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## LEON RYDER MAXWELL PAPERS

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### MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION 62

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Papers, 1895-1967, bulk 1904-1941  
7 Linear Feet  
(4 manuscripts boxes, 17 volumes)

Revised by Eira Tansey  
September 2008

Correspondence (professional and personal), photographs, scrapbooks, travel diaries and other papers of Leon Ryder Maxwell (1883-1956), professor and director of the Newcomb Department of Music from 1909 until 1953.

Leon Ryder Maxwell was appointed professor of music and the first director of the Newcomb department of music in 1909. During his tenure, more than 1,000 recitals were given by students, faculty, and professional musicians. In 1922, Maxwell began a yearly tradition of producing a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. He was president of Tulane's Phi Beta Kappa chapter in 1934. Maxwell was named director of the division of Fine Arts in 1945, following a reorganization of Tulane's colleges. Professor Maxwell retired in 1953, and the following year the music library was named after him. Maxwell was also active in the Music Teacher's National Association, serving as vice-president in 1919.

Maxwell, a native of Medford, Massachusetts, graduated from Tufts in 1904, and completed his master's in 1905. He spent time studying music in Europe. He married Ruth Nottage in 1909, also of Medford, and they spent summers in their later years vacationing in Maine. He was survived by his wife when he died in 1956, at the age of 73.

The correspondence includes letters that Leon wrote to his wife (much of it sent to their summer home in Maine), letters received from colleagues, and letters sent to Ruth Maxwell from friends. The travel diaries he kept provide an entertaining look at Europe and its music during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Maxwell collected a considerable number of programs from operas and

concerts from his travels and from productions in New Orleans. These can be found in the bound scrapbooks.

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#### ACQUISITION

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Donated by Ruth Maxwell in 1957, additional materials donated in 1970.

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#### CITATION

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*Please cite as follows:*

Leon Ryder Maxwell Papers, Manuscripts Collection 62, Manuscripts Department, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

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#### ACCESS POINTS

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Europe – Description and travel.  
Maxwell, Leon Ryder.  
Music – Louisiana – New Orleans  
Music Teachers' National Association.  
New Orleans (La.)  
Newcomb College. Dept. of Music.  
Opera – Louisiana – New Orleans  
Theater – Louisiana – New Orleans  
Tulane University. Dept. of Music.

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#### INVENTORY

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##### **Box 1**

1. Correspondence, 1904-1908
2. Correspondence, 1909
3. Correspondence, 1913-1914
4. Correspondence, 1915-1916
5. Correspondence, 1917-1918
6. Correspondence, 1919-1922
7. Correspondence, 1923-1924
8. Correspondence, 1925-1926
9. Correspondence, 1927-1928
10. Correspondence, 1929-1936
11. Correspondence, 1937-1938
12. Correspondence, 1939
13. Correspondence, 1940

## 14. Correspondence, 1941

**Box 2**

1. Correspondence, 1942-1943
2. Correspondence, 1944-1946
3. Correspondence, 1953
4. Correspondence, 1954 January – June
5. Correspondence, 1954 July – December
6. Correspondence, 1955
7. Correspondence, 1956-1958
8. Correspondence, 1962-1967
9. Correspondence, undated
10. Photographs and Pictures, 1895-1945
11. Photographs and Pictures, 1946-1955
12. Photographs of Persons, undated
13. Photographs of Places, undated
14. Curriculum Vitae

**Box 3**

1. Ephemera (postcards, travel tickets, certificates, sketches, pins)
2. Lyrics, probably LRM and others
3. Concert Reviews Travel Diary, 1926-1927
4. Short Stories and Essays, author unknown
5. *La Chercheuse d'Esprit*, (Charles-Simon Favart), annotated by LRM, 1930s
6. American Literature Notebook, LRM

**Box 4**

1. School Notes (1892), Essays on Julius Rosenwald, Federal Theater Project (1933) RNM
2. Cruise Scrapbook, 1908, RNM
3. Nobility Scrapbook, RNM
4. Plant Identification Notebook, RNM
5. Literature Notebook, 1895-1896, RNM
6. First Aid Notebook, RNM
7. Corrective Gymnastics and Massage Notebook, RNM

**Bound Volumes**

1. Travel Diary (Europe), 1895-1899, author unknown
2. Concert Programs Scrapbook (U.S. and Europe), 1893-1912
3. Tufts Scrapbook, 1900-1907
4. Scrapbook of Ruth Nottage, 1903-1908
5. Concert Programs Scrapbook (Tulane, and New Orleans), 1905-1914
6. Appointment Diary, 1908
7. Travel Diary (Europe), 1908
8. Travel Diary (Europe), 1908-1909 (Note: this diary and bound volume 8 are from the same travels abroad in Europe. Maxwell sent diary entries home periodically for anyone to read, and later bound them together)

9. *The Assembly Praise Book for Schools, Academies, Colleges and Societies*, compiled and edited by Leo Rich Lewis and Leon Ryder Maxwell, 1910
10. Concert Programs Scrapbook (New Orleans, U.S. and Europe), 1912-1926
11. Concert Programs Scrapbook (Tulane, New Orleans and Europe), 1914-1944
12. Concert Programs Scrapbook (Vienna), 1926
13. Concert Programs Scrapbook (Vienna), 1927
14. Concert Programs Scrapbook (New Orleans, U.S. and Europe), 1927
15. *The Assembly Praise Book for Schools, Academies, Colleges and Societies*, compiled and edited by Leo Rich Lewis and Leon Ryder Maxwell, 1910 (Note: cover states “Marked for Key Changes” and the volume contains notes and additions)
16. Concert Programs Scrapbook (Tulane and New Orleans), 1928-1929
17. Concert Programs Scrapbook (New Orleans and Europe), 1930