

**Collection #
M 0242
BV 1721**

**DOROTHY RITTER RUSSO
PAPERS, 1874-1970**

Collection Information	1
Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Series Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 box OVA photographs, 1 bound volume, 2 folders photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1874-1970 (bulk: 1942-1953)

PROVENANCE:

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Dorothy Ritter Russo Addition, 1970s (M0569); *Bibliographical studies of seven authors of Crawfordsville, Indiana* (Z1282.C7 R88 1952); and other bibliographies in printed collections.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.1305

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dorothy Ritter Russo was born in Indianapolis in 1900. She graduated from Shortridge High School and in 1918 went to Washington, D.C. doing work for the War Industries Board. When the war was over, Dorothy returned to Indiana and her college career at DePauw University. There she discovered an interest in chemistry and medicine, which she studied recreationally for the rest of her life. But her family impelled her to major in sociology and economics, and in 1922 received a scholarship to the New York School of Social Work. In New York she met and married Anthony Russo, a plumber. Dorothy herself worked a number of blue-collar jobs in New York “to get the working person’s point of view.” But soon, Dorothy began her career in social work as the assistant employment secretary for the Institute of Crippled and Disabled Men.

In 1929 the family, which by then included two young children, relocated back to Indianapolis. In 1931 Dorothy and Anthony founded the Hoosier Book Shop, specializing in histories of medicine and biographies of medical teachers. In 1939 they began to prepare and publish bibliographies of Indiana authors, a project which Mrs. Russo continued with assistance from the Indiana Historical Society after the death of her husband in 1940. Her uncle Charles Beard (Mary Ritter Beard was her mother’s sister) encouraged her to be comprehensive, and to publish not just “a bibliography” for each, but “*the* bibliography.” In 1949, she also applied her bibliographic skills to her work in medical history, publishing *One Hundred Years of Indiana Medicine, 1849-1949*. Dorothy pursued this work while still employed by the Marion County Public Welfare Department, where she worked for 16 years. She was also involved in the American Association of the History of Medicine, the Society of Indiana Pioneers, the Indiana Historical Society, the Bibliographical Society of America and the Indianapolis Women’s Club.

Dorothy Ritter Russo passed away in 1993 at the age of 92.

Sources:

“Dorothy Russo,” *Indianapolis News*, 1 April 1993.

Stewart, Lotys Benning, “They Achieve,” *Indianapolis Star*, 28 May 1944.

Thompson, Donald E., *Indiana Authors and their Books, 1917-1966*, p. 530.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection has been arranged into two series. **Series 1** includes material related to Russo's work on *One Hundred Years of Indiana Medicine, 1849-1949*. This includes a bound essay, probably from the early 1940s, called "A Short History of Medicine in Early Indiana" (BV1721). It was written by Richard J. Markey and Eugene L. Hendershot with help from James C. Acos, Stanley Sroka, and Michael Truman. Series 1 also includes two copies of Russo's 1942 paper "Indiana's Medical Literature," given before the Indiana Association of the History of Medicine, in which she made a start at compiling a bibliography on this subject. Further research in the collection focuses on Dr. John S. Bobbs and a list of "Medical Men Born in, or Identified with, Indiana."

Series 2 consists of material related to Russo's work on bibliographies of Indiana authors. The most extensive of this material is related to George Ade. The Ade material includes original research, correspondence, and a group of real photo postcards. One postcard, showing Ade at his desk, has been autographed by the author. Series 2 also includes material related to the bibliographies of James Whitcomb Riley, Booth Tarkington, and *Seven Authors of Crawfordsville*. This includes some correspondence with bibliographer Jacob Blanck. Visuals related to Booth Tarkington seem to be from the publication process, including mockups, illustrations, and a test printing of the 1913 painting of Tarkington by Wayman Adams, which was used as frontispiece. Matted 8"x10" photographs of each of the plates used in the 1949 book are also included.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Indiana Medical History

CONTENTS

Medical history of Indiana research material, 1874-1946

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Medical history correspondence, 1928-1947

Box 1, Folder 2

Medical history correspondence, 1948-1951

Box 1, Folder 3

“A Short History of Medicine in Early Indiana”

BV1721

Series 2: Indiana Authors Bibliography Materials

CONTENTS

Correspondence regarding James Whitcomb Riley Bibliography, 1946-1970

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 4

Correspondence regarding and reviews of Booth Tarkington Bibliography, 1949-1953

Box 1, Folder 5

Correspondence regarding “Seven Authors of Crawfordsville” bibliography, 1952

Box 1, Folder 6

Correspondence regarding “Seven Authors of Crawfordsville” bibliography, 1953

Box 1, Folder 7

Research and correspondence regarding George Ade bibliography, 1890s-1953

Box 1, Folder 8

Research and correspondence regarding George Ade bibliography, 1890s-1947

Box 1, Folder 9

George Ade and Hazelden real photo postcards, circa 1940

Photographs, 2 Folders

Booth Tarkington bibliography frontispiece

OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 1

Booth Tarkington bibliography spine illustrations

OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 2

Booth Tarkington bibliography spine mockup

OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 3

Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 1	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 4
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 2	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 5
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 3	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 6
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 4	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 7
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 5	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 8
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 6	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 9
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 7	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 10
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 8	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 11
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 9	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 12
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 10	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 13
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 11	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 14
Booth Tarkington bibliography plate 12	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 15
Booth Tarkington bibliography frontispiece transparency [color correction?]	OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 16