

Hermann Hagedorn Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

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Collection Summary

Title: Hermann Hagedorn Papers

Span Dates: 1912-1933

ID No.: MSS24422

Creator: Hagedorn, Hermann, 1882-1964

Extent: 10,200 items; 23 containers; 9.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with some German

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Poet and biographer. Correspondence, subject files, research material, and miscellaneous items relating primarily to Hagedorn's biographies of Leonard Wood and William Boyce Thompson. Includes original material relating to Thompson's role in relief work in Russia following the Russian Revolution and in securing diplomatic recognition for the Soviets. Also includes material on Hagedorn's activities relating to World War I loyalty questions, especially the problems of his fellow German Americans and the Vigilantes, a militant group of patriotic writers.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Ayer, Charles Fanning, 1865-1956--Correspondence.
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence.
Brunker, Albert Ridgely, 1883-1959--Correspondence.
Clark, Grenville, 1882-1967--Correspondence.
Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.
Cushing, Harvey, 1869-1939--Correspondence.
Hagedorn, Hermann, 1882-1964.
Hagood, Johnson, 1829-1898--Correspondence.
Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947--Correspondence.
Howland, Harry S. (Harry Samuel)--Correspondence.
Kelleher, Cornelius--Correspondence.
McCoy, Frank Ross, 1874-1954--Correspondence.
Page, Arthur W. (Arthur Wilson), 1883-1960--Correspondence.
Robins, Raymond, 1873-1954--Correspondence.
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.
Steinhart, Frank Maximilian, 1864-1938--Correspondence.
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950--Correspondence.
Thompson, Gertrude Hickman, b. 1874--Correspondence.
Thompson, William Boyce, 1869-1930--Correspondence.
Thompson, William Boyce, 1869-1930.
Williams, S. M. (Samuel M.)--Correspondence.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927.
Wood, Louisa A.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Vigilantes (Organization)

Subjects

Allegiance--United States.
German Americans.
Patriotism in literature.

World War, 1914-1918.

Places

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.

Soviet Union--History--Revolution, 1917-1921--Civilian relief.

United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

United States--Intellectual life--1865-1918.

Occupations

Authors.

Biographers.

Poets.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Hermann Hagedorn, poet and biographer, were given to the Library of Congress by Hagedorn between 1931 and 1961.

Processing History

The papers of Hermann Hagedorn were arranged and described in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Hermann Hagedorn Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Hermann Hagedorn is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Hermann Hagedorn are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Hermann Hagedorn Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1882, July 18	Born, New York, N. Y.
1907	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1908	Married Dorothy Oakley
1910-1911	Instructor in English, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

1916	Founding member of the Vigilantes, a World War I writers' group
1918	Appointed racial adviser on Americans of German origin by the commissioner of education, Interior Department
1919-1957	Trustee, director, and secretary of the Theodore Roosevelt Association
1931	Published <i>Leonard Wood, a Biography</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers (2 vols.)
1935	Published <i>The Magnate, William Boyce Thompson and His Time</i> . New York: Reynal & Hitchcock
1936	Gave principal address at dedication of memorial to Edwin Arlington Robinson
1955-1957	Director, Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission
1964, July 27	Died, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Hermann Hagedorn (1882-1964) span the years 1912-1933, with the bulk pertaining to Hagedorn's World War I loyalty work and to his postwar biographies of Leonard Wood and William Boyce Thompson. Consisting of [Family Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Research File](#), and [Miscellany](#) series, the collection reflects a small but significant portion of a literary career that spanned more than five decades and included, in addition to several volumes of poetry and children's books, nearly three dozen novels, plays, edited letter collections, and historical biographies ranging in subject from Theodore Roosevelt and Edwin Arlington Robinson to Robert Brookings and Albert Schweitzer. The papers include some material in German.

Born in New York City in 1882, the son of the "Iron Chancellor" of the New York Cotton Exchange, Hermann Hagedorn grew up in the home of German émigrés who had left Europe in the mid-nineteenth century. The [Family Correspondence](#) and [Subject File](#) in these papers focus solely on the World War I period when the young Hagedorn's Germanic background and American upbringing were severely tested because of the wartime crisis. A graduate of Harvard, but trained at the University of Berlin and with three siblings who had chosen to return to Germany as residents, Hagedorn was vocal in his support of preparedness and universal military training before the United States entered the war. Anti-pacifist and pro the Allied powers, in late 1916 he spearheaded the formation of a group of writers called the Vigilantes. In his papers are several files of draft memoranda, bulletins, correspondence, and questionnaires concerning this organization and another group, the League of Loyal Americans of German Origin, which Hagedorn attempted to promote in the interest of raising the image and loyalty of German Americans to greater heights. The league idea apparently failed after Hagedorn was appointed racial adviser on German-Americans to the United States commissioner of education, but included in his papers is correspondence with German-language publishers and civic leaders about the state of their community's relation to non-Germans and their views, pro or con, on the need for an ad hoc body of ethnic Germans who would propagate patriotism and assimilation.

By far the largest portion of the Hagedorn Papers relates to his publication of full-length biographies of Wood and Thompson. Included in the [Research File](#) on both of these subjects are typed and handwritten notes which Hagedorn organized in rough topical fashion. Research correspondence on Wood as army chief of staff contains the reminiscences of prominent men and women who were acquainted with the general from his earliest days. Other topics of importance include Wood's health, his participation in the war against Geronimo, his responsibilities in the

Philippines and Cuba, and his relegation to an American command at Fort Leavenworth instead of the supreme leadership of the Expeditionary Force in France during World War I. Correspondents on these matters and Wood's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 1920 include Newton Diehl Baker, Bernard M. Baruch, Albert Ridgely Bruner, Grenville Clark, George B. Cortelyou, Harvey Cushing, Johnson Hagood, James G. Harbord, Harry Samuel Howland, Frank Ross McCoy, Arthur Wilson Page, Elihu Root, Frank Maximilian Steinhart, Henry Lewis Stimson, S. M. Williams, and Louisa A. Wood. Among the correspondents who aided Hagedorn in his study of William Boyce Thompson, the Montana mining magnate and Red Cross director in Russia during World War I, were Charles Fanning Ayer, Cornelius Kelleher, and Raymond Robins. Hagedorn's research letters and notes cover the gamut of Thompson's diverse career, but are focused on his role in heading relief efforts in Russia and in favoring recognition and aid first to the government of Aleksandr Fyrdorovich Kerensky and then to the Soviets. This part of the collection is enriched by personal exchanges between Hagedorn and Thompson and also by a small file of original letters between Thompson and his wife Gertrude while he was enroute to Petrograd in the summer and fall of 1917.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1912-1919](#)
- [Subject File, 1916-1918](#)
- [Research File, 1917-1933](#)
- [Miscellany, 1925](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Family Correspondence, 1912-1919</u> Letters sent to Hagedorn by his father and other family members. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-3	<u>Subject File, 1916-1918</u> Correspondence, lists, memoranda, notes, questionnaires, drafts of reports and writings, minutes, press releases, and miscellaneous printed and near-print matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic and therein by type of material.
BOX 3-23	<u>Research File, 1917-1933</u> Correspondence, bibliographies, extracts of letters, and typed and handwritten notes from various primary and secondary sources regarding George Fox, Leonard Wood, and William Boyce Thompson. Arranged alphabetically by name of biographical subject and therein by topic or type of material, with the correspondence arranged in alphabetical order.
BOX 23	<u>Miscellany, 1925</u> Blueprints for Hagedorn's cottage.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Family Correspondence, 1912-1919 Letters sent to Hagedorn by his father and other family members. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1912-1919 (4 folders)
BOX 2-3	Subject File, 1916-1918 Correspondence, lists, memoranda, notes, questionnaires, drafts of reports and writings, minutes, press releases, and miscellaneous printed and near-print matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic and therein by type of material.
BOX 2	World War I, loyalty work
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1917-1918, undated
BOX 2	Lists, memoranda, notes and drafts
BOX 2	Questionnaires
BOX 2	Miscellaneous
BOX 2	Clippings
BOX 2	Printed matter
BOX 2	Vigilantes
BOX 2	Bulletins, 1917-1918
BOX 2	Correspondence and manuscripts, 1916-1918
BOX 2	Minutes, 1917
BOX 2	Organizational memoranda and drafts, 1916
BOX 2	Press releases
BOX 2	circa Nov. 1917-May 1918 (4 folders)
BOX 3	circa June-Oct. 1918 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellaneous
BOX 3-23	Research File, 1917-1933 Correspondence, bibliographies, extracts of letters, and typed and handwritten notes from various primary and secondary sources regarding George Fox, Leonard Wood, and William Boyce Thompson. Arranged alphabetically by name of biographical subject and therein by topic or type of material, with the correspondence arranged in alphabetical order.
BOX 3	Fox, George
BOX 3	Bibliography
BOX 3	Notes and excerpts
BOX 3	Pamphlets

Research File, 1917-1933

Container *Contents*

BOX 4	Travel guides (2 folders)
BOX 4	Wood, Leonard
BOX 4	Correspondence, 1928-1931
BOX 4	Azan, Paul
BOX 4	"A" miscellaneous
BOX 4	Baker, Newton Diehl
BOX 4	Baker, Ray Stannard
BOX 4	Baruch, Bernard M.
BOX 4	Berle, Adolf A.
BOX 4	Borglum, Gutzon
BOX 4	Brackett, E. G.
BOX 4	Brent, Charles Henry
BOX 4	Brown, R. A.
BOX 4	Brunker, Albert Ridgely
BOX 4	"B" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 5	Childes, Eversley
BOX 5	Clark, Grenville
BOX 5	Coffin, George S.
BOX 5	Cortelyou, George B.
BOX 5	Cushing, Harvey
BOX 5	"C" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Daly, Henry W.
BOX 5	Davies, Frederick J.
BOX 5	Davis, Dwight F.
BOX 5	Dawes, Charles G.
BOX 5	Dorey, Halstead
BOX 5	"D" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Edwards, R.
BOX 5	"E" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Faison, F. L.
BOX 5	Finley, Mr. and Mrs. John P.
BOX 5	Form letters
BOX 5	Fuller, Eugene G.
BOX 5	"F" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Gatewood, Charles B.
BOX 5	"G" miscellaneous
BOX 6	Hagood, Johnson
BOX 6	Hanna, Matthew E.
BOX 6	Harbord, James G.
BOX 6	Harper & Brothers
BOX 6	Haskell, Henry J
BOX 6	Hayes, Frank
BOX 6	Howland, Harry Samuel
BOX 6	Hughes, David L.

BOX 6	Huidekoper, Frederick L.
BOX 6	"H-I" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 6	Jack, Frederick L.
BOX 6	Johnston, Gordon
BOX 6	"J" miscellaneous
BOX 6	Kilbourne, Charles E.
BOX 6	"K" miscellaneous
BOX 6	Lambert, Alexander
BOX 7	Lawton, Mrs. Henry W.
BOX 7	Ledwidge, Thomas R.
BOX 7	Lee, John C. H.
BOX 7	Lists
BOX 7	Loeb, William
BOX 7	"L" miscellaneous
BOX 7	McCoy, Frank Ross
BOX 7	Marmon, Joseph A.
BOX 7	Mayo, Lida
BOX 7	Minns, Grace
BOX 7	M, miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 7	<i>New York Herald</i>
BOX 7	Nichols, Ode C.
BOX 7	"N" miscellaneous
BOX 8	"O" miscellaneous
BOX 8	Page, Arthur W.
BOX 8	Parker, Frank
BOX 8	Parker, James
BOX 8	Pfeiffer, O. J.
BOX 8	Publicity
BOX 8	"P" miscellaneous
BOX 8	Robinson, Corinne Roosevelt
BOX 8	Roosevelt, Edith K. and Nicholas
BOX 8	Roosevelt House Library and Museum, New York, N.Y.
BOX 8	Roosevelt Memorial Association
BOX 8	Root, Elihu
BOX 8	Russell, Arthur and Emma
BOX 8	"R" miscellaneous
BOX 8	Scott, C. D.
BOX 9	Sears, George G.
BOX 9	Sheffield, James R.
BOX 9	Smith, A. L.
BOX 9	Statesir, Herbert F.
BOX 9	Steinhart, Frank Maximilian
BOX 9	Stevens, G. W. F.
BOX 9	Stevens, Montague

Research File, 1917-1933

Container

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BOX 9	Stimson, Henry Lewis
BOX 9	Summerall, Charles P.
BOX 9	"S" miscellaneous
BOX 9	Thomas, Landon
BOX 9	Traub, Peter
BOX 9	"T-V" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 9	White, William Allen
BOX 9	Whitney, Caspar
BOX 9	<i>Who's Who in America</i>
BOX 9	Williams, S. M.
BOX 9	Wing, Walter
BOX 9	Wood, Jacob
BOX 10	Wood, Louisa A.
BOX 10	Wood Memorial Fund
BOX 10	"W" miscellaneous
BOX 10	Notes and excerpts
BOX 10	Birth and ancestors (1860)
BOX 10	Boyhood (2 folders)
BOX 10	Harvard Medical School, Cambridge., Mass. (1880-1883)
BOX 10	Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass. (1883-1885)
BOX 11	Arizona years (1885-1886) (4 folders)
BOX 11	Middle years (1887-1895) (2 folders)
BOX 12	Attending surgeon (1895-1887)
BOX 12	Spanish war (3 folders)
BOX 12	Governor of Santiago, Santiago Province, Cuba (1898-1899) (2 folders)
BOX 13	(2 folders)
BOX 13	Governor of Cuba (4 folders)
BOX 14	(4 folders)
BOX 14	Interlude (1902-1903)
BOX 14	Confirmation as major general (1903-1904)
BOX 15	Governor of Moro Province, Philippines (1903-1906) (3 folders)
BOX 15	Philippines Department (1906-1908)
BOX 15	Governor's Island, N.Y. (1908-1909)
BOX 15	Chief of staff (1910-1914)
BOX 16	Fight for preparedness (1914-1917)
BOX 16	Republican nomination (1916)
BOX 16	Great War (3 folders)
BOX 16	Reconstruction (1919)

Research File, 1917-1933

Container

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BOX 16	1920 presidential campaign (1 folder)
BOX 17	(2 folders)
BOX 17	Philippines (1921-1927) (3 folders)
BOX 17	Personal, family, illness, etc.
BOX 17	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 17	Military record
BOX 18	Notes of a talk with Wood, 1919 (2 folders)
BOX 18	Thompson, William Boyce
BOX 18	Correspondence, 1917-1932
BOX 18	Ayer, Charles F.
BOX 18	"A-J" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 18	Kelleher, Cornelius
BOX 18	"K-P" miscellaneous
BOX 18	Robins, Raymond
BOX 18	"R-S" miscellaneous
BOX 18	Thompson, William Boyce
BOX 18	To Hagedorn, 1922-1930
BOX 19	To Gertrude Thompson (wife), 1917
BOX 19	Family
BOX 19	"T-Z," miscellaneous
BOX 19	Notes and excerpts
BOX 19	Boyhood in Butte, Mont. (3 folders)
BOX 20	Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.
BOX 20	Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
BOX 20	Rise to power (3 folders)
BOX 20	Nipissing Mine, Cobalt, Ontario
BOX 20	Virginia City, Mont.
BOX 21	Shannon Copper Co.
BOX 21	Russia (4 folders)
BOX 22	(2 folders)
BOX 22	Last years (1921-1930)
BOX 22	Unidentified (3 folders)
BOX 23	(5 folders)
BOX 23	Miscellany, 1925 Blueprints for Hagedorn's cottage.
BOX 23	Blueprints for Hagedorn cottage, Nantucket, Mass., 1925