Finding aid for the Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police records 0112

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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police records
creator: Wanderwell, Walter
creator: Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police
Identifier/Call Number: 0112
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet1 box
Date (inclusive): 1932
Abstract: Scrapbook, share certificates, and other documents relating to the founding of Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police (WAWEC), by Captain Walter Wanderwell in 1932, to monitor world disarmament and provide educational opportunities overseas.
Storage Unit: 1
Conditions Governing Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE: Advance notice required for access.
Preferred Citation
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Scope and Contents
Scrapbook, share certificates, and other documents relating to the founding of Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police (WAWEC), by Captain Walter Wanderwell in 1932, to monitor world disarmament and provide educational opportunities overseas.
Biographical note
Walter Wanderwell, born Valerian Johannes Pieczynski, was born in Poland in either 1893 or 1897. An international traveler and soldier of fortune, he explored Siberia, the Amazon, and the Sahara, and ended up in the United States, where he changed his name to something Americans could pronounce. He was jailed during World War I by American authorities who suspected him of being a German spy. Often referred to as “Captain”, he never served in any country’s military. In 1918, after being released from prison in Atlanta, he married Nell Miller, a Broadway chorus girl, and the two founded the Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police (WAWEC). WAWEC was founded to ostensibly support the new League of Nations through imposition of law, not war. The FBI branded the organization a private army with potential for subversive activities.
After much around the world adventuring, the Wanderwells ended up in California. They purchased a yacht, which was to be used for a South Seas cruise, but on the night of December 5, 1932, Wanderwell was murdered on board the yacht.
[Source: Michael Newton, The Encyclopedia of Unsolved Crimes, pp. 385-387]
Subjects and Indexing Terms
United States -- History -- Archival resources
Scrapbooks
Ephemera
Disarmament -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police -- Archives
Wanderwell, Walter
Wanderwell, Walter -- Archives
Work Around the World Educational Club for International Police