

# **Emily Tillinghast Potter diary**

**Ms. Coll. 1088**

**Finding aid prepared by Donna Brandolisio.**

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Last updated on November 25, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

November 2015

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Potter, Emily Tillinghast, 1896-
<b>Title</b>	Emily Tillinghast Potter diary
<b>Call number</b>	Ms. Coll. 1088
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1912-1913
<b>Extent</b>	1 volume
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Diary written by Emily Tillinghurst Potter between December 1912 and January 1913. She describes her journey with her family from Sri Lanka to India.

**Cite as:**

Emily Tillinghast Potter diary, 1912-1913, Ms. Coll. 1088, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

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## Biography/History

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Emily Tillinghast Potter was born April 27, 1896 to Joseph John and Zaidee Alice Hedges Tillinghast at Milton, Massachusetts. She had two sisters, Anna Hedges (1897-1980), and Zaidee (1902-1999). Emily married Allen Potter (1895-) of Boston, Massachusetts on October 30, 1920.

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## Scope and Contents

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This ruled diary with a burgundy, leather cover was written by Emily Tillinghast Potter spanning approximately one month from December 1912 to January 1913. Emily, who was sixteen years old, described the journey with her parents and her two sisters, Anna and Zaidee, from Sri Lanka to India. For each daily entry, Emily recorded the date and city at the top of the page. The Tillinghast family visited Buddhist temples, bazaars, gardens, and palaces traveling by train, boat, rickshaw, and elephant. In Sri Lanka the family stayed in the following cities, Nuwara Eliya, Trincomalee, Kandy, and Colombo. While in Kandy Emily noted her visit at the Temple of the Tooth and declared it was "spooky by night." Emily and her family visited Trinity College, the Episcopal Mission in Kandy, and stayed with principal Alexander Garden Fraser (1873-1962) and his family where she noted details of her surroundings and conversations. Journeying through Sri Lanka Emily described a drive through the jungle where she saw monkeys, jackals, and elephants. Emily observed the Christmas decorations in Colombo and recorded the family's celebration of the holidays in Sri Lanka. The family voyaged across the Indian Ocean and continued their journey in India where they traveled to Madurai, Tanjore (now Thanjavur), Madras, Mount Abu, and Jaipur. They visited missions in Madurai and Ahmednagar. In Jaipur Emily described the Raja's palace and wrote of the caged Bengal tigers kept there. The last short entry is dated January 13, 1913 at Agra. Three small sketches drawn in the diary illustrate Emily's descriptions of sites and happenings. There are two printed activity itineraries with notations laid in the volume dated June 13, 1913. These itineraries are from Emily's return trip from Japan to Honolulu, Hawaii aboard the S. S. Chiyo Maru. The first leaf of the diary bears Emily Tillinghast's signature with "The west end series of note books No. 3377" printed on the page. The journal is written on the first thirty leaves; the remainder is blank.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

## **Use Restrictions**

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## **Custodial History note**

Label on inside front cover: Addison & Co., Stationers, Printers, etc. Madras

## **Source of Acquisition**

Sold by Kevin Jackson (Izmir, Turkey), 2015.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **FORM/GENRE(S)**

- Diaries
- Manuscripts, American--20th century
- Sketches

### **GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)**

- India--Description and travel--20th century
- Sri Lanka--Description and travel--20th century

### **SUBJECT(S)**

- American diaries--20th century--Specimens
- American diaries--Women authors--20th century

## Collection Inventory

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	Volume
Emily Tillinghast Potter diary, 1912-1913. 1 volume (+ 2 leaves).	1