Title: Louis Victor Eytinge Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS.595
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.4 Linear feet4 folders
Date (inclusive): 1915-1917
Abstract: Louis Victor Eytinge (1878-1938) became a lucrative business man while serving a life sentence in the Arizona state prison. He was the son of Ida Seebohm, a music teacher from Dayton, Ohio and Harry Eytinge. From 1907-1937, Louis Eytinge was in and out of prison for forgery and fraud. This collection consists of published material and correspondence about or by Eytinge. Most of the material was created from 1915 to 1917, although some items are undated.

creator: De Ford, Miriam Allen, 1888-1975
creator: Eytinge, Louis Victor, 1878-1938

Biographical/Historical note
Louis Victor Eytinge (1878-1938) became a lucrative business man while serving a life sentence in the Arizona state prison. He was the son of Ida Seebohm, a music teacher from Dayton, Ohio and Harry Eytinge. Louis Eytinge spent most of his life in and out of prison for forgery and fraud. In 1907, Eytinge was also convicted and sentenced for a murder that some experts claimed was impossible for Eytinge to commit.

Sometime before 1907, Eytinge was an inmate in the Ohio Penitentiary where he contracted tuberculosis. He was sentenced there for forgery and was released on 1907 March 1.

En route to Arizona, Eytinge met and befriended John Laitch, a barber from Cheboygan, Wisconsin, who was also headed West for a healthier climate. On 1907 March 17, Eytinge rented a buggy and the two men travelled to the desert for a picnic. Eytinge returned alone from the outing. Laitch’s body was found a week later and Eytinge was accused of murder.

While in the Arizona Penitentiary, Eytinge recovered from tuberculosis and set up a successful mail order business for goods produced by convict labor. Eytinge promoted this merchandise by writing and distributing sales letters. Sales letter writing became Eytinge’s second business endeavor that earned him over $5000 a year.

During Eytinge’s incarceration, he also wrote articles for the Saturday Evening Post, edited issues of Postage: The Magazine of Direct Mail Advertising, wrote the screenplay Man Under Cover, and authored books on business and Arizona’s criminal problems.

Eytinge eventually appealed his case and was released in 1923 January 1. In 1927 Eytinge was in jail again for forgery. He was released a short while later but ended up back in prison for swindling by 1933 December 30. He was released in 1937. Eytinge died 1938 December 17.


Scope and Contents note
This collection consist of published articles about Louis Victor Eytinge, correspondence from Eytinge to Joseph Amasa Munk, a booklet written by Eytinge titled Collecting the Coin, and two copies of the Postage: The Magazine of Direct Mail Advertising. Most of the material was created or published 1915-1917, although some items are undated.

Access
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org. An item-level inventory is available from library staff.

Preferred citation
Louis Victor Eytinge Collection, 1915-1917, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.595; [folder number] [folder title][date].

Use
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**Acquisition**
Donated to the Library by Joseph Amasa Munk, between 1917 and 1927.

**Processing history**

**Related Archival Materials note**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Advertising
Arizona -- History
Articles
*Collecting the Coin*
Correspondence
Forgery
Fraud
*Postage (Magazine)*
Prisoners

**Folder 1**
*Article about Eytinge 1915-1917*

**Folder 2**
*Letters and articles regarding Eytinge's innocence circa 1917*

Scope and contents
Folder also includes letter from Eytinge to Joseph Amasa Munk, 1917 August 13. Eytinge is replying to Munk's request for copies of Eytinge's books *Collecting the Coin* and *Writing Business Letters*.

**Folder 3**
*Collecting the Coin 1915*

Scope and contents
Publication by Eytinge about writing debt collection letters.

**Folder 4**
*Postage: The Magazine of Direct Mail Advertising issues*

Scope and contents
Folder consists of volume 3, number 6, 1917 June and volume 4, number 1, 1917 July. Both magazine issues edited by Eytinge.