

Collection #
M 1439
OM 0721

**INDIA C. HARRIS
COLLECTION, CA. 1860S–1958**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize manuscript folder; 1 photograph box; 1 half OVA photograph box; 7 printed items; 5 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1860s–1958

PROVENANCE: John M. Hawkins, Plainfield, Indiana, March 2003

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0296

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

India [Indiana] (Crago) Harris was born in Connersville, Indiana, to Henry and Elmena (Turner) Crago in 1848. She is listed in the 1850 and 1860 censuses as Indiana Crago, residing with her parents. All other documentation gives her name as India.

She married Addison C. Harris around 1868. Prior to her marriage, she attended Northwestern Christian University, now Butler University. She also studied law with her husband and assisted him with legal research.

India Harris was one of the first members of the Art Association of Indianapolis, serving as Recording Secretary from 1893–1899 and President from 1904–1907. During her Art Association presidency, she laid the cornerstone for the John Herron Art Museum, then located at 16th and Pennsylvania Streets in Indianapolis. She also donated books to help establish the library there. She accompanied her husband on his diplomatic duties in Vienna from 1899–1901. India Harris died at age 99 in 1948.

Addison Clay Harris was born in Wayne County, Indiana, in 1840 to Branson and Martha (Young) Harris. He was educated in Friends schools in Wayne County. At age 20, Harris moved to Indianapolis to attend Northwestern Christian University, graduating in 1862. He studied law following his graduation. He became a prominent lawyer within the city of Indianapolis and was admitted into the bar in 1865.

Addison Harris served in the Senate of the state of Indiana from 1876–1880. Additionally, Harris served as the United States minister to Austria-Hungary in Vienna from 1899–1901. He died in 1916.

Besides maintaining a home in Indianapolis, the Harrises also owned a farm at the corner of what is now 96th and Allisonville Road. At the time of India's death, she left the home to Indiana University. John Becker, her attorney, and his wife Mayme bought a little more than half the land from the University in 1962. After Becker's death, Mayme continued to live in the residence until her death in 1995.

The home was placed on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures in 1985. After Mayme Becker's death, a large portion of the remaining farmland was sold. The home was moved to Eller Road in Fishers in 1996. Today, the Harris farmhouse is known as Ambassador House and serves as a community and rental space. It is part of Fishers Heritage Park, which opened in 2003.

The Harrises had close connections with other prominent families in the Indianapolis area. They also maintained connections with some of the people they met while serving in the diplomatic corps in Europe. Additionally, India Harris had a close relationship with Madame d'Herbez de la Tour, a Frenchwoman who moved to Indianapolis to provide French and music lessons. Madame d'Herbez de la Tour died in Indianapolis in 1906 at the place where she boarded. Her son was serving in Madagascar with the French Legion at the time of her death. India Harris served as the executrix of d'Herbez de la Tour's estate.

Sources:

Materials within the collection.

"Mrs. Harris, 99, Widow of Ex-Ambassador, Dies," *The Indianapolis Star*, 13 June 1948, p. 21, accessed online 12 November 2018.

"Addison C. Harris Dead of Paralysis," *The Indianapolis News*, 4 September 1916, p. 4, accessed online 13 November 2018.

"About" and "Timeline," Ambassador House website, accessed 28 November 2018.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection primarily contains the personal and business correspondence of India Harris.

Series I: The personal papers of India Harris constitute the first series in the collection. These include personal correspondence and her diaries for 1927, 1929 and 1930. Also present are dinner party notes, invitations, address books, calling cards, and greeting cards. The lifetime membership card for India Harris in the American National Red Cross is the last item in this series.

Series II: This series is comprised of the business papers of India Harris. The bulk of these materials are business correspondence. This series also contains a list of household furnishings, presumably for insurance purposes. Completing the second series are account books, banking materials, bills and receipts, as well as some business cards and advertisements.

Series III: The third series contains a folder of correspondence for Addison C. Harris. Also present are papers related to his service in the diplomatic corps. Photographs acquired by the couple when they lived in Europe also reside in this series.

Series IV: The remaining materials from the collection reside in series four. One folder within this series relates to Madame d'Herbez de la Tour, a French resident of Indianapolis. These papers are from Madame d'Herbez de la Tour's life as well as materials related to her death and estate. The series also contains some photographs. Printed items and artifacts associated with the collection are found in series four as well. The final item in the collection is a postcard to John W. Becker in 1958. At the time the postcard was sent, Becker lived at the old Harris farm, residing at 9622 Allisonville Road. Becker served as India Harris' attorney prior to her death.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Personal Papers of India C. Harris

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Personal Correspondence of India Harris, 1894–1909	Box 1, Folder 1
Personal Correspondence of India Harris, 1910–1938	Box 1, Folder 2
Personal Correspondence of India Harris, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3
Diaries of India Harris, 1927, 1929, 1930	Box 1, Folder 4
Dinner party notes, 1900, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
Invitations, 1899, 1901, 1910, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 6
Address books, ca. 1900, ca. 1940s (2)	Box 1, Folder 7
Calling cards, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 8
Greeting cards, 1907, 1917, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 9
American National Red Cross Life Membership certificate, 1905	Box 1, Folder 10
Portrait of Unidentified Woman from Connersville [possibly India Crago], ca. 1860s (carte-de-visite)	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
India Harris Portrait, Standing, ca. 1910 (gelatin silver print)	OVA Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
India Harris Portrait, Standing with dog, ca. 1910 (gelatin silver print)	OVA Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
India Harris Portrait, Sitting, ca. 1910 (gelatin silver print)	OVA Photographs Box 1, Folder 3
Photograph of Harris Home, 1444 N. Meridian (mounted photograph)	OVA Photographs Box 1, Folder 4
Photographs of Harris Home, 1444 N. Meridian	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photographs of "Still's Baby," referenced in letter from June [Gates], n.d. [Box 1, Folder 3]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs from California, 1928, 1937	Photographs Box 1, Folder 4
Real Photo Postcards of California	Photographs Box 1, Folder 5
Printed Postcards of California	Photographs Box 1, Folder 6
Real Photo Postcard of Mexico	Photographs Box 1, Folder 7

Series 2: Business Papers of India C. Harris

CONTENTS

Business correspondence of India Harris, 1908, 1921–1926	CONTAINER Box 1, Folder 11
Business correspondence of India Harris, 1927–1928	Box 1, Folder 12
Business correspondence of India Harris, 1930–1938	Box 1, Folder 13
Business correspondence of India Harris, 1941–1946	Box 2, Folder 1
Business correspondence, Shellhouse Fireproof Warehouse Company, 1942	OM 0721, Folder 1
Photographs, Evidence for wall dispute, 1946	Photographs Box 1, Folder 8
Business correspondence of India Harris, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 2
Notebook with household furnishings (includes diary entry for 1900 [2 pages])	Box 2, Folder 3
Account book, 1939–1945	Box 2, Folder 4
Bank statements of India Harris, 1924–1947	Box 2, Folder 5
Bank statements of India Harris, 1930, 1946–1947	OM 0721, Folder 1
Check books, 1918, 1946	Box 2, Folder 6
Bills and Receipts, 1902–1945, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7
Business cards and advertisements	Box 2, Folder 8

Series 3: Papers of Addison C. Harris

CONTENTS

Correspondence of Addison C. Harris, 1899–1907

Portraits of Addison C. Harris, ca. 1860s–ca. 1890s (3 carte-de-visite, 1 cabinet card, 1 half-tone engraving, 1 mounted photograph)

Portrait of Addison C. Harris, ca. 1905 (halftone engraving with mechanical signature)

Portrait of Addison C. Harris, ca. 1905 (platinum print)

Photograph of Addison C. Harris in office, ca. 1910 (mounted photograph)

Diplomatishces [Diplomatic] Corps directory, 1901 (with other German language documents)

Additional German language items

Parade in Vienna, Austria, ca. 1900

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 9

Photographs
Box 1, Folder 9

OVA Photographs
Box 1, Folder 5

OVA Photographs
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs
Box 1, Folder 10

Box 2, Folder 10

OM 0721, Folder 1

Photographs
Box 1, Folder 11

Identified Images from Europe [Archduchess Elisabeth Marie of Austria (cabinet card); Archduchess Maria Anna/Princess Elias of Bourbon-Parma with sister, Archduchess Isabella/Princess Georg of Bavaria (cabinet card); Archduchess Maria Josephia, wife of Archduke Otto (cabinet card); Archduke Otto (cabinet card); Archduchess Marie Valerie of Austria (cabinet card); Archduchess Sophie and her son, Franz Joseph (cabinet card of painting); Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg (cabinet card); Kaiser Franz I of Austria with his grandson, Archduke Franz Joseph, Archduchess Sophie and a soldier at Laxenburg, 1833 (cabinet card of painting); Princess Charlotte/Duchess of Saxe-Meningen (cabinet card); Princess Elizabeth with husband, Leopold Petznek (photograph); Princess Maria Cristina of Bourbon-Two Sicilies (cabinet card); Princess Isabella of Cröy/Archduchess Isabella (cabinet card); Princess Stèphanie of Belgium (cabinet card); Princess Thyra of Denmark with daughter, Princess Marie Louise of Hanover (cabinet card); Ida Novakovic [standing] (cabinet card); Ida Novakovic [seated] (cabinet card); Paul Freiherr von Novakovic (cabinet card)]

Photographs
Box 1, Folder 12

Series 4: Additional Materials

CONTENTS

Illustrated pamphlet of some geological wonders of Indiana: illustrated catalogue and price list of the Indiana Oolitic Lime Stone Company, Stinesville, Monroe County, Indiana. ca. 1887

Memorial address delivered by Ex-Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hanna before Alvin P. Hovey Post, G.A.R., of West Indianapolis, Indiana: on the fifth anniversary of the death of Governor Alvin P. Hovey at the Congregational Church, November 29, 1896.

Materials related to Madame d'Herbez de la Tour, 1891–1907

Opinions of James G. Jenkins: in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, from January 1, 1901 to December 31, 1901.

CONTAINER

Pamphlet
HD9621.I64 I66 1887

Pamphlet
F526.H75 H3 1896 c.2

Box 2, Folder 11

Pamphlet
KF105.J46 1901

Opinions of James G. Jenkins: in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, from January 1, 1902 to December 31, 1902.	Pamphlet KF105.J46 1902
Rules and regulations of the Crown Hill Cemetery. 1904	Pamphlet F534.I55 R85 1904
Portrait of unidentified man, ca. 1905 (gelatin silver print)	OVA Photographs Box 1, Folder 7
Printed portrait of Miss Catherine Eddy, ca. 1907 (mounted newspaper clipping)	Photographs Box 1, Folder 13
Woodrow Wilson, the anti-Jefferson, anti-foreign, anti-labor, anti-soldier, and pro-Chinese candidate for the presidency. 1912	Pamphlet E765.R64 1912
Photographs of Cats, ca. 1915	Photographs Box 1, Folder 14
Photograph of Unidentified House, includes palm tree [possibly California]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 15
Clippings--Death of Matilda (Mrs. Walter Q.) Gresham, 1930	Box 2, Folder 12
Revenue act 1941: with explanation	Pamphlet KF6276.6 1941 .R4 1941
Clippings--Politics, et cetera	Box 2, Folder 13
Envelopes (without associated letters), 1916-1947, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 14
Postcard to John W. Becker, 1958	Box 2, Folder 15
3 wallets, one engraved "Mr. A.C. Harris" and "Mrs. India C. Harris"	2003.0296
Metal picture frame	2003.0296
Tile sample	2003.0296