

C Mott, Frank Luther (1886-1964), Papers, 1824-1962  
2343 .5 linear feet

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

#### INTRODUCTION

The papers of a professor of Journalism and Director of the School of Journalism from 1927-1942; dean, School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, 1942-1951, and emeritus, 1951-1964.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Frank Luther Mott on 28 March 1961 (Accession No. 3472).

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Frank Luther Mott, was born in Keokuk County, Iowa on April 4, 1886 to David Charles and Mary E. (Tipton) Mott. He attended Audubon High School, Audubon, Iowa, and graduated in 1903. He was a student at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, 1903-1906. From there Mott went to the University of Chicago where he received his Ph.D. in 1907. His M.A. (1919) and Ph.D. (1928) in English he received from Columbia University. He married Vera H. Ingram on September 7, 1910. They had one daughter, Mildred Mott Wedel.

Mott was co-editor with his father of the *Marengo* (Iowa), *Republican*, 1907-1914; editor of *Grand Junction* (Iowa) and the *Globe*, 1914-1917. He was a professor of English at Simpson College, 1919-1921; assistant professor of English at the University of Iowa, 1925-1927; professor of journalism and director of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, 1927-1942; dean, School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, 1942-1951, and emeritus, 1951-1964. In addition, Mott was section chief of journalism, American University, Biarritz, France, 1945-1946; on leave as advisor to Japanese news leaders in 1947; joint editor with John Frederick of *The Midland*, 1925-1930; and associate editor, 1930-1933; editor-in-chief of *Journalism Quarterly*, 1930-1934; chairman of National Council for Research in Journalism, 1934-1938.

He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1939 and Bancroft Prize in 1958 for his work in the history of American magazines. He received a number of honorary degrees in 1939, 1941, 1945, and 1958. He was a member of the Modern Language Association of America; American Association Teachers of Journalism; American Association Schools and Departments of Journalism (president 1929, 1950); American Antiquarian Society; Society of American Historians; American Dialect Society; Alpha Tau Omega; Kiwanis Club; Kappa Tau Alpha (president 1936-1939); Sigma Delta Chi.

Mott was the author of numerous books and articles on journalism and magazine history, among them: *A History of American Magazines*, 5 volumes; *American Journalism*; *News in America*; *Jefferson and the Press*. He was also a writer of short stories. He died on October 23, 1964.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers contain: telegrams from the Spanish American War front; autographed letters; correspondence concerning the history of American magazines and bestselling books; letters from John G. Neihardt, Robert Frost and Vachel Lindsay concerning their work; galley proof of Neihardt's *Song of the Indian Wars*; material on Japanese journalism education after World War II; clippings and letters congratulating Mott on his appointment to the University of Missouri in 1942; manuscript and galley proof of *Time Enough*. For a more detailed description, please see folder list.

## FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-44 Correspondence
- f. 1 Telegrams to the *Audubon Republican*, Audubon, Iowa, reports released from the Spanish American War front, 1898.
- f. 2 Correspondence and Autographs. Land grant dated 1824 signed by James Monroe. Correspondence from Samuel Clemens to W.C. Church, editor of the *Galaxy*. Autographed letters from Senator Henry Cabot Lodge and George Hoar, 1900. Letter praising Mott and his father, David C. Mott on the quality of their former editorship of the *Marengo (Iowa) Republican*, 1931. Includes a summary of Harold Bell Wright's book sales sent to Mott in 1942 in connection with his history of American best sellers, *Golden Multitudes*.
- f. 3 Lyman Abbott, editor of *The Outlook*: Correspondence including letters to Horatio C. King concerning *The Outlook* and *Plymouth Church*, 1884-1910. Contains photographs and autographs.
- f. 4 Vachel Lindsay: Correspondence to Mott contains mention of Lindsay's association with Hamlin Garland, Edgar L. Master, and *The Village Magazine*, 1917. Included is "Letters About My Four Programmes," a pamphlet by Lindsay which explains his point of view. Robert Frost: Letter to Mott about a poem of Frost's.
- f. 5-13 John G. Neihardt: Correspondence in the early 1920's primarily concerns Neihardt's literary career. Contains his views about his work, his plans for publicity, his lecture tours, his comments on Mott's reviews and his position on the editorial staff of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1926. Included is some discussion of personal matters, clarification of his early association with the Indians, a comment on Vachel Lindsay, and a photograph of Neihardt as a young man.
- f. 9-13 *Song of the Indian Wars* by John Neihardt: galley proof
- f. 14-15 Japanese Education for Journalism: Proposed curriculum, reports and outlines, 1946-1947. Some written by Mott as part of his work while serving the Allied Command in Japan as a journalism educator.
- f. 16 Biarritz American University (France) publication of 1945, *Beacon*, includes a section on Journalism.

- f. 17-26 Correspondence and clippings concerning Mott's appointment to the University of Missouri, 1942. Letters congratulate him on his new appointment and express regrets over his leaving the University of Iowa.
- f. 27-44 *Time Enough*: Manuscript copy and galley proof, 1962

## INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders
Abbott, Lyman (1835-1922)	3
Biarritz American University	16
Church, William Conant (1836-1917)	2
Frost, Robert (1874-1963)	4
Galaxy, New York City, New York	2
Garland, Hamlin (1860-1940)	3
King, Horatio C.	3
Lindsay, Vachel (1879-1931)	4, 7
Lodge, Henry Cabot (1850-1924)	2
Masters, Edgar Lee (1869-1950)	4
Mott, Frank Luther (1886-1964)	1
Mott, Frank Luther (1886-1964), Golden Multitudes	2
Neihardt, John Gneisenau (1881-1973)	5-13
Outlook The	3
Plymouth Church	3
Press, Japan	16
Spanish American War	1
St. Louis (Missouri) Post-Dispatch	8
St. Louis Post-Dispatch	8
True, Allen	7
Village Magazine, The	4
Wright, Harold Bell (1872-1944)	2