

PAUL DRESSER FRAGMENT, [1898?]

Collection #
SC 2412

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item

COLLECTION DATE [1898?]

PROVENANCE: Forrest H. Sweet, Battle Creek, Michigan, 11 April 1941

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: *The Songs of Paul Dresser*, with an introduction by Theodore Dreiser (New York: Boni and Liveright, 1927) M 1620 .D8 S5 1927

ACCESSION NUMBER: 41.0404

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Paul Dresser (1857-1906), the older brother of novelist Theodore Dreiser, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, the son of John Paul Dreiser and Sarah Schnab (Sarah May Schneppes). It was a blue-collar family, and Dresser (he changed his surname in 1873) had many jobs: in a woolen mill, a bakery, and a post office; as a pressman. He was sent to St. Meinrad's Seminary in southern Indiana, but ran away within a year to join a minstrel show selling Hamlin's Wizard Oil. After some time in minstrel shows, he wrote and acted in melodramas and farces.

Dresser was most famous for writing what became the state song of Indiana, "On the banks of the Wabash far away." He also wrote "My gal Sal" and others less well-known, such as "He fought for the cause he thought was right," "The letter that never came," and "The pardon that came too late." He died in Brooklyn.

Sources: Banta, *Indiana Writers and their Books, 1917-1966*, p. 173
Contemporary Education Summer 1987, vol. 58 pp. 233-234

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of one item, a manuscript fragment (three staves) of the score of "On the banks of the Wabash far away," signed by Dresser. An accompanying letter of 20 October 1898 from Howley, Haviland Co., 280-286 Broadway, New York, indicates the source.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Dresser, Paul, 1858-1906

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Dresser, Paul, 1858-1906

State songs--Indiana

Indiana--Songs and music

END