
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 353
HILL, EDWIN BLISS, 1866-1949
Papers, 1930-1947

DESCRIPTION

Edwin Bliss Hill, newspaperman, rare book authority and scholar came to Arizona in 1908 as an agent of the U. S. Reclamation Service and became well known in literary circles for hand printed publications. His papers include correspondence with Frank Lockwood, Edith Kitt and others concerns manuscripts for publication on Frank Holme and literary and Arizona history topics. Includes a manuscript by Hill entitled *Some Reminiscences of Early Days in Arizona* which is primarily concerned with his work for the Reclamation Service. Included are pamphlets printed by Hill.

2 Boxes, 1 linear foot

ACQUISITION

Donated by Gertrude Hill in 1950 and 1955.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed at some earlier date; the finding aid was completed by Riva Dean in February 1999.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edwin Bliss Hill, private printer, was born and educated in Michigan. He worked as a newspaperman in a number of positions until 1891 when he retired from journalism due to ill health. During his years as a newspaperman, he worked on his printing as a hobby. In the 1890s, he became friends with Frank Holme, owner of the Bandar Log Press. In 1908, he married Clara Ella Hood and they moved to Arizona where Hill worked for the U. S. Reclamation Service. He stayed in Arizona until 1918 when he was transferred to Texas. During his years in Texas, he continued printing. His printing reflected his interests in the authors Henry David Thoreau, Charles Lamb, Edgar Allan Poe and Frank Holme. With Frank Lockwood, they founded the "Frank Holme Memorial Group" to honor Holme. In 1939, Hill celebrated the fifty-fifth anniversary of the founding of his private press and was recognized as the oldest press in continuous operation in the United States. In 1945, he returned to Arizona and died in 1949.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The most significant papers in the collection include correspondence with Frank Lockwood. The correspondence reflects Hill's literary and historical interests in both Arizona and the Southwest and authors such as Thoreau, Lamb and Poe. Included in the personal correspondence are letters from other individuals to Lockwood, which Lockwood passed onto Hill. These correspondents include Ft. Bonaventure Oblasser and Dan Williamson. His correspondence with Edith Kitt is primarily concerned with Arizona pioneers.

The collection includes pamphlets printed by Hill on a variety of topics. They include poems and essays by Thoreau, Poe, Lamb, unknown authors. The collection includes manuscripts written by Frank Lockwood and Edwin Hill, including Hill's "Range Tales," 1916 and *Some Reminiscences of Early Days in Arizona* concerning his years of work for the reclamation service on the Roosevelt Dam.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Biographical information & Correspondence

- f. 1 Biographical Information
- f. 2-9 Correspondence with Frank Lockwood, 1929-48
- f. 10 Correspondence with Rudolph Gjelsness (Univ. of Ariz. Library), 1933-43
- f. 11 Misc. Personal Correspondence, 1933-43
- f. 12 Personal Correspondence with Gertrude Hill, 1936-42
- f. 13 Correspondence to Edith Kitt, 1933-47
- f. 14 Correspondence from Edith Kitt, 1934-47

Series 2: Manuscripts

- f. 15 Lockwood Manuscript: "Three Remarkable Southwestern Libraries," 1940
- f. 16 Lockwood Manuscript: "Tee-Totaling is Made Difficult," 1935
- f. 17 Lockwood Manuscript: "Life as a Fine Art"
- f. 18 Hill Manuscript: "Range Tales," 1916
- f. 19 Hill Manuscript: "Some Reminiscences of Early Days in Arizona"

Series 3: Items printed by Hill

- f. 20 Frank Holme Memorial Group, 1939-44
- f. 21 Brochures of items printed by Hill
- f. 22 Brochures for the Arcadians, n.d.
- f. 23 "The Arizonian," 1915
- f. 24 "Sherlockiana," 1934-48
- f. 25 "Dream-Haven," 1933
- f. 26 Pamphlets printed by Hill, A – B

Box 2

- f. 27-33 Pamphlets printed by Hill, C – W
- f. 34 Photograph of Al Sieber, 1938