
Guide to the James Marie Hopper papers, [ca. 1897-1952]

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Note

Arts and Humanities --Literature --American LiteratureHistory --World War I

Guide to the James Marie Hopper Papers, [ca. 1897-1952]

Collection number: BANC MSS C-H 139

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: James Marie Hopper Papers,

Date (inclusive): [ca. 1897-1952]

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 139

Origination: Hopper, James, b. 1876

Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes, 2 cartons

Repository: The Bancroft Library.

Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Mainly manuscripts of his short stories and articles, including those written while foreign correspondent, World War I; some correspondence; tear sheets; clippings; photographs; copies of poems written by George Sterling and by Nora May French.

Languages Represented: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], James Marie Hopper papers, BANC MSS C-H 139, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Material Cataloged Separately

Photographs have been transferred to the Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Biography

Among the authors who came to Carmel in 1906 and helped create its fame as a literary and artistic colony was James M. Hopper, the popular writer more commonly known as Jimmy Hopper. Like many of the other Carmel pioneers, he was a friend of George Sterling, Upton Sinclair, and Sinclair Lewis, and like them, too, he was a Californian only by adoption. He was born in Paris, July 23, 1876, and was brought to America at the age of ten. After attending public schools in Oakland, he went to the University of California, winning fame as quarterback on the football team and as one of the trio that reputedly first stole the Stanford Axe in 1898. After graduation he studied law at Hastings College of Law and was admitted to the California bar. But, instead of practising law, he took a job as reporter on the *San Francisco Chronicle*. This journalistic experience was followed by a two-year period of teaching in the Philippine Islands, where he gathered material for his first book, *Caybigan* (1906), a collection of short stories. Upon his return to the United States, Hopper seriously embarked on a writing career, which he pursued successfully, with several novels, more than 400 stories published in leading popular magazines like *Collier's* and the *Saturday Evening Post*, and nonfiction, including his syndicated articles as a foreign correspondent at the front during the first World War. Hopper lived abroad and in the East for many years, but he returned to Carmel eventually, and it was there he died in 1956.

Scope and Content

The Bancroft Library purchased his papers in November 1961 from his widow, Mrs. Elayne Hopper Chanslor. The collection consists primarily of manuscripts of his short stories and articles, but includes also some correspondence, tear sheets of some of his published items, clippings, photographs, and copies of poems written by George Sterling and by Nora May French.

A key to the arrangement of the papers and a list of the major correspondents follows.

Box 1

Correspondence, ca. 1897-1952

Letters written to Hopper

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization. Single letters have been placed in a correspondence miscellany. A list of the major correspondents follows the Key.

Letters written by Hopper

Scope and Content Note

Arranged chronologically, 1897-1949. Most of them are addressed to George Sterling and were returned to Hopper in 1952 by Sterling's nephew, Thor Liljencrantz. There are also several letters written by Hopper to his mother, in French, 1902-1903.

Box 2

Fragmentary notes from World War I correspondent days.

Clippings, primarily concerning George Sterling

Photographs - Removed to Pictorial Collection

[See also Portraint file 4851-4852]

Scope and Content Note

Including some of Hopper, Sterling, Jack London, Fred Bechdolt, Xavier Martinez, Nora May French.

Tear sheets of various published stories and articles

Poems written by George Sterling-mainly typed, signed copies

Poems written by Nora May French-mainly in her hand

Miscellaneous items

Scope and Content Note

Including copy of Hopper's birth announcement; fly leaf of presentation copy of Jack London's *Martin Eden* (the rest of the book was burned in the fire that destroyed Hopper's home); twin questionnaire made out by Hopper for the University of California's twin study in 1934.

carton Ctns. 1-2

Manuscripts of his stories and articles

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically by title

Ctn. 1

A-N

Ctn. 2

O-Z

World War I articles

Untitled stories

Group of early stories, written mainly for William C. Morrow's short story class

Correspondence Miscellany (single letters)

California Alumni Association

Letter, Feb. 28, 1949. Signed by Robert Sibley.

Conrad, Joseph, 1857-1924

Letter, June 15, 1913

Coolbrith, Ina Donna, 1842-1928

Letter, n. d. With note written by George Sterling.

[Irwin, William Hyde]

Letter, Feb. 24, 1948. Re death of Will Irwin.

Kidd, Alexander Marsden, 1879-

Letter, Aug. 13, 1949

Liliencrantz, Flora (Sterling)

Letter, Mar. 4, 1927. Re George Sterling

Lilencrantz, Thor

Letter, Oct. 6, 1952

Overland Monthly

Letter, June 22, 1899. Signed by Charles S. Greene.

Edwards, Dan

2 letters, 1950

Fenelon, Eugene

3 letters, 1949-1951

Greene, Charles Samuel, 1856-1930

See Overland Monthly.

Hawthorne, Hildegard, 1872-

3 letters, 1947-1951

McClure's Magazine

4 letters, 1904. Signed by Samuel S. McClure and John S. Phillips

Phillips, John Sanborn, 1861-1949

See McClure's Magazine.

Sibley, Robert, 1881-1958

See California Alumni Association

Sterling, George, 1869-1926

6 letters, 1920-1926