Guide to the John Powell Irish Papers M0033

Processed by Robert W. Stevenson and Christy Smith; machine-readable finding aid created by Patricia White
Department of Special Collections and University Archives
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Title: John Powell Irish Papers
Creator: Irish, John P. (John Powell)
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Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet(4 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1882-1923
Conditions Governing Access
Open for research. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mrs. Frances I. Hus, Daughter of J.P. Irish, 1928
Biographical Note
John Powell Irish (Colonel), editor, attorney, farmer, law-maker, and official was born in Iowa City, Iowa, January 1, 1843. He was educated in the primitive public schools of the frontier. As a young man, Irish was a school teacher and then was admitted to the bar in Iowa before he entered journalism as a profession. For twenty years he was editor of the Iowa State Press. In Iowa he was three times elected a representative to the state legislature, 1869-1872. He married Annie Fletcher in 1872. In 1880 he moved to California where he later was editor of the Oakland Times and the Alta California.
Politically, Irish was a “Gold” Democrat and he spoke on economic and financial questions, centering on the sound money and the gold standard viewpoints. In California, Irish became concerned with the treatment of people of Japanese descent living in the United States and he wrote, spoke and acted on the behalf of these people for many years. He founded and organized the American Committee on Justice to further this cause.
John P. Irish was appointed naval customs officer of the Port of San Francisco, 1894, and he was thereafter known as “Colonel” Irish. For twenty-five years Irish was a director of the California Blind Directory Home. He died on October 6, 1923, from an accidental fall when attempting to board a moving streetcar in Oakland, California.
Paging
Page from library catalog: https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/4082742
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[Identification of item] John Powell Irish Papers, M033, Dept. of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.
Processing Information
The collection was originally processed by Robert W. Stevenson in 1961; it was reprocessed in 1994 by Christy Smith.
Scope and Contents
The major portion of the Irish Papers is the correspondence of John Powell Irish. Included in the collection are the correspondence received by Irish; (not complete) eight items of a biographical nature written by Irish about members of his family and close friends; several legal papers; a scrapbook of editorials; and a book of Irish’s speeches, addresses and briefs. In addition, there are articles written by Irish on subjects with which he was closely associated at one time or another during his life.
Of primary interest in the collection are the articles and correspondence written on political subjects such as the Japanese in California, free coinage, woman suffrage and prohibition.
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**Correspondence: Outgoing 446219 1889-1922**

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Delta Association vs. The Diversers of the Kings River into the San Joaquin Case,
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Witnesses' Sworn Affidavit to the Whereabouts and Sobriety of John P. Irish on Sept.
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446061 Jan. 12, 1882--Oct. 4, 1896
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446059 Jan. 1, 1897--Feb. 1, 1902
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446057 Feb. 1, 1904--1910
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446055 Aug. 31, 1911--Oct. 15, 1923
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Miscellaneous 446053 undated
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Scrapbook of editorials in newspapers, presumably written by J.P. Irish: 446051
1900-1923

Printed Material 446011

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Bound volume titled "Speeches, Addresses, Arguments and Briefs" by John P. Irish.
Poem: "The Story of a Dinner Plate" 446047
Frontispiece: Photo of J.P. Irish 446045
Brief Biography of J.P. Irish 446043
"Memorial Address on Governor Bartlett", 446041 Feb. 6, 1889
"Gold and Silver: The Case Stated", 446039 April 28, 1893
"Single Standard and Sound Money", 446037 August 15, 1895
"A Speech by J.P. Irish to the National Democratic Convention", 446035 1896
"International Arbitration: United States and Salvador...Opening Statement", 446033 April 1, 1902
"Arbitration between the United States and The Republic of El Salvador...Closing Argument and Summary", 446031 April 19, 1902
"In the Matter of the Arbitration between the Republics of the United States and Salvador: Protocol, Opinion and Award", 446029 May 8, 1902
"Land Leasing", 446027 March 5, 1902

Container Summary: (unbound, but kept loose in the volume)

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Other Printed Matter 446013 1880-1919
The Palimpsest, contains "A Reminiscence", by John P. Irish 446023 April, 1921.
"The Old Time Edition," by John P. Irish, 446021 1914
"Committee Opposing the Anti-Japanese Initiative" pamphlet 446019
"Roosevelt Memorial Exercises", 446017 Feb. 9, 1919,

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"National Woman Suffrage Association", circular. 446015 1880,

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Miscellany 445999 undated

Unidentified letter 446009
Unidentified fragment of a letter 446007
Calling card of Col. John A. Joyce 446005
Copy of the minutes of an unidentified meeting 446003
List of the members of the American Committee of Justice 446001