
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

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Note

History --History, California --History, Bay Area

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Collection number: BANC MSS 89/86 c

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Date Completed:

1990; additions 2007

Encoded by:

Xiuzhi Zhou

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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.

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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.

Principal correspondents in the collection include Joseph Henry Jackson, Charmian London, H. L. Mencken, William J. Meredith, Tom (Thomas J.) Mooney, Veronica Sexton, Upton Sinclair, John B. (Father) Tabb, and Virginia Wilhelmson.

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

Box 2, folder 20

1957 -1959

Business

Box 3, folder 1-10

A - L miscellaneous

Box 3, folder 11

Lilly, J. K. 1932-1933

Physical Description: - 9 items

Box 3,

M - Z miscellaneous

folder 12-18

SERIES 2: SUBJECT FILES

Carton 1,

Jack London

folder 1-4

Additional Note

Includes correspondence to R. W. Francis from Charmian (Mrs. Jack) London

Carton 1,

Upton Sinclair

folder 5-8

Carton 1,

John B. Tabb (Father)

folder 9-13

Carton 1,

George Sterling

folder 14

Carton 1,

Socialist/Political Material

folder 15-21

Carton 1,

Manuscripts/Clippings

folder 22-32

Carton 1,

Personal Papers

folder 33-40

Carton 1,

Simplified Spelling/Shorthand

folder 41-44

SERIES 3: MISCELLANEOUS

Box 4, folder 1

Items from unidentified people

Box 4, folder 2

Cards and announcements

Box 4, folder 3

Commemorative medal and button

Box 4, folder 4

Photocopies of letters by Ambrose Bierce

Box 4, folder 5

World War II ephemera

Box 4, folder 6

Business cards

Box 4, folder 7

Writings of other people

Box 4, folder 8

Theatrical ephemera

Box 4, folder 9

Invitations

Box 4, folder 10

Panama-Pacific International Exposition ephemera

Box 4, folder 11

Stamps

Box 4, folder 12

Bookstore

Box 4, folder 13

Carbon copy of M.A. thesis by Ralph Shaffer, *A History of the Socialist Party in California*

Box 4, folder 14

Copy of manuscript by Ina Heron, *Wild Geese in the Bronx*

Box 4, folder 15

Local printed ephemera

Box 4, folder 16

Lecture and demonstration invitations

Box 4, folder 17

Ephemera

Oversize folder 1

Certificate of appointment to San Francisco Board of Election Commissioners, January 8, 1920

A