PAUL, KATHLEEN, AND LOUISE MCNUTT COLLECTION ADDITION, 1860s; 1895–2005

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Processed by

Paul Brockman
April, 2017

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 3 oversized manuscript folders; 1.5 photograph boxes; 1 OVA photograph box; 1.5 OVB photograph boxes; 1 OVB Graphic Folder; 4 OVC graphic folders; 1 painting; 1 folder color photos

COLLECTION DATES: 1860s; 1895–2005

PROVENANCE: John L. Krauss, Indianapolis, December, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0357

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The collections consists of materials from three members of the McNutt family: Paul Vories McNutt (1891–1955), his wife Kathleen Timolat McNutt (1894–1980), and their daughter, Louise M. McNutt (1921–2000).

Paul V. McNutt was born in Franklin, Indiana, but soon moved and was raised in Martinsville, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University in 1913 and he received his law degree from Harvard in 1916. After practicing law with his father he entered the U.S. Army as an officer near the end of World War I. While serving with the Army in Texas he met Kathleen Timolat whom he soon married. Their daughter, Louise, was born in 1921. After his release from service, McNutt joined the law faculty at IU and became dean of the law school in 1925. McNutt gained political recognition from his involvement with the American Legion arguing for veteran's benefits and serving as Indiana Commander in 1927 and National Commander in 1929. McNutt was elected Governor of Indiana in 1932 and served from 1933–1937. As Governor he streamlined the government and used New Deal legislation to provide jobs for numerous Hoosiers. At this time state law did not allow a governor to serve more than one term in office so for his political loyalty Franklin Roosevelt appointed him High Commissioner of the Philippines. After a shaky start in the position, McNutt rebounded and helped improve the Philippine economy and became quite popular before leaving in 1939. Of note was his and Philippine President Manuel Quezon ability to get the State Department to allow 1,000 Jews per year to enter the country to escape Nazi persecution. That number was raised to 1,200 in 1939. McNutt returned to the United States in 1939 and was appointed head of the Federal Security Agency. There was speculation that McNutt would run for President in 1940 if FDR decided not to seek a third term in office. When Roosevelt did run for a third term, McNutt emerged as one of the leading candidates for Vice-President. Roosevelt rejected the idea and McNutt loyally withdrew his name from nomination. McNutt continued to administrate the FSA until 1945 as well as serving as chairman of the War Manpower Commission from 1942–1945. McNutt served as the first ambassador to the newly created Philippine Republic from 1946–1947. In 1947 he retired from government service and resumed his law practice as well as being involved in several life insurance companies. In 1950 McNutt became chairman of the United Artists Corporation. Paul McNutt died from cancer in 1955.

Kathleen Timolat McNutt was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota but moved with her parents, Harry and Louise Timolat, to Chicago a short time later. Both of her parents came from wealth when her father was with a profitable wax producing business. The Timolats moved to Mexico in 1910 where he opened a wax factory. Kathleen was educated at Mulholland a private finishing school for girls from wealth in San Antonio, Texas. A revolution forced the Timolats to flee Mexico and relocate the factory in San Antonio. Kathleen finished her formal education in San Antonio and went to work for her father as his secretary. A short time later she met Paul McNutt who was stationed in San Antonio with the U.S. Army and they were married in 1918. Kathleen was a devout Christian Scientist and her religious views differed with those of McNutt who was a Methodist. A striking beauty, Kathleen McNutt was known for her charm and social skills and flourished
at political and social events. Upon Paul McNutt's death, she felt a great loss and need for companionship so in 1956 she married long time friend and fellow Christian Scientist, Roy Garrett Watson of Boston, Massachusetts. She died in 1980.

Louise M. McNutt was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and was educated at home in her early life in part to her contracting tuberculosis of the spine. Louise attended Tudor Hall while her father served as governor and accompanied her parents when they went to the Philippines. Initially Louise enrolled at Indiana University but transferred to George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where she earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Political Science. She spent her career working for the State Department's Far Eastern Division and became an advisor to the United Nations. She passed away in 2000.

Sources:
Materials in Collection
Kotlowski, *Paul V. McNutt and the Age of FDR.*
Peat, *Portraits and Painters of the Governors of Indiana.*
Primary among the items in the addition to the McNutt family collection is the correspondence and related papers of Louise McNutt, published material from Paul McNutt, and a number of visual items including photographs, graphics, and an oil on canvas portrait of Paul McNutt painted in Manila in 1938. Also included are a number of medals and decorations awarded to McNutt for his service as High Commissioner/Ambassador and Commander of the American Legion.

Louise McNutt materials include correspondence, 1946–1948; items from Philippine independence festivities, 1946–1947; a paper on her visit to China, 1938; and retirement well wishes from her retirement party with the Foreign Service, 1988. Prominent among her correspondence are letters of a romantic nature from Eric P. Hamp (1920–?) who was born in England but came to the United States in the late 1920s and was living with family in East Orange, New Jersey, and served in U. S. Army during World War II.

Paul McNutt materials contain published addresses during his years as Governor of Indiana, 1933–1938, and correspondence and visual materials during his period as High Commissioner and later Ambassador to the Philippines, 1937–1939; 1946–1952. In addition to a large number of official and personal photographs, including one with he and President Manuel Quezon relaxing and laughing with the inscription from the Philippine President stating that this was proof they spent more time laughing than working.

Other McNutt family photographs include Paul McNutt photographs from childhood, World War I, and his American Legion Commandership. There also are caricatures of McNutt; photographs of Kathleen and Louise McNutt; scenery and recreation; unknown family members; and an autographed personally inscribed photograph of Meredith Nicholson.
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