

BOWLES FAMILY PAPERS, 1846-1902

Collection #
M 600

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 small manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1846-1902

PROVENANCE: Mira Bowles, Indianapolis, before 1973

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 92.0120x

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas H. Bowles (1831 -1899) was born in Middletown, Maryland. He came to Indiana in 1854, establishing himself first in Noblesville and then in Indianapolis. He was admitted to the bar in 1862, and practiced as a business lawyer, with offices at 64 East Washington Street. He married Kate Moore (b. ca 1841) whose family had moved to Indianapolis in 1858.

Their son, Joseph Moore Bowles, was of an artistic temperament. He ran an art store, then worked at Lieber's, and was a member of The Portfolio. There he met another young artist, Bruce Rogers, who was working as an illustrator for the *News*. In 1893 Bowles founded *Modern Art*, the first magazine in its field. Originally printed by the Hollenbeck Press

in Indianapolis, the magazine, and with it the Bowles family, moved to Boston in 1895. Thomas Bowles married Janet Payne (d. 1948) of Indianapolis. She studied with Lalique in Paris, and became a nationally known worker in gems and metal. She made chalices and jewelry, and in 1914 designed a gold dinner set for J. P. Morgan. She wrote a history of the Christmas tree (1916) and *Gossamer to Steel* (1917). She taught art at Shortridge High School for a number of years, retiring in 1942.

Their daughter Mira Bowles (b. 1902), the donor of this collection, was born in Rye, New York. After graduating from New York University, she wrote for magazines in New York from 1924 to 1942. From 1942 to 1967 she wrote advertising and publicity for L. S. Ayres and Co. in Indianapolis, as well as a history of the company (1957).

Sources: Materials in collection

Anton Scherrer's column in *Indianapolis Times*, 21 and 22 May 1936

Indiana Biographical Series, vol. 33 p. 55

Indiana Authors and Their Books, 1949 volume, p. 39; 1981 volume, p. 42

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling one small manuscript box, contains, letters, literary papers, legal papers, receipts, and clippings. It is arranged by correspondent.

Folders 1 and 2 contain legal papers, receipts, and an 1866 diary of Thomas H. Bowles. Folders 3 to 5 contain material relating to Kate Moore Bowles: a biography of her husband, humorous sketches, a short biography of her mother, and transcripts of two family letters.

Folder 6 contains two letters of Duane Bowles: a childhood letter of 1886, and an 1899 letter from Albert J. Beveridge eulogizing Thomas H. Bowles. Folder 7 contains receipts and bicycle licenses of Osborn Bowles.

In Folder 8 are a humorous 1880 "newspaper" written by Mary P. Judkins (apparently a Quaker friend) and her undated obituary. Folder 9 contains clippings, mainly obituaries.

In Folder 10 is a facsimile letter of 1775 from John Pringle to James Boswell, congratulating him on the birth of a son and cautioning him, should he name the son Alexander, against ever calling him "Saundie."

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER

1 Thomas H. Bowles-- business and legal papers, 1858-1864

2 Thomas H. Bowles-- receipts, 1859-1902; diary, 1866

3 Kate Moore Bowles-- biography of husband; humorous sketches

4 Kate Moore Bowles-- biography of mother, Deborah Duane Moore

5 Moore family letters

6 Duane Bowles-- letters, 1886, 1899

7 Osborn Bowles-- receipts, bicycle licenses, 1896-1902

8 Mary P. Judkins-- "newspaper," obituary

9 Clippings

10 Facsimile letter, 1775, Pringle to Boswell

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Bowles, Thomas H., 1831-1899

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Bowles, Thomas H., 1831-1899

Bowles, Kate Moore, ca. 1841-

Judkins, Mary P.

Beveridge, Albert Jeremiah, 1862-1927

Bowles family

Family records

Lawyers--Indiana--Indianapolis

Legal documents--Indiana--Indianapolis

Obituaries--Indiana--Indianapolis

Wit and humor

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Humor

END