Findind Aid to the Wm. (William) McDevitt Papers, 1892-1959

Processed by Stephen Sturgeon; additions by Alison E. Bridger
The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu
© 2007
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Note
History --History, California --History, Bay Area
Finding Aid to the Wm. (William) McDevitt Papers, 1892-1959

Collection number: BANC MSS 89/86 c

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:
The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu

Processed by:
Stephen Sturgeon; additions by Alison E. Bridger
Date Completed:
1990; additions 2007
Encoded by:
Xiuzhi Zhou

© 2007 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Summary
Collection Title: Wm. (William) McDevitt Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1892-1959
Collection Number: BANC MSS 89/86 c
Creator: McDevitt, Wm. (William)
Extent: Number of containers: 4 boxes, 1 carton, 1 oversize folder
Linear feet: 2.65
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Abstract: Contains personal and business correspondence (ca. 1892-1959); manuscripts of writings; business records; clippings; some printed pamphlets, many authored by McDevitt; printed ephemera (theatrical, World War II, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, Socialist Party); other material relating to his wide ranging interests. Principal or significant correspondents include: Joseph Henry Jackson, Charmain London, H. L. Mencken, William Meredith, Tom Mooney, Veronica Sexton, Upton Sinclair, John B. (Father) Tabb, and Virginia Wilhelmson. Also includes various ephemera principally of local interest to the San Francisco Bay Area.
Languages Represented: English
Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library’s online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 94270-6000. Consent is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission from the copyright owner. Such permission must be obtained from the copyright owner. See: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/reference/permissions.html.

Restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Wm. (William) McDevitt Papers, BANC MSS 89/86 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Some printed materials have been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library.
Photographs have been transferred to the Pictorial Collection of The Bancroft Library. (BANC PIC 1989.043--PIC)

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
McDevitt, Wm. (William)—Archives
London, Charmian
Jackson, Joseph Henry, 1894-1955
Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956
Meredith, William John
Mooney, Thomas J., 1882-1942
Sexton, Veronica J.
Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968
Tabb, John B. (John Banister), 1845-1909
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, (1915: San Francisco, Calif.)
San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Acquisition Information
The Wm. (William) McDevitt Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by the California Academy of Sciences, to which they were bequeathed by Veronica J. Sexton, on August 3, 1989. Additions were made in 2005.

Biographical Information
Socialist, bookseller, author. Principal areas of interest included: McDevitt's simplified spelling and shorthand systems; the antiquarian book trade; socialism and the Socialist Party in San Francisco; contemporary literary figures including Jack London, Upton Sinclair, Father Tabb, and George Sterling. For additional biographical information see: Roos, Robert de, "An interview with William McDevitt, LL.M." (The Book Club of California Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. XIX, No. 4, Fall 1954.)

Scope and Content of Collection
The William McDevitt Papers contain business and personal correspondence, manuscripts of writings, business records, and clippings, along with some printed pamphlets, many of which were authored by McDevitt, and other material relating to McDevitt's wide ranging interests. These included his simplified spelling and shorthand systems, the antiquarian book business, socialism and the Socialist Party in San Francisco, and contemporary literary figures, in particular Jack London, Upton Sinclair, Father Tabb, and George Sterling.

The collection also contains various ephemera, principally of local interest to the Bay Area, and other miscellaneous material collected by McDevitt.


SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1892-1959, undated
INCOMING, 1892-1958

Box 1, folder 1  Unidentified
Box 1, folder 2  A miscellaneous
Box 1, folder 3  B - Blanck
Box 1, folder 4  Boom - C
Box 1, folder 5  C - Cle.
Box 1, folder 6  Clo. - D
Box 1, folder 7  D miscellaneous
Box 1, folder 8  E miscellaneous
Box 1, folder 9  F miscellaneous
Father Tabb
see: Tabb, John B. (John Banister), 1845-1909
Box 1, folder 10  G miscellaneous
Box 1, folder 11  H - Her.
Box 1, folder 12  Hes. - J
Box 1, folder 13  J miscellaneous
Box 1, folder 14  Jackson, Joseph Henry, 1894-1955 1939-1947
Box 1, folder 15  K miscellaneous
Box 1, folder 16  L - Lewis
Box 1, folder 17  Li. - Lo
Box 1, folder 18  London, Charmian,
see also: Carton 1, folder 1 1928-1931
Box 1, folder 19  M - Mars
Box 1, folder 20  Martin, Helen 1946-1958
Box 1, folder 21  Marv - McReynolds
Box 1, folder 22  Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956 1928-1955
Box 1, folder 23  Meredith, William John 1905-1931
Box 1, folder 24  Mighels - Mo
Box 1, folder 25  Mooney, Thomas J., 1882-1942 1937
Box 2, folder 1  N - O miscellaneous
Box 2, folder 2  P miscellaneous
Box 2, folder 3  R miscellaneous
Box 2, folder 4  S - Sexton, Jane
Box 2, folder 5  Sexton, Veronica J., 1946-1951
Box 2, folder 6  Sha. - Si
Box 2, folder 7  Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968 1910-1958
Box 2, folder 8  Tabb, John B. (John Banister), 1845-1909 1892-1905
  Additional Note
  Letters signed Father Tabb
Box 2, folder 9  T - V miscellaneous
Box 2, folder 10  W - Z miscellaneous
Box 2, folder 11  Wilhelmson, Virginia 1905, undated

OUTGOING, 1908-1959, undated

Personal
Box 2, folder 12  Undated
Box 2, folder 13  1908 -1940
Box 2, folder 14  1940 -1948
Box 2, folder 15  Jan. -Sept. 1948
Box 2, folder 16  Oct. -Dec. 1948
Box 2, folder 17  1949
Box 2, folder 18  1950 -1953
Box 2, folder 19  1954 -1956
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, folder 20</th>
<th>1957 -1959</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, folder 1-10</td>
<td>A - L miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, folder 11</td>
<td>Lilly, J. K. 1932-1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: - 9 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, folder 12-18</td>
<td>M - Z miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SERIES 2: SUBJECT FILES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1, folder 1-4</th>
<th>Jack London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Note</td>
<td>Includes correspondence to R. W. Francis from Charmian (Mrs. Jack) London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 5-8</td>
<td>Upton Sinclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 9-13</td>
<td>John B. Tabb (Father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 14</td>
<td>George Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 15-21</td>
<td>Socialist/Political Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 22-32</td>
<td>Manuscripts/Clippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 33-40</td>
<td>Personal Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 41-44</td>
<td>Simplified Spelling/Shorthand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SERIES 3: MISCELLANEOUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, folder 1</th>
<th>Items from unidentified people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 2</td>
<td>Cards and announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 3</td>
<td>Commemorative medal and button</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 4</td>
<td>Photocopies of letters by Ambrose Bierce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 5</td>
<td>World War II ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 6</td>
<td>Business cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 7</td>
<td>Writings of other people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 8</td>
<td>Theatrical ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 9</td>
<td>Invitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 10</td>
<td>Panama-Pacific International Exposition ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 11</td>
<td>Stamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 12</td>
<td>Bookstore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 13</td>
<td>Carbon copy of M.A. thesis by Ralph Shaffer, <em>A History of the Socialist Party in California</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 14</td>
<td>Copy of manuscript by Ina Heron, <em>Wild Geese in the Bronx</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 15</td>
<td>Local printed ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 16</td>
<td>Lecture and demonstration invitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, folder 17</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1</td>
<td>Certificate of appointment to San Francisco Board of Election Commissioners, January 8, 1920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>