



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Edmund Lester Pearson letters to Robert and Mary Finster

1918-1934

MssCol 6251

Summary

Creator: Pearson, Edmund Lester, 1880-1937

Title: Edmund Lester Pearson letters to Robert and Mary Finster

Date: 1918-1934

Size: 9 items

Source: Gift of, Robert D. McChesney, 2005

Abstract: Edmund Lester Pearson (1880-1937) was an American librarian and writer best known for his book *Studies in Murder* (1924) and other essays in the true crime genre. He was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts and graduated from Harvard in 1902 and the New York State Library School in 1904. Pearson was literary editor of *The Outlook* and contributed to many magazines and newspapers, including the *Boston Evening Transcript* for which he wrote a weekly satirical column entitled "The Librarian." Pearson joined the staff of The New York Public Library in 1914, remaining until 1927 when he left his position as Editor of Publications to pursue his writing career. Among Pearson's works were children's books, a study of dime novels, the literary hoax *The Old Librarian's Almanack*, *Queer Books*, and *The Trial of Lizzie Borden*. The collection consists of four letters, three postcards, and a studio portrait photograph of Pearson sent to his New York Public Library colleague and friend, Robert Roland Finster and his wife Mary, 1918-1934. With his typical dry wit, Pearson relates his experiences in Hollywood and London, and while confined to a hospital bed. One photographic postcard, ca. 1918, shows Pearson and other officer candidates in military uniform.

Preferred citation: Edmund Lester Pearson letters to Robert and Mary Finster, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

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he left his position as Editor of Publications to pursue his writing career. Among Pearson's works were children's books, a study of dime novels, the literary hoax *The Old Librarian's Almanack*, *Queer Books*, and *The Trial of Lizzie Borden*.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Librarians -- Correspondence

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Pearson, Edmund Lester, 1880-1937

Finster, Robert Roland

New York Public Library