Information Sheet

R Small, Hubert Edwin, 1880-1952.
474 Papers, ca. 1910-1952.

Three folders, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This collection includes a scrapbook, correspondence, and miscellaneous printed material of Hubert E. Small, a musician, chautauqua performer, and music teacher at Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri. Some material pertains to his wife, Vera (Whitmore) Small, also a professional musician.

Hubert E. Small was a native of the Kansas City area. A flutist and professional musician, he studied with members of the Chicago, Kansas City, New York, and St. Louis symphony orchestras, and was a graduate of the University School of Music at Lincoln, Nebraska. Small was active on the Chautauqua circuit during the first quarter of the twentieth century, performing with the Redpath, Harrison, and Horner companies. By 1917 he was associated with the Watahwaso-Lieurance Company, and made recordings on the Victor label.

Small married Vera Whitmore, a soprano and soloist, in 1917. For several years thereafter the pair traveled together. In 1926 the Smalls moved to Alton, Illinois, to teach music and choir at the Western Military Academy. After filling similar positions in public schools at Jefferson City and Columbia, they relocated to Springfield, Missouri, where Hubert was teacher of flute at Drury College and Vera was choir director at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. Hubert E. Small died in Springfield in 1952.

The Hubert E. Small collection consists of three folders pertaining to Small’s career as a professional musician. Most of the material, which includes a scrapbook, correspondence, and miscellaneous printed material, concerns his activities as a Chautauqua performer, 1914-1922. There are also a few items regarding the professional accomplishments of Vera Small. The scrapbook provides an overview of the Chautauqua movement during the golden age before cinema and radio diminished the audience for lyceums and Chautauquas. Small’s correspondence with his wife, 1915-1918, is useful for its descriptions of the life of a traveling musician. In 1917 alone, Small’s circuit included West Virginia, Minnesota, Ohio, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas. His comments on travel connections, cramped hotel rooms, fellow performers, and homesickness will sound quite contemporary to any musician who has spent time on the road. Folder 3 contains copies of programs for Horner and Redpath Chautauquas, 1914-1917.

r317 22 October 1985 Jennie M. Bresee Loaned for photocopying

Shelf List

This collection includes a scrapbook, correspondence, and miscellaneous printed material of Hubert E. Small, a musician, chautauqua performer, and music teacher at Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri. Some material pertains to his wife, Vera (Whitmore) Small, also a professional musician.

Folder 1: Scrapbook, ca. 1910-1952

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1915-1918

Folder 3: Chautauqua programs and miscellaneous printed material, 1914-1922
Index Cards

Chautauquas.
Concerts.
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