Inventory of the Lute Pease Collection, 1856-1965, bulk 1865-1939

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Lute Pease Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1856-1965,
Date (inclusive): bulk 1865-1939
Creator: Pease, Lute
Extent: 276 pieces
Repository: The Huntington Library
San Marino, California 91108
Language: English.
Provenance
Gift of Mrs. Virginia Hayward, June 1965

Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information please go to following URL.

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Preferred Citation
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Biography
Lucius Curtis Pease (March 27, 1869-August 16, 1963), born in Winnemucca, Nevada and raised by grandparents in Charlotte, Vermont from the age of five after the death of his parents, made his mark on the world in many fields. Reporter, prospector, editor and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, his many careers spanned much of the century and took him from the frontier of territorial Alaska to the editorial rooms of the Newark (N. J.) Evening News. Known by the nickname Lute1, Pease had come back to the West from Vermont after graduating from high school. Although he never fulfilled his aspiration to study art in Paris, his artistic and literary bent found many outlets for expression. Beginning as a reporter and
artist for the Portland Oregonian in the 1890s, he was deeply involved with literature and journalism for the rest of his life. Even during the five years he spent hunting gold and adventure in the Yukon and Alaska, he enlivened the letters and diaries he sent home to relatives with his quick wit and his sketches of people and places. Upon his return from the North, he joined the staff of The Pacific Monthly, a literary magazine in Portland, eventually rising to the post of editor. Before the magazine’s absorption by Sunset Magazine in 1912, Pease’s intelligent and independent editing made it a journal of progressive reform and literary excellence. Following several years at loose ends, he joined the Evening News of Newark, New Jersey, in 1914. For the next forty years, he remained at the paper, capping a distinguished career with the receipt of a Pulitzer Prize in 1949. From his retirement in 1954 until his death in 1963, he devoted himself to fostering his skills as a painter of portraits and landscapes.

The collection consists of letters written by Lute’s parents to each other during their courtship and during his father’s pioneering in Nevada, letters between Lute and various members of his family including his sisters throughout his life, Pease’s diaries during his sojourn in Alaska, literary manuscripts authored by Pease, Charles Warren Stoddard, Charles Erskine Scott Wood, and others, some correspondence about literary magazines in the West, and various biographical materials about the Pease family. At the end of the collection are a number of clippings, printed versions of editorial cartoons, Pease’s scrapbook and other printed items and ephemera.

Footnotes:
1 This nickname is used throughout the collection to distinguish him from his father, with whom he shared first and middle names.

Subject matter
Mining and settlement in 1860s Nevada, prospecting and settlement in the Yukon Territory and Alaska 1897-1901, West Coast literary magazines in the early twentieth century, Pease family history

Hunt, Virginia (Pease) - 17 letters
Hutton, Lydia (Furness) - 12 letters
Pease, Lucius Curtis - 59 letters
Pease, Lute - 19 letters
Pease, Mary Isabel (Hutton) - 13 letters
Pilcher, George M. - 17 letters
Webster, Helen (Hutton) - 7 letters
Wood, Charles Erskine Scott - 7 letters
Wood, Sara Bard (Field) - 6 letters

Five of the C. E. S. Wood letters are photostatic copies of originals housed in the C. E. S. Wood Collection

Items of special interest
Letter from James B. Pond to Lute Pease about Mark Twain’s meeting with Pease, written Sep. 12, 1895 (HM 51785), a diary kept by Lute Pease in Alaska from Apr. 15 through June 24, 1899 (HM 51734), Lute Pease’s letter to Helen (Hutton) Webster and others from Noatak River, Alaska, Dec. 3, 1901, describing life in Alaska and his tasks as a U. S. Commissioner (HM 51759), a 55-page diary-letter to Virginia (Pease) Hunt from Noatak River, Alaska Feb. 28, 1902 (HM 51746), a typewritten manuscript of To the Meadow Lark a poem by C. E. S. Wood with corrections in the author’s hand, Feb. 1907 (HM 51828), In Old Bohemia. II. The ‘Overland’ and the Overlanders, an essay by charles Warren Stoddard about The Overland Monthly (HM 51797), a letter from William Simon U’Ren to Pease, Mar. 9, 1908, commenting upon Oregon politics (HM 51805), a letter from Maynard Dixon to Pease, c. 1913, with an ink sketch on recto (HM 51583), a letter from C. E. S. Wood to Pease, May 17, 1917, commenting upon the moral dimension of the European war (HM 51833), a letter from C. E. S. Wood to Pease, Feb. 22, 1928, describing his Alaska experiences (HM 51835), a letter from the Huntington Library to Pease, Apr. 22, 1936, asking if he would donate copies of one or two published cartoons to a budding collection of political cartoons (HM 51637), and Lute Pease’s notes about Mark Twain, Jack London, and other prominent figures, c. 1947 (HM 51732).

Arrangement
Correspondence and manuscripts are interfiled chronologically in Boxes 1 through 4 while clippings, printed cartoons, sketches and other printed items and ephemera are stored in Boxes 5 and 6 (Lute Pease’s scrapbook is kept in the latter box). Several turn-of-the-century newspapers with Pease drawings are kept in an oversize manila folder.

Eight oversized manuscript cartoons are stored in the Rare Book Department

Over 100 photographs have been transferred to the Photographic Archives.