

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 50 M 72; 50 m 20

Location 26 n-4 (L)

Title DEMENT, Isaac Strange. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1888-1917

Date of receipt 1950

Received from Ionia Dement Nooney

Volume on arrival 37 pieces (daughter of Isaac Dement)

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 2 AB (½ size boxes) 5"

Condition Good. Some items are highly acidic.

Restrictions None

Description

see attached

Special Formats ☐ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☐ Graphics
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records
☐ Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

Shorthand

Accessioned by VW

Date 1/31/89

BIOGRAPHY

Isaac Strange Dement (1855-1928), stenographer, publisher and teacher; born in Benton County, Missouri, July 29, 1855 and lived most of his life in Chicago where he died.

Dement was the official reporter of the Eighth Judicial System of Michigan, editor of the National Stenographer (periodical), and founder of Dement College in Chicago (1897).

Dement learned Benn Pitman stenography, and later Andrew Jackson Grahams' stenography. Dement revised Grahams' Pitman, so, that he could write shorthand at a faster speed. In a controversial claim, Dement stated that he could write 402 w.p.m. This claim was challenged by the New York Sun and Chicago Tribune. The latter promptly challenged Dement to a speed test which resulted with Dement timed at 312 w.p.m. The loss in speed was attributed to a defective manifold copy from which Belle Dement (Mrs. Isaac S. Dement) read.

DESCRIPTION

The Dement Papers, 1888-1917, contains letters, legal documents, shorthand notes, printed matter and, a scrapbook relating to Pitman shorthand.

The letters, 1893, are letters of introduction for Dement. The documents are affidavits attesting to Dements' shorthand speed of 402 w.p.m.; Library of Congress copyrights for Dements' publications, 1888-1906 and, bills of sale, 1897.

The shorthand notes are Dements' monographs Speedbook No. 2 and No. 3 and miscellaneous notes for court cases. The printed matter is assorted clippings from shorthand periodicals and also a pamphlet Message to Garcia by Elbert Hubbard (1917). The scrapbook contains an assortment of newspaper clippings regarding Dements' career.

ISAAC STRANGE DEMENT PAPERS

Container list

- Box 1. Correspondence; Affidavits
Library of Congress: copyrights 1888-1906
Bills of Sale, 1897
Shorthand Notes: Speedbook No. 2; No. 3
Miscellaneous
- 2. Printed Matter
Miscellaneous
Scrapbook