

***The Potters' Wheel* Collection, 1904-1907**

4 boxes, 18 volumes

Processed by Sam Cooper, November 1998

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

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DONOR INFORMATION

Items in *The Potter's Wheel* Collection were donated by Mrs. Alfredo S. Herrera in July 1952 and February 1962; Robert M. Ryan in January 1956; and Miss Alice Ernst in July 1968.

RESTRICTIONS

Preservation copies of *The Potter's Wheel*, the criticism pages and the Christmas Remembrance Book are contained in the first two boxes of the collection and **must be used prior to the originals**. The original copies of *The Potter's Wheel* will only be paged after the preservation copy has been referenced, and then only if actually required to clarify some research question or to verify the original color, texture or size. All photocopies must be made from the preservation copies.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Potter's Wheel was the only creation of the Potters. The Potters were all young women in their late teens and early twenties: Vine Colby, Inez Dutro, Celia Harris, Grace Parrish, Williamina Parrish, Guida Richey, Caroline Risque, Petronelle Sombart, Sara Teasdale, and Edna Wahlert. Lillie Rose Ernst, a prominent figure in the St. Louis Public School system, was an important figure to the Potters and much of their work is dedicated to her. *The Potter's Wheel* was discontinued after the completion of the third volume. Some of the women went on to become widely recognized for their talents.

From November 1904 to October 1907, *The Potter's Wheel* was issued once a month. A single issue of the *The Potter's Wheel* was created and bound solely by hand. The magazine was at first issued at a standard 8 × 10 size. However, after the first volume of twelve issues was completed, the size was enlarged to 10 × 12 for the second and third volumes. The size change was not explained. The magazine itself consisted of original prose, poetry, design, drawing, photography, sculpture (by way of photograph), and plays. Along with these original works were interwoven famous quotations, mostly pertaining to friendship, which seem to crystallize the various works. The issues were originally accompanied by a small volume of criticism pages that allowed the artists to critique each other's work; however, after the first volume, the criticism pages were discontinued. At first, the criticism pages were attached to the actual magazine but later were kept separate from the magazine.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains sixteen issues of *The Potter's Wheel* and twelve issues of the criticism pages. Various other works are also included: a Christmas Remembrance Book; five published

copies of “From the Potter’s Wheel”; a booklet “The Soul’s Inheritance” by George Cabot Lodge, bound by W. Parrish; two handwritten copies of “Ye Comet’s Tale” by V. Colby and W. Parrish; “The Pursuit of the Ideal,” a play written by the March Hare; a sheet of handmade wrapping paper; a 1 × 1 handmade notebook describing the personalities of the Potters; and a list of S. Teasdale’s contributions to *The Potter’s Wheel*.

FOLDER LIST

Box 1

folders 1-16 Preservation copies of *The Potter's Wheel*, vol. I-III (1904-1907)

- folder 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov. 1904
- folder 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec. 1904
- folder 3 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb. 1905
- folder 4 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
- folder 5 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
- folder 6 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
- folder 7 Vol. II, No. 4 - Feb 1906
- folder 8 Vol. II, No. 7 - May 1906
- folder 9 Vol. II, No. 8 - Jun 1906
- folder 10 Vol. II, No. 9 - Jul 1906
- folder 11 Vol. II, No. 11 - Sep 1906
- folder 12 Vol. II, No. 12 - Oct 1906
- folder 13 Vol. III, No. 3 - Jan 1907
- folder 14 Vol. III, No. 7 - May 1907
- folder 15 Vol. III, No. 8 - Jun 1907
- folder 16 Vol. III, No. 9 - Jul 1907

Box 2

folders 1-13 Preservation copies of the "Criticism Pages," vol. I, no.1-12 (no. 9 missing)

- folder 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov 1904
- folder 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec 1904
- folder 3 Vol. I, No. 3 - Jan 1905
- folder 4 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb 1905
- folder 5 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
- folder 6 Vol. I, No. 6 - Apr 1905
- folder 7 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
- folder 8 Vol. I, No. 8 - Jun 1905
- folder 9 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
- folder 10 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
- folder 11 Vol. I, No. 11 - Sep 1905
- folder 12 Vol. I, No. 12 - Oct 1905
- folder 13 "Christmas Party Remembrance Book," Feb 1907

Box 3

folders 1-12 Original "Criticism Pages," vol. I, no.1-12 (no. 9 missing)

- folder 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov 1904
- folder 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec 1904
- folder 3 Vol. I, No. 3 - Jan 1905
- folder 4 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb 1905
- folder 5 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
- folder 6 Vol. I, No. 6 - Apr 1905
- folder 7 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
- folder 8 Vol. I, No. 8 - Jun 1905

- folder 9 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
- folder 10 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
- folder 11 Vol. I, No. 11 - Sep 1905
- folder 12 Vol. I, No. 12 - Oct 1905

- folder 13 1906 Sept. 27: Booklet bound by W. Parrish, "The Soul's Inheritance" by George Cabot Lodge
- folder 14 1908 February: Bound, handwritten play, "The Pursuit of the Ideal" by the March Hare
- folder 15 1908 February: Loose pages from, "The Pursuit of the Ideal"
- folder 16 1910: Booklet, "From the Potter's Wheel" with added handwritten works
- folder 17 1910: Booklet, "From the Potter's Wheel" with photographs of the Potters
- folder 18 1910: Booklet, "From the Potter's Wheel" (3 copies)

Box 4

- folder 1 1933: Bound play, "Ye Comet's Tale" by W. Parrish and V. Colby
- folder 2 1945 Aug 2: Article, "The Potter's Wheel" by Mamie Teasdale Wheless
- folder 3 1958 Nov 12: Newspaper clipping, "Letters from the People"
- folder 4 no date: Gift card to L.R.E. (Lillie Rose Ernst) presented with "Ye Comet's Tale"

- folder 5 no date: Play, "Ye Comet's Tale" by W. Parrish and V. Colby
- folder 6 no date: Cover for "Ye Comet's Tale"
- folder 7 no date: List of S. Teasdale's contributions to *The Potter's Wheel*
- folder 8 no date: Handmade wrapping paper by Vine Colby. **Oversize**

Bound Volumes

- volume 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov 1904
- volume 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec 1904
- volume 3 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb 1905
- volume 4 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
- volume 5 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
- volume 6 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
- volume 7 Vol. II, No. 4 - Feb 1906
- volume 8 Vol. II, No. 7 - May 1906
- volume 9 Vol. II, No. 8 - Jun 1906
- volume 10 Vol. II, No. 9 - Jul 1906
- volume 11 Vol. II, No. 11 - Sep 1906
- volume 12 Vol. II, No. 12 - Oct 1906
- volume 13 Vol. III, No. 3 - Jan 1907
- volume 14 Vol. III, No. 7 - May 1907
- volume 15 Vol. III, No. 8 - Jun 1907
- volume 16 Vol. III, No. 9 - Jul 1907
- volume 17 Handmade notebook, "A Complete Compendium of Natural Potter History: Giving their haunts and habits"
- volume 18 "Christmas Party Remembrance Book," Feb. 1907

RELATED MATERIALS AT THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Collections in the Archives:

Lillie Rose Ernst (Alphabetical File)
Risue Family (Alphabetical File)
Parrish Sisters Castle Square Opera Company Scrapbook, 1902-1903
The Pearl Pollard Curran Patience Worth Collection, 1913-1937
Poems Collection, 1850-1967
Sara Teasdale Collection, 1905-1956
Theater Programs Collection

In the library:

“The Potter’s Wheel—an early twentieth century support network of women artists and writers” by Beverly D. Bishop, 1984
Grace Parrish Scrapbook, 1898-1926
“Poems from Patience Worth for Williamina Parrish, 1924-1928”
Various books of poetry by Sara Teasdale
Works on Teasdale by Thomas Moulton, Margaret Haley Carpenter, Catharine Cranmer, Helen Sayre DeFrance, Aline Janis, Rudolf Rieder, William D. Drake, and Carol Schoen

Vertical files on the following:

Vine Colby
Lillie Rose Ernst
Celia Harris
Grace Parrish
Williamina Parrish
Potter’s Wheel
Caroline Risque
Petronelle Sombart
Sara Teasdale
Edna Wahlert