

Collection #
SC 3433

**A.W. PENDERGAST
LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1938**

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May 2018

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Indiana Historical Society
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder
1 photograph folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1938

PROVENANCE: unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1939.0013

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. A.W. Pendergast was an optometrist from Fairbury, Illinois. His optometry business was established in 1900. He was also a collector of Indian relics and stamps.

Business man and philanthropist Eli Lilly, Jr. was interested in and a supporter of research and writing of Indiana's early history and archaeology.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eli_Lilly_\(industrialist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eli_Lilly_(industrialist))

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of two letters, a business card and three snapshots.

The first letter to Mr. Eli Lilly from A.W. Pendergast of Fairbury, Illinois, dated 5 May 1938 on Pendergast's business stationery, asked if Mr. Lilly could put him in touch with any Indiana historical society that might have Mr. Lilly's collection of Indian relics on display. He also included his business card and three snapshots with the letter. The photographs were of a group of cigar store Indians, a bead display, and displays of flint arrowheads and spear points. According to the notes written on the verso, these were collected from Indiana sites and were from Pendergast's collections.

The second letter dated 2 June 1938 is a copy of Mr. Lilly's response to Pendergast via Christopher B. Coleman, secretary to Mr. Lilly. In it, he stated that a copy of the *Indiana History Bulletin* for May that year was sent to Pendergast. He also stated that Mr. Lilly's collection was not available for viewing.

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"A.W. Pendergast / Optometrist / Fairbury, Illinois /
Collector of Indian Relics and Stamps ..." [business
card]

1938 May 31, A.W. Pendergast to Mr. Ely [sic] Lilly.
Inquiry concerning Mr. Lilly's collection of Indian
artifacts and his attempt to visit Mr. Lilly several years
ago. TLS, 1p

1938 June 2, Christopher B. Coleman to Mr. A.W.
Pendergast. Responding to Pendergast's inquiry.
Carbon copy of TL, 1p

[three snapshots taken by Pendergast and sent to
Mr. Lilly showing cigar store Indians, and collections
of beads, and flint tools]

CONTAINER

Manuscripts:
Folder 1

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Folder 1

Photographs:
Folder 1