Elza Ivan Edwards Papers: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Elza Ivan Edwards Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1948-1997

Bulk dates: 1966-1980

Collection Number: mssHM 65769-65811


Extent: 53 items in 1 box

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Abstract: This small collection contains correspondence and some ephemera of Elza Ivan “Eddie” Edwards (1897-1984), who authored several books on the history of Death Valley, California. The letters primarily date from the late 1960s to 1980 and are chiefly personal in nature though some discuss history-related activities.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation


Provenance


Biographical Note

Elza Ivan “Eddie” Edwards (1897-1984) was born in Idaho in 1897. Later he moved to California where he opened an accounting advisory service for medical offices. Edwards’ hobby was Death Valley history and he was the author of several books including The Valley Whose Name is Death, Desert Voices: A Descriptive Bibliography, and The Enduring Desert. He was an active member of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners and served as Sheriff in 1966. In 1964, he and his wife, Beryl, retired and moved to Yucca Valley, California. Edwards died in 1984.

Scope and Content

The majority of the 43 pieces of correspondence are written by Elza Ivan Edwards and are personal in nature; however, several of the letters discuss in detail the activities and publications of the Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners and the Death Valley ‘49ers. The letters also discuss Edwards’ various books on Death Valley as well as the publications of George Koenig, Anthony Kroll, and Earl F. Nation (fellow Westerners and the addressees of Edwards’ letters). One letter by Edwards recounts a hiking trip in Nevada and provides a good description of the area around Dayton, Nevada, as well as the ghost towns Delamar and Genoa. The ten pieces of ephemera include biographical information about Edwards and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

Correspondence arranged alphabetically by author, followed by ephemera.

Indexing: Subjects

Death Valley ‘49ers

- Elza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1976, Aug. 20) to Anthony Kroll. HM 65783.
- Elza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1977, Jan. 29) to Anthony Kroll. HM 65784.

Nevada - Description and travel
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1966, Aug. 31) to George Koenig. HM 65774.
Westerners. Los Angeles Corral
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1964, Oct. 28) to George Koenig. HM 65773.
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1966, May 14) to Earl F. Nation, 1910-. HM 65788.
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1966, June 12) to Earl F. Nation, 1910-. HM 65790.
• Verett Gordon Hager letter (1966, May 26) to Earl F. Nation, 1910-. HM 65808.
Westerners. San Bernardino Corral
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1976, Feb. 22) to Anthony Kroll. HM 65782.
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1975, July 22) to Earl F. Nation, 1910-. HM 65798.
• Iza Ivan Edwards, 1897-, letter (1975, July

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Death Valley '49ers.
Westerners. Los Angeles Corral.
Westerners. San Bernardino Corral.
Authors, American -- 20th century -- Archives.
Deserts -- Anecdotes.
Deserts -- United States.
Ghost towns -- Nevada.
California -- Description and travel.
Death Valley (Calif. and Nev.) -- Description and travel.
Nevada -- Description and travel.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.

Additional Contributors
Koenig, George, correspondent.
Kroll, Anthony, correspondent.
Nation, Earl F., 1910-., correspondent.

Box 1 Correspondence and Ephemera

Algar, James, 1912-. 1 letter (1966, June 10) to Earl F. Nation, 1910-. HM 65769
Clark, Arthur H. (Arthur Henry), 1912-. 1 letter (1966, May 31) to Earl F. Nation, 1910-. HM 65770
Includes two copies of the Westerners Los Angeles Corral Meeting Announcement, 1966, June.

Edwards, Beryl. 1 letter (1975, Aug. 28) to Evelyn Nation. HM 65771
Edwards, Elza Ivan, 1897-. 1 letter (1971, Nov. 24) to “Dear Friends Dr. Milton and Mary.” HM 65772

Edwards, Elza Ivan, 1897-. 1 letter (1964, Oct. 28) to George Koenig. HM 65773
Edwards, Elza Ivan, 1897-. 1 letter (1966, Aug. 31) to George Koenig. HM 65774
Edwards, Elza Ivan, 1897-. 1 letter (1980, May 29) to George Koenig. HM 65775
Edwards, Elza Ivan, 1897-. 1 letter (1980, Sep. 30) to George Koenig. HM 65776
Edwards, Elza Ivan, 1897-. 1 letter (1981, Sep. 17) to George Koenig. HM 65777
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