

# Allen Henry Wright Collection

**Collection ID:** MS.032

## Collection Information

Inclusive dates: 1889-1935

Size: 4 boxes, 3 ½ linear ft.

Processed: 4/2020, by Matthew Nye

## Scope and Content

The Allen Henry Wright Collection was donated to the San Diego Public Library Special Collections as a gift from Mr. Wright's granddaughter Marilyn Mitchell Shaw. It was mailed to the library from Ms. Shaw's residence in Altoona, Pennsylvania in ten installments from September 2012 to June 2013. The collection contains materials related to the personal and professional life of Allen Henry Wright. It is divided into three series: Series I) Personal material, including correspondence and a collection of photographs of his family; Series II) Professional work, which includes a small amount of material from his career as the City Clerk for San Diego; his writings and correspondents as a professional correspondent; and a collection of photographs all relating to San Diego from approximately 1910 – 1920; Series III) Various publications, while not attributed to Wright, these publications accompanied the collection when received.

Allen Henry Wright was born to Samuel Allen Wright and Ann Eliza Brower in Rome, New York, April 20, 1873. During the 1890s, Mr. Wright graduated from the Rome Free Academy of New York, married Florence May Bangs of Waterville, New York and worked as a reporter for both the *Rome Daily Sentinel* (Rome, N.Y.) and *The Sheron Telegraph* (Sheron, Pennsylvania). The Wright family moved to San Diego in 1903 where Wright initially worked as a journalist. In 1906 he was hired to work in the city clerk's office as a deputy clerk. In 1910 Wright was elected City Clerk, a position he held until his untimely death of a heart attack on April 23, 1938.

While working in the city clerk's office Mr. Wright continued as a freelance press correspondent, writing feature articles, descriptive sketches, obituaries, and "News Notes" for trade papers and specialized magazines.

As an enthusiast for his community, genealogy, and history, Mr. Wright served as a state officer of the California Historical Society, state president of the California League of Municipalities, and Director of the Cabrillo Club (1917-1918).

## Container List

Box	File	Contents	Dates
1	1	Letters and notes accompanying the collection written to Richard Crawford from Marilyn Mitchell Shaw	2012-13
<b>Series I: Personal Materials</b>			
1	2	Personal paperwork – relating to Wright's education and travel	n.d.
	3	Personal paperwork – relating to Wright's education and travel	n.d.
	4	Material relating to employment as City Clerk	1904-27

Box	File	Contents	Dates
1	5	Personal correspondence	
	6	Personal correspondence	
	7	Materials relating to San Diego (Historical significance)	
	8	Materials relating to San Diego (Historical significance)	
	9	Materials relating to San Diego (Historical significance)	
	10	Materials relating to San Diego (Historical significance)	
	11	Materials relating to San Diego (Historical significance)	
	12	Photographs	
	13	Photographs	
	14	Photographic negatives	
	15	Envelop Collection	
	16	Envelop Collection	
	17	Envelop Collection	
	18	"Lincolniana" Collection – primarily correspondence	
	19	"Lincolniana" Collection – primarily correspondence	
	20	"Lincolniana" Collection – primarily correspondence	
2	1	"Lincolniana" Collection	
	2	Ephemera	
	3	Materials unrelated to collection: Poems (not by Wright)	
	4	Materials unrelated to collection	
	4 (b)	Helen Wright Papers	
<b>Series II: Professional Work</b>			
2	5	Random newspaper clippings	n.d.
	6	Random newspaper clippings	n.d.
	7	Random newspaper clippings	
	8	Random newspaper clippings: Notebook	
	9	Random newspaper clippings: Journal	
	10	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	n.d.
	11	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	n.d.
	12	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	n.d.
	13	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence (Regarding MuGurck Story)	1908
	14	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1904-1908
	15	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1909-1914
	16	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1915 (a)
	17	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1915 (b)
	18	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1916 (a)
	19	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1916 (b)
3	1	Articles written by AHW with attached correspondence	1917-1924
	2	Correspondence relate to articles (no articles attached)	1902-1908
	3	Correspondence relate to articles (no articles attached)	1909-1914
	4	Correspondence relate to articles (no articles attached)	1915-1916
	5	Correspondence relate to articles (no articles attached)	1917-1918 (a)

Box	File	Contents	Dates
3	6	Correspondence relate to articles (no articles attached)	1918 (b)-1919
	7	Correspondence relate to articles (no articles attached)	1920-24, n.d.
	8	Correspondence put in a ledger: primarily regarding Publications	1905-08
<b>Series III: Various Publications</b>			
3	9	Publications: relating to San Diego or Allen Henry Wright	
	10	Publications: relating to San Diego or Allen Henry Wright	
	11	Publications: relating to San Diego or Allen Henry Wright	
	12	Publications: Not relating to San Diego or Allen Henry Wright	
	13	Publications: Not relating to San Diego or Allen Henry Wright	
<b>Photo Collection</b>			
4	1-1	37 negatives: Parade and celebration	1914-1915
	1-2	27 negatives: Pacific Expo	1915
	1-3	42 negatives, mixed subjects (developed by Roseblatt)	
	2-1	15 Photographs of Old Town, SD Mission	
	2-2	62 negatives: Old Town, Mission Dam	
	2-3	13 negatives: Scripps Ranch Miramar	
	2-4	Photos and negatives of historical San Diego and animals	
	2-5	6 negatives: Fireman's Garden, La Jolla City Farm House	
	2-6	20 negatives and 7 photos of historic San Diego, including 1916 flood	1916(+)
	2-7	15 Negatives of Movie Making Co., Tent City, Circus Wagon	
	3-1	15 negatives "In and around the City of San Diego"	
	3-2	15 negatives "In and around the City of San Diego"	
	3-3	41 negatives "In and around San Diego", emphasis on Balboa Park	
	3-4	26 misc. photos "In and around San Diego"	