Henry A. Nordahl Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Eric Steiger, July 8, 2009.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
Email: reference@huntington.org
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Henry A. Nordahl Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1904-1918, 1948

Collection Number: mssHM 71650-71681

Creator: Nordahl, Henry A.

Extent: 57 items in 2 boxes + wooden box

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Abstract: This collection includes college diaries and three annotated college handbooks from University of Southern California students Henry A. Nordahl (1884-1975) and Ruth Iliff Nordahl (1888-1971), as well as correspondence from their courtship and from friends and relatives during their time overseas.

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
[Identification of item]. Henry A. Nordahl Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Biographical Note
Henry A. Nordahl (1884-1975), born in Nebraska on April 6, 1884, was a student and track athlete at the University of Southern California in the first decade of the twentieth century. He and Ruth Margaret Iliff (1888-1971) were married in 1911 or 1912. Ruth filed her Master’s thesis at USC in May 1912, after which the couple traveled to Bolivia to do missionary work for the Methodist Episcopal missionary agency. They eventually settled in the Los Angeles area, where Henry worked as a high school Spanish teacher and Ruth remained involved in church-related activities.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of diaries from the Nordahls’ college years, correspondence from their courtship, and correspondence from friends and relatives during their time overseas. There are three university student handbooks - one from the University of California and two from USC. Each of these includes handwritten notes as well as printed rules and expectations for incoming and continuing students. There is also a Boy Scout Diary from 1918, which includes a printed scouting handbook and handwritten notes. Ephemera materials include an Epworth League University M.E. Church program from January-June, 1909, a 1910 Underscored Edition Gospel of John, a 1914 USC joint reception booklet, receipts for dues paid to the Modern Woodmen of America, calling cards, and a single receipt dated 1948. Subjects include the Boy Scouts of America, the China Inland Mission, the Pacific Improvement Company, the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the YMCA, the YWCA, and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. In most cases, these subjects are mentioned only briefly in letters or diaries, though Boy Scouts of America, the YMCA, and the YWCA are more thoroughly discussed in the printed sections of the Boy Scout diary and student handbooks.

Arrangement
Arranged in the following order:
- Box 1: Diaries and Handbooks
- Box 2: Handbooks, Correspondence, and Ephemera
- Carved wooden box
Indexing: Subjects

Boy Scouts of America
  • Subject in Boy Scout Diary (1918). HM 71656.

China Inland Mission
  • Subject in Ruth Nordahl letter (1911, July 11) to Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71668.

Pacific Improvement Company
  • Subject in Mercy Webster letter (1912, Apr. 28) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71680.

San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, Calif., 1906
  • Subject in Henry A. Nordahl, Student Handbook, University of California (1905-1906). HM 71652.

Woman’s Christian Temperance Union
  • Subject in Marietta E. Miner letter (1915, Dec. 12) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71662.

Young Men’s Christian Association
  • Subject in Henry A. Nordahl, Student Handbook, University of California (1905-1906). HM 71652.
  • Subject in [Ruth Nordahl], Student Handbook, University of Southern California (1906-1907). HM 71657.
  • Subject in Ruth Nordahl, Student Handbook, University of Southern California (1911-1912). HM 71658.

Young Women’s Christian Association
  • Subject in Henry A. Nordahl, Student Handbook, University of California (1905-1906). HM 71652.
  • Subject in Ruth Nordahl, Student Handbook, University of Southern California (1911-1912). HM 71658.
  • Subject in Mercy Webster letter (1912, Apr. 28) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71680.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects
Nordahl, Henry A.
China Inland Mission.
Methodist Episcopal Church -- California.
Pacific Improvement Company.
Woman’s Christian Temperance Union.
YMCA of the USA.
Young Women’s Christian Association of the U.S.A.
San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, Calif., 1906.
Missionaries -- Bolivia.
California -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
Los Angeles (Calif.)

Forms/Genres
Diaries -- California -- 20th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 20th century.
Manuals (instructional materials) -- California -- 20th century.

Additional Contributors
Nordahl, Ruth.
Boy Scouts of America.
University of Southern California.

Diaries, Handbooks, Correspondence, and Ephemera

Box 1

Diaries and Handbooks
Nordahl, Henry A. Diary (1904). HM 71650
Nordahl, Henry A. Diary (1905). HM 71651
Nordahl, Henry A. Student Handbook, University of California (1905-1906). HM 71652
Nordahl, Henry A. Diary (1906). HM 71653
Nordahl, Henry A. Diary (1907). HM 71654
Nordahl, Henry A. Diary (1908). HM 71655
[Nordahl, Henry A.] Boy Scout Diary (1918). HM 71656

Box 2

Handbooks, Correspondence, and Ephemera

[Nordahl, Ruth.] Student Handbook, University of Southern California (1906-1907). HM 71657
[Nordahl, Ruth.] Student Handbook, University of Southern California (1911-1912). HM 71658
Ford, Lelah and Don Ford. 1 letter (1913, June 19) to Ruth Nordahl and Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71659
Hanson, Ida L. 1 letter (1914, June 9) to Ruth Nordahl and Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71660
McCombs, Eva N. 1 letter (1912, Nov. 10) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71661
Miner, Marietta E. 1 letter (1915, Dec. 12) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71662
Myrick, Margaret “Peggy.” 1 letter (1913, July 12) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71663
Narragansett Machine Co. 1 letter (1913, Sep. 19) to Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71664
Nordahl, Alice and Oscar Nordahl. 1 letter (1914, May 11) to Henry A. Nordahl and Ruth Nordahl. HM 71665
Nordahl, A. W. 1 letter (1913, July 16) to Henry A. Nordahl and Ruth Nordahl. HM 71666
Nordahl, Josie. 1 letter (1914, Aug. 29) to Henry A. Nordahl and Ruth Nordahl. HM 71667
Nordahl, Ruth. 9 letters (1911-1912) to Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71668-71676
Smith, Will. 1 letter (1913, May 21) to Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71677
Tobey, Frances. 1 letter (1917, Mar. 2) to Ruth Nordahl and Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71678
Tobey, Frances and Don Tobey. 1 letter (1914, Mar. 21) to Ruth Nordahl and Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71679
Webster, Mercy. 1 letter (1912, Apr. 28) to Ruth Nordahl. HM 71680
Whitley, J. H. 1 letter (1919, Aug. 29) to Henry A. Nordahl. HM 71681

Carved wooden box
Physical Description: 32 x 11 x 9 cm.