

**Collection #:**  
**M 0601**

**WALTER H. MELLOR  
PAPERS, 1898-1939**

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box (.4 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: 1898-1939

PROVENANCE: Dave Buchanan, Vigo County Historical Society, 1205 South 6th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802,  
24 May 1991

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1991.0481

NOTES: John G. Biel Papers (M 0599) were part of this donation, however, because of their unrelated nature, two separate collections were created. Mellor was Biel's father-in-law.

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Walter H. Mellor (1875-1939) was born in Michigan City, Indiana to William and Sarah Grace Mellor. He served as a jeweler's apprentice with John F. Becks of Michigan City, then attended Parson's Horological Institute in LaPorte, Indiana. After leaving school, he was employed as a jeweler in Clinton, Kentucky, Greenville, Mississippi, and Cherokee, Iowa. In 1902 he returned to Michigan City where he established his own business, which he operated until 1921, at which time he sold out.

Mellor became associated with the Retail Jewelers Association in 1908. He was elected president of the Indiana Retail Jewelers Association in May, 1911, and re-elected the following year. In 1913 he was named a member of the executive committee, a job he held until the time of his retirement. In 1919 Mellor was named treasurer of the American National Jewelers Association and was re-elected in 1920. He became traveling secretary of the Roberts Memorial National Association for ten years, during which time he assisted in establishing state associations in six states.

After selling his jewelry store, Mellor became field secretary for the American National Jewelers Association and solicited memberships in 34 states. He also organized many jewelers clubs in cities he visited. He was also associated with Joe Mazer, Inc., a diamond house in New York City.

During World War I Mellor served as chairman of the Michigan City chapter of the Red Cross. In 1919 he founded the Michigan City Rotary Club. Mellor married Inez E. Herrick in 1934. He also had a daughter from a previous marriage, Mrs. Marion Mellor Biel.

Source: *Michigan City News-Dispatch*, 27 October 1939.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers consist of correspondence and publications regarding Mellor's business and personal interests, the bulk of which deal with his involvement in the American National Jewelers Association and the Indiana Retail Jewelers Association. Among the correspondence are letters from individuals, companies, and government officials regarding the activities and meetings of the American National Jewelers Association and the Indiana Retail Jewelers Association, mostly from 1921-1927. There are also publications, newsclippings, and programs from these organizations as well as those of jewelers associations from other states which include Mellor's activities. There are also some specific subjects regarding the jewelry business such as a government excise tax on jewelry in 1922-1923. In addition, there are correspondence and printed items regarding Mellor's family and personal life, his early career in the jewelry business,

and some business records of his jewelry store in Michigan City, particularly price lists, a catalog from 1912, and its sale in 1921. Also included is a substantial amount of information regarding Mellor's death and funeral in 1939. There are also materials dealing with his association with civic and social organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Chicago Golden Roosters.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

### **BOX 1: Papers and Correspondence, 1898-1939**

#### **FOLDER CONTENTS**

- 1: Correspondence and Papers, 1906-1921
- 2: Correspondence and Papers, 1922
- 3: Correspondence and Papers, 1923-1927
- 4: Civic and Social Activities, 1898-1930
- 5: Death and Funeral Papers, 1939
- 6: American National & Indiana Retail Jewelers Associations Articles, 1922-1923
- 7: American National & Indiana Retail Jewelers Associations Articles, 1920s
- 8: Excise Tax Correspondence and Articles, 1922-1923
- 9: General Articles and Publications, 1920s
- 10: Produce Catalogue, 1912
- 11: Price Lists and Orders, n.d.
- 12: Financial Notes, 1922 & n.d.
- 13: Newsclippings, 1898-1939
- 14: (VC) Jewelry Business Photographs, ca. 1910s
- 15: (VC) Mellor Family Photographs, 1890s-1910s
- 16: (VC) Mellor Family Photographs, 1890s-1910s
- 17: (VC) Postcards of Michigan City & Indianapolis

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0601).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.