

SALLIE E. COLEMAN DIARY, 1889

Collection #
SC 2453

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item

COLLECTION DATE: 1889

PROVENANCE: Dorothy G. Helmer, Indianapolis IN, 11 July 1994

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 94.0821

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sallie E. Coleman (ca 1860-1947) was the daughter of Colonel Michael A. Downing, who made a fortune with cable cars in Denver, then moved to Indianapolis and served as police commissioner (1884), president of the board of public works (1895-1901), and parks commissioner (1901-1908).

Sallie Downing's first husband was John H. Vajen, Jr.; they had a daughter, Suemma. After Mr. Vajen's death, she married William H. Coleman, a "self-made man" who had lumber factories in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and Tennessee, and a lucrative contract to make oil barrels for Standard Oil.

From 1890 the Colemans lived in a handsome house at 1006 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis. They entertained extensively; among their out-of-town guests were inventor Guglielmo Marconi, actors E. H. Sothorn and Julia Marlowe, and Richmond P. Hobson, who made his reputation during the Spanish-American War by almost singlehandedly sinking a freighter across the mouth of Santiago harbor in an effort to trap the Spanish fleet. They made a world tour in 1900, spending several months in Hong Kong, where Hobson then commanded the U. S. squadron.

The Colemans gave generously (reportedly over \$1 million) to many causes, especially to several hospitals and to the libraries of Butler and Yale Universities. Mrs. Coleman also did a good deal of volunteer work, especially for the Red Cross and the Indianapolis Flower Mission.

Sources: *Indiana Biographical Series*, vol. 27 pp. 105-106, vol. 33 p. 7

J. P. Dunn, *Greater Indianapolis*, vol. 2 pp. 857-859

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains one item, the diary of Sallie Coleman on her wedding trip to Europe from May to September 1889. The trip was a fairly standard one, beginning in Paris, then to Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and London. The couple met a great many people, and Mrs. Coleman did a great deal of shopping.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Coleman, Sallie E., ca. 1860-1947

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Coleman, Sallie E., ca. 1860-1947--Diaries

Voyages and travels

Honeymoon--Indiana--Indianapolis

Honeymoon--Europe

Travelers--Indiana--Indianapolis--Diaries

Travelers--Europe--Diaries

Europe--Description and travel

END