



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

W. L. Hubbard diaries

1891-1950

JPB 82-78

Processed by Ellen Drucker-Albert and Erica Scheinberg in March 2009.

Summary

Creator: Hubbard, W. L. (William Lines), 1867-1951

Title: W. L. Hubbard diaries

Date: 1891-1950

Size: 2 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Donor unknown.

Abstract: William Lines Hubbard (1867-1951) was a music and theater critic in Chicago and San Diego. His collection primarily consists of diaries and personal papers written by himself and his parents, as well as photographs and miscellaneous published material. His father William Riley Hubbard, and his mother Augusta Hubbard.

Preferred citation: W. L. Hubbard diaries, JPB 82-78. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Ellen Drucker-Albert and Erica Scheinberg in March 2009.

Creator History

William Lines Hubbard (1867-1951), who went by the name Havrah Hubbard from at least the mid-1910s, was a music and theater critic in Chicago and San Diego. Hubbard edited twelve volumes of *The Imperial History and Encyclopedia of Music*, published in 1908-1910. The second volume is one of the earliest histories of American music. He was known also for his "Operalogues," dramatic recitations of Grand Opera libretti, which he performed throughout the United States.

Hubbard was born in 1867 in Farmersville, New York, where his grandfather, Russell Hubbard, settled in 1821. The only one of his parents' three children to survive past childhood, W. L. Hubbard moved with his parents to Kinmundy, a town in Southern Illinois, and then to Chicago in 1880. His father, William Riley Hubbard, was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1874. Like Russell Hubbard, who was an active member of the Methodist church before converting to "modern

spiritualism" later in life, W. R. Hubbard was interested in occultism and psychic phenomena. In the 1890s, W. R. Hubbard lived in California while W. L. Hubbard studied in Dresden, accompanied by his mother Augusta Hubbard.

After graduating from high school, W. L. Hubbard took a job as a bookkeeper at the *Chicago Evening Journal* and soon began writing music reviews. During this time he studied piano with Fannie Bloomfield-Zeisler. In 1891 Hubbard became music editor of the *Chicago Tribune* and later that year attended the Mozart and Wagner Festivals at Salzburg and Bayreuth as a critic. From 1893 to 1898 he studied piano, theory, composition, and voice in Dresden with such individuals as Emil Kronke, Hermann Scholtz, Hans Fahrman, Giovanni Battista Lamperti and Julie Bachi-Fahrman. Hubbard returned to Chicago for less than a year before traveling to Vienna, where he lived for a year as a correspondent for the *Tribune* while studying voice with Josef Steineder. From 1900 to 1907 Hubbard again lived in Chicago, serving as music and drama critic and editor for the *Tribune* while also writing about music and teaching voice lessons.

In the 1910s W. L. Hubbard was among the first residents of the Grossmont Art Colony in San Diego County, where he lived with Julia A. Read in a house they called Ledgehome. Twenty years his senior, Read is listed in the 1930 U.S. census report as Hubbard's servant; a secondary source identifies her as Hubbard's aunt. In his letters and diaries Hubbard refers to Read exclusively as "Dearest," and there is evidence that Hubbard was her caretaker. In the 1932, Hubbard and Read rented out Ledgehome and traveled to Europe on the same ship as Albert and Elsa Einstein, with whom they socialized.

W. L. Hubbard created many of his "Operalogues" (sometimes publicized as "Opera Talks") in collaboration with the pianist Claude Gotthelf, with whom he performed during the 1910s. Hubbard recited English translations of opera libretti while Gotthelf played musical themes from the operas on the piano. Hubbard often introduced the "Operalogues" with speeches on the cultural importance of presenting Grand Opera in the vernacular. Hubbard presented as many as 100 of these performances a season at schools, clubs, societies, and concert halls in towns and cities throughout the United States. The operas Hubbard presented numbered over two dozen and included *Andrea Chenier*, *Falstaff*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Lohengrin*, *Louise*, *The Love of Three Kings* (Montemezzi), *Madame Butterfly*, *Der Meistersinger*, *Monna Vanna* (Rachmaninoff), *Otello*, *I Pagliacci*, and *The Secret of Suzanne* (Wolf-Ferrari). In the 1920s Hubbard toured with the pianist Homer Simmons.

Hubbard served as music and drama critic of the *San Diego Union* from 1928 to 1932 and participated actively in the cultural life of San Diego County. He died in 1951.

Scope and Content Note

The W. L. Hubbard diaries consist primarily of diaries and personal papers written by William Lines (Havrah) Hubbard, his father William Riley Hubbard, and his mother Augusta Hubbard. The earliest diaries are Augusta's, from 1894, when she lived with her son in Dresden, Germany. The latest diaries are from 1951, the year of W. L. Hubbard's death. One diary written in 1934 by Julia A. Reed, Hubbard's close friend or relative, is included in the collection.

Of particular interest are W. L. Hubbard's descriptions of daily life in the Grossmont Art Colony in San Diego County and the performing arts scene in southern California during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The collection also includes written accounts of handwriting analysis and psychic visions, and transcriptions by W. R. Hubbard of "lectures" delivered by visiting spirits, including his father Russell Hubbard. Two items of correspondence from Ignacy Jan Paderewski are included in the collection, as well as photographic portraits and snapshots of Hubbard family members and friends,

official documents, and printed material.

Arrangement: The collection is organized by format into three series: Hubbard Family diaries and papers, Photographs, and Miscellany. Series I forms the bulk of the collection. Diaries kept by W. L. Hubbard document his professional and domestic life during the period 1926-1951, when he lived in California and also traveled widely. The diaries kept by Augusta and William Riley Hubbard, as well as the diary of Julia A. Read, document aspects of the early education and professional life of W. L. Hubbard. Series II contains photographic images of Hubbard, family and friends. Series III contains miscellaneous items including correspondence and official documents. Folder titles were supplied by the archivists.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Diaries

Photographs

Subjects

Music critics

Names

Hubbard, W. L. (William Lines), 1867-1951

Container List

Hubbard Family diaries and papers 1894-1951

The diaries kept by W. L. Hubbard document his professional and domestic life during the period 1926-1951, when he lived in California and also traveled widely. The diaries kept by Augusta and William Riley Hubbard, as well as the diary of Julia A. Read, document aspects of the early education and professional life of W. L. Hubbard. Several volumes have been underlined heavily in red pencil, possibly by W. L. Hubbard.

Diaries of Augusta Hubbard 1894-1900

The diaries of Augusta Hubbard account for the daily life of Augusta and her son, W. L. Hubbard (whom she calls Wilhelm) in Dresden, Germany. Many of the diaries, which are handwritten in small books, include newspaper clippings, copied poems, pressed flowers, handwritten lists of birth, death, and marriage dates of relatives, lists of Christmas gifts bought and received, and lists of daily purchases.

- b. 1 f. 1 1894-1895
- b. 1 f. 2 1895
- b. 1 f. 3 1895-1896
- b. 1 f. 4 1896
- b. 1 f. 5 1897-1898
- b. 1 f. 6 1898-1900
- b. 1 f. 7 1900

Diaries and papers of William Riley Hubbard 1896-1904

Several entries in W. R. Hubbard's diaries, like those of his wife Augusta, include details about W. L. Hubbard's activities in Dresden. Diaries and writings written by W. R. Hubbard in Los Angeles include detailed accounts of psychic experiments, handwriting analysis, and visitations of spirits. These visitations are recorded in notepads, several of which are labeled "Sunday Papers." Many diary entries refer to Hattie and Eddie Scott, W. R. Hubbard's sister and brother-in-law, with whom he lived in Los Angeles and with whom he shared an interest in modern spiritualism.

- b. 2 f. 1 1894-1895
- b. 2 f. 2-3 1895
- b. 2 f. 4-7, 9-10 1896
- b. 2 f. 8 1896-1897
- b. 2 f. 11, 13-15 1897
- b. 2 f. 12 1897-1898
- b. 3 f. 1 1898-1899
- b. 3 f. 2 1899-1902
- b. 3 f. 3 1902-1904

Diaries and papers of William Lines (Havrah) Hubbard 1926-1951, undated

Primarily includes diaries describing Hubbard's professional, social, and domestic life in the Grossmont Art Colony in San Diego, California, and in Los Angeles, where he also lived. The first item is a collection of loose typed papers, possibly dating from 1904, likely consisting of transcriptions of handwritten papers and letters by W. R. Hubbard and Hattie Scott, aunt of W. L. Hubbard. Dates of the original materials range from 1886 to 1896.

- b. 3 f. 4 Undated
- b. 3 f. 5 1926-1927
- b. 3 f. 6 1928-1930
- b. 3 f. 7 1934
- b. 3 f. 8 1935
- b. 3 f. 9 1936

Hubbard Family diaries and papers (cont.)

Diaries and papers of William Lines (Havrah) Hubbard (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 10 1937-1938
- b. 4 f. 1 1938-1939
- b. 4 f. 2 1939
- b. 4 f. 3 1940
- b. 4 f. 4 1941
- b. 4 f. 5 1942
- b. 4 f. 6 1943
- b. 4 f. 7 1944
- b. 5 f. 1 1945
- b. 5 f. 2 1946
- b. 5 f. 3 1947
- b. 5 f. 4 1948
- b. 5 f. 5 1949
- b. 5 f. 6 1950-1951
- b. 5 f. 7 **Diary of Julia A. Read 1934-1935**
The diary of Julia A. Read is heavily underlined in red pencil. Many entries make reference to W. L. Hubbard's social and professional life.

Photographs

Include photographic images of Hubbard, family and friends. Includes studio portraits as well as amateur snapshots. Almost all of the photographs are unlabeled. Many subjects have not been identified, and appear to date from the second half of the nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. Formats include tintypes, postcards, card-mounted and hand-tinted photographs.

- b. 6 f. 1 **Tintypes**
- b. 6 f. 2 **Portraits of unidentified children**
- b. 6 f. 3 **Portraits of unidentified man and women**
- b. 6 f. 4 **Portraits of Augusta Hubbard**
- b. 6 f. 5 **Portraits and snapshots of W. L. Hubbard**
- b. 6 f. 6 **Portraits and snapshots of W. L. Hubbard with family and friends**
- b. 6 f. 7 **Portraits of Camm Mauvel in De Wolf Hopper production of Wang 1891**

Miscellany

- b. 6 f. 8 **Correspondence 1893-1894, c. 1910s**
Contains three items: an 1893 Western Union telegram from Paderewski to Hubbard, an 1894 letter from Hugo Gorlitz (private secretary to Ignacy Jan Paderewski) to Hubbard, and a circa-1910s letter from Hubbard to "Dearest mine."
- b. 6 f. 9 **Programs, publications and clippings**
Includes *Operalogue* programs and brochures as well as photocopies of an obituary for W. L. Hubbard and his entry in *Who Was Who*.
- b. 6 f. 10 **Official documents**
Includes diplomas, identification cards, and a travel Visa, as well as W. R. Hubbard's certificate confirming his election to the Illinois State Legislature.