	3	<p>Volume 18. Dept. of Mines Statistics, etc., 1924 [i.e., 1914-1928]. Statistics and narratives regarding iron ore production, state mines and mineral lands in general, and mineral leases. Includes several duplicates. Many of the narratives were prepared for press and publicity purposes. [Spine label is "Hibbing Mine Letters ... 1925"; this is erroneous.]</p> <p>Volume 19. Hibbing Office and Other Correspondence, January 1927 – July 1928.</p> <p>Volume 20. Hibbing Mine Letters, 1932 [-March 1934].</p> <p>Unnumbered. Hibbing Office and Other Correspondence, July 1928 – November 1929.</p>