Finding Aid for the Donald R. Dickey Personal Photo Album ca. 1921-1926

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Donald R. Dickey Personal Photo Album,

Date (inclusive): ca. 1921-1926

Collection number: 301

Creator: Dickey, Donald R. (Donald Ryder), 1887-1932

Extent: 1 boxed photo album, 39 x 28 cm.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library History and Special Collections for the Sciences

Los Angeles, California 90095-1490

Abstract: Leatherette photographic album with 38 leaves, 138 mounted and 2 loose photographs. The photos, taken mostly by Donald R. Dickey, document his and his wife Florence's honeymoon in Maine and New Brunswick, where Dickey was photographing wildlife with stop action film equipment. In addition, about half of the photographs show images of the exterior and interior of the Dickey home and gardens in Pasadena, over the span of some years.

Physical location: History and Special Collections Division, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, University of California, Los Angeles

Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access

Collection is open for research. Contact the History and Special Collections Division, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, University of California, Los Angeles, for information.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Donald R. Dickey personal photo album (Manuscript collection 301). Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library History and Special Collections for the Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

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Acquisition Information


Biography

Donald Ryder Dickey (1887-1932) was an adventurous, pioneer wildlife photographer as well as an ornithologist and mammalogist. He was well known in his time for: his photographs (both still and moving) of birds and mammals; his lectures on wildlife; and eventually, for his substantial specimen collection of birds and mammals. Drawn to outdoor life in his childhood and youth, he considered this nothing more than a hobby until he experienced a serious heart attack in his senior year at Yale and was sentenced to immediate and complete bedrest. Allowed to graduate with his class because of his high academic standing, he returned after graduation to his parents' home in Pasadena for two years of inactivity. He visited a friend's ranch in the Ojai Valley after about a year, and there, from his steamer chair, he began to observe, and after a time to photograph, local birds and their nests. As Dickey became stronger he also became more active, taking longer and longer photographic jaunts and starting to collect small mammals in an amateur way. When he had finally regained full strength, in about 1916, he found that he was "too interested by that time in what started as a hobby, to forego it for a conventional business life." Eventually he determined to establish a research center for vertebrate zoology in Southern California, consisting of a study collection of specimens with photographs and books to support it. In 1926 the California Institute of Technology provided housing for the by-then-sizeable collection and named Dickey "Research Associate in Vertebrate Zoology"; in 1940 the collection was moved to UCLA. The collection covers North and Central America, but focuses mainly on southwestern fauna including the Pacific slopes of Mexico and Central America, with important pictorial records also of the birds of Laysan Island, Hawaii, and the large mammals of New Brunswick, Canada.

In June, 1921, Dickey married Florence Van Vechten Murphy and they had one son, Donald Jr. They built a home in Pasadena, California.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of one photo album, black leatherette, with 138 mounted and two loose black and white photographs. The first half of the album has 61 photographs taken by Donald R. Dickey and his team on his honeymoon in Maine and New Brunswick, showing: the group in the field with stop action film equipment; with a camouflaged camera in a canoe; busy in and around the camp cabin; deer and moose caught in stop action; landscape views; and Mr. and Mrs. Dickey around the camp. The second half of the album contains 79 images of the Dickey home on Rosemont Ave.,
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Pasadena, CA. They show many aspects of the house's exterior, interior views of a number of rooms, and document the gradual development of the beautiful and extensive gardens. Loose within the album was also an advertisement for The Farnham Nelson Co., Roslindale, MA with a photograph titled "A Wild Deer Photographed at Night by Donald R. Dickey".

Related Material

UCLA BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY HISTORY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE SCIENCES. Manuscript Coll. #59: "Donald Ryder Dickey Photographic Collection"

UCLA BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY HISTORY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE SCIENCES. Manuscript Coll. #110: "Donald Ryder Dickey Field Notes"

UCLA BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY HISTORY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE SCIENCES. Manuscript Coll. #213: "Anna Ryder Dickey Collection"

UCLA BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY HISTORY AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE SCIENCES. Manuscript Coll. #?: "Dickey, Donald R. Papers, 1914-1920"

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Dickey, Donald R. (Donald Ryder), 1887-1932
Wildlife photography

Genres and Forms

photograph albums

Box 1

**Personal photo album. ca. 1921-1926**

**Physical Description**: leatherette covers, 39 x 28 cm.

**Scope and Content Note**


**Note**

Pt.1: 59 mounted and 2 loose prints; Pt.2: 79 mounted prints. Sizes range from 3x4" to 8x10". No prints are identified.