
Finding Aid for the William Hempstead Porterfield Scrapbooks and Ephemera, 1898-1929

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UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections

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Finding Aid for the William Hempstead Porterfield Scrapbooks and Ephemera, 1898-1929

Collection number: 260

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information

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Encoded by:

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Online finding aid edited by:

Josh Fiala, August 2002

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Descriptive Summary

Title: William Hempstead Porterfield Scrapbooks and Ephemera,

Date (inclusive): 1898-1929

Collection number: 260

Creator: Porterfield, William Hempstead, 1872-1927

Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.) 1 oversize box

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: William H. Porterfield (1872-1927) was a reporter and subscription solicitor for the *San Diego Sun* before purchasing a half interest in the paper. He also founded, purchased, or ran various newspapers throughout California, and wrote a daily column in the *San Diego Sun* from 1919 until his death. The collection consists of four scrapbooks containing biographical items of Mrs. Lottie (Buck) Porterfield's activities as a vocalist, clippings of articles by William H. Porterfield, items by Porterfield from the Mediterranean, clippings from the *San Diego Sun* on his death and a personal scrapbook, An adventure in pyramids.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Additional Physical Form Available

A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William Hempstead Porterfield Scrapbooks and Ephemera (Collection 260). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

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Biography

Porterfield was born on April 26, 1872 in Vinton, Iowa; briefly attended University of South Dakota at Mitchell; moved to San Diego in 1891; married Lottie Buck in 1892; became a reporter and subscription solicitor for the *San Diego Sun*; in 1901 purchased a half interest in the paper; in 1903 he represented the Pacific coast group of Scripps-McRae newspapers as advertising manager; founded the *Sacramento Star* in 1904, and became president of its publicity company; took over *Fresno Tribune* (1906), *Los Angeles Record* (1909) and *San Francisco Record* (1910) as publisher under Scripps-McRae control; backed California Governor Hiram Johnson and the Progressive Movement; wrote daily column in *San Diego Sun* from 1919 until his death; founded the *Ventura County Star* in 1925; in addition to a syndicated story of his foreign travels he published a novel of newspaper life, *An Adventure in Pyramids* (1927); he died on September 2, 1927 in San Diego.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of four scrapbooks containing biographical items of Mrs. Lottie (Buck) Porterfield's activities as a vocalist, 1898-1916; clippings of articles by William H. Porterfield when United Press reporter in the Orient in 1927; items by Porterfield from the Mediterranean; clippings from the *San Diego Sun* on the death of William H. Porterfield; and a personal scrapbook, *An adventure in pyramids*.

Indexing Terms

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

Porterfield, William Hempstead, 1872-1927.

Porterfield, Lottie.

Publishers and publishing--California--Archival resources.

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| Box 1 | 4 scrapbooks. 1898-1916.
Scope and Content Note
Containing biographical items of Mrs. Lottie (Buck) Porterfield's activities as a vocalist |
| Box 1 | Clippings of articles by William H. Porterfield when United Press reporter in the Orient in 1927. |
| Box 1 | Items by William H. Porterfield from the Mediterranean. |
| Box 1 | Clippings from the <i>San Diego Sun</i>.
Scope and Content Note
<i>re</i> the death of William H. Porterfield. |
| Box 1 | A personal scrapbook, <i>An Adventure in Pyramids</i>. |