

Edgar Meck Dilley Papers

UPT 50 D578

Finding aid prepared by Mary D. McConaghy.

Last updated on October 25, 2013.

University of Pennsylvania, University Archives and Records Center

December 2009

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: University Archives and Records Center
Creator	Dilley, Edgar Meck, 1874-1960
Title	Edgar Meck Dilley Papers
Call number	UPT 50 D578
Date [inclusive]	ca. 1895 - ca. 1960
Extent	0.5 cubic feet
Language	English
ABSTRACT	Edgar Meck Dilley attended the University of Pennsylvania from 1893 to 1895. While at Penn, Dilley studied architecture and was an active member of the Glee Club. As a sophomore, he composed the lyrics to the University's alma mater "Hail, Pennsylvania" and encouraged William J. Goeckel and Harry E. Westervelt to write "The Red and Blue," the alma mater more commonly sung today. This small collection consists primarily of printed and published works by Edgar Meck Dilley, including poetry, short stories, novels, the script of an operetta, and the lyrics of "The Red and Blue".

Biography/History

Born in Philadelphia in 1874, Edgar Meck Dilley attended William Penn Charter School before entering

the University of Pennsylvania in 1893, withdrawing at his father's insistence in 1895. While at Penn, Dilley studied architecture and was an active member of the Glee Club. As a sophomore, he composed the lyrics to the University's alma mater "Hail, Pennsylvania" and encouraged William J. Goeckel and Harry E. Westervelt to write "The Red and Blue," the alma mater more commonly sung today. Song-writing was Dilley's chief claim to fame, as he was also the author of the Pennsylvania State Song and of "Ave, Penn Charter", one of the alma maters of Penn Charter School.

From 1900 until 1923, Dilley worked as a reporter and writer in various locations. His newspaper stints included work for the McClure Times in Philadelphia, the New York Sunday Herald, the Chicago American, and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. His assignments included the Roosevelt-Longworth wedding for the Philadelphia Press as well as a history of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. His first book, *The Red Fox's Son* was published in 1911.

In 1923 Dilley moved to Clermont, Florida, to become a citrus farmer and to enjoy the opportunities for sailing; from 1942 until his death in 1960, he lived in St. Petersburg. Dilley resumed writing fiction in 1930 with work on his second novel, "My American".

Scope and Contents

This small collection consists primarily of printed and published works by Edgar Meck Dilley, including poetry, short stories, novels, the script of an operetta, and the lyrics of "The Red and Blue". There is also brief correspondence by Dilley with Lowell Thomas and a membership card to the Tall Story Club for Dilley, signed by Thomas. Photographs of Dilley make up the rest of this collection.

ARRANGEMENT

The Edgar Meck Dilley Papers are organized into two series: General File and Works. Each series is arranged alphabetically.

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

Access to collections is granted in accordance with the Protocols for the University Archives and Records Centers.

PROVENANCE

Gift of Charles Edwin Ireland, 1988.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- University of Pennsylvania. -- General subdivision--Songs and music.;

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Manuscripts (for publication).

OCCUPATION(S)

- Authors, American.

SUBJECT(S)

- Music, Popular (Songs, etc.)--Writing and publishing.--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia

Collection Inventory

GENERAL FILE.

	Box	Folder
Tall Story Club, correspondence with Lowell Thomas and membership card, 1931.	1	1
Photographs of Edgar Meck Dilley.	1	2

WORKS.

PUBLICATIONS.

	Box	Folder
Song of the Class of Ninety Seven. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1943.	1	3
Verse 'n Everything. Philadelphia: Dilley Publishing Co., 1924.	1	4

TYPESCRIPTS.

	Box	Folder
"Great White Father", n.d.	1	5

"Jade", n.d.	1	6
"Johnny Reb", n.d.	1	7
"This Man died and Lived to Tell the Story", n.d.	1	8
"My American", ca. 1930, copy 1.	1	9
"My American", ca. 1930, copy 2.	1	10
"The Mystery of Ralph and Edgar", n.d.	1	11
"What Do You Think?", n.d.	1	12