



## Hubert Edwin Small Papers (R0474)

**Collection Number:** R0474

**Collection Title:** Hubert Edwin Small Papers

**Dates:** 1910-1952

**Creator:** Small, Hubert Edwin, 1880-1952

**Abstract:** The Hubert Edwin Small Papers include 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.

**Collection Size:** 0.3 cubic foot  
(3 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Hubert Edwin Small Papers* (R0474); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were loaned to the University of Missouri for photocopying by Jennie M. Bresee on October 22, 1985 (Accession No. RA0317).

**Existence and Location of Originals:** After photocopying, the originals were returned to the donor, Jennie M. Bresee.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Hubert Edwin Small Papers can be found in the following collections:

*Annie Lee Fulton Papers* (K0882)

*Joseph Wingate Folk Papers* (C0101)

*Missouri Chautauqua Assembly Records* (C1170)

*Missouri Humanities Council Records* (S0936)

*University of Missouri, President's Office Papers* (C2582)

**Processed by:** Processed by John Bradbury, June 16, 1992. Revised by Niki Cox, January 26, 2023.

### **Biographical Note:**

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 Watawaso-Lieurance Company and made recordings on the Victor label.

Small married Vera Whitmore (1890-1974), 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 a flute instructor at Drury College and Vera was choir director at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. Hubert E. Small died in Springfield in 1952.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into three folders.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The Hubert E. Small Papers 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.

### **Container List:**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| f. 1 | Scrapbook, circa 1910-1952  |
| f. 2 | Correspondence, 1915-1918   |
| f. 3 | Chautauqua programs and miscellaneous printed material, 1914-1922 |

**Index:**

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