

Finding aid for the Loraine Pratt Immen collection Collection 187

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

March 1996

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Related Materials</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7
<u>Series I. Manuscript Material, 1896-1927, n.d.</u>	7
<u>Series II. Shakespearian/(LLC) Ladies Literary Club materials</u>	8
<u>Series III. Photographs, 1909-1925, n.d.</u>	9

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Immen, Loraine Pratt, 1840-1927
Title	Loraine Pratt Immen collection
Date [inclusive]	1840-1927
Extent	0.42 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Loraine Pratt Immen (1840-1927) was a philanthropist and was active in women's clubs in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection contains photographs, various news clippings, dedication programs and other documents that marked memorable moments in her life. Immen founded the Shakespeariana Club in April 1887, was active in the Ladies Literary Club and donated stained glass windows to the club and to her church, First Park Congregational. She also gave various statuary items to the city, which she commissioned, to celebrate American patriots and literary figures, such as Lincoln and Longfellow.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Loraine (Lorraine) Pratt was born in Mt. Clemens, Michigan in 1840, to Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Pratt. She married Frederick Immen on December 6, 1860, when she was not quite 20 years of age. Frederick Immen was a carpet and import merchant. The Immens moved to Grand Rapids in 1865.

The couple had two children. Their first, Arthur Pratt Immen, was born in Mt. Clemens. He died at the age of 20. Their other son died in infancy.

Loraine devoted much of her time to music and literature. She was active in First (Park) Congregational Church. Documentation of the church's Tiffany stained glass collection states two plain windows on their balcony, which are called the Pastor's Windows, were placed there in 1916, a gift from Mrs. Immen. Another window in this church "Jesus at the Age of Twelve", was given in memory of the Immen family. She is credited as being the founder of the Shakespearian Club, and carried this literary emphasis to her activities in the Ladies Literary Club. To the LLC she gave the Shakespeare "Rose" stained glass window. The City of Grand Rapids received the Longfellow bust placed in Fulton Park (currently Veteran's Memorial Park), Lincoln bust located in Foster Park at the corner of State and Washington Streets (now State Street Park), and the Drinking Fountain that was located in Monument Square Park.

Immen died October 21, 1927 at the age of 87, survived by a niece and the niece's daughter. Her husband, (d. 1909) had left Immen with wealth and real estate. Immen is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains photographs, various news clippings, dedication programs and other documents that marked memorable moments in Immen's life. The focus of the collection is literary and patriotic activities at the beginning of the twentieth century, and statuary that Immen commissioned to celebrate those topics, such as busts of Longfellow and Lincoln. Photographs also detail Immen's lifestyle.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department March 1996

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Lorraine P. Immen, accession numbers 00.000; 00.[789].1 – 00.[793].1

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection 275, Ladies Literary Club Collection. See specifically the information card on the Shakespeare stained glass windows given by Immen 275-1.3 and also four parts of a series of publications excerpting Shakespeare and with information on Shakespeare authored by Immen, 1902-1905 at 275-19.

Collection 331, Shakespearian Club Collection. Includes: “Shakespeariana Twenty Years Ago” by Sophie Bingham Buchanan. It is signed by the author, and was Loraine Prate Immen’s own copy, having been received by the Library from her estate. Immen and other early members are referred to in the poem.

Collection 278, GRPL Poets and Poetry

See also History of the Ladies’ Literary Club of Grand Rapids, Michigan / by Hogue Stinchcomb. Clandoin Printery, 1910. Loraine Immen’s gift copy in LH Book Coll. MKG3743.St5

Outdoor Art Inspirations Walking Tour Flyer http://grcity.us/public-services/Parks-Recreation-Forestry/Documents/4313_Outdoor%20Art%20Inspirations%20-%20Walking%20Tour.pdf (URL as of January 2013)

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- personal papers
- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Immen, Loraine Pratt, 1840-1927

Subject(s)

- Women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

Series I. Manuscript Material, 1896-1927, n.d.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Manuscript Material, 1896-1927, n.d.		
	Box	Folder
Christmas and New Years Card, n.d.	1	1
Flowers and Fruits from Shakespeare's Garden, Apr 23, 1904	1	2
Scope and Contents note		
Two copies of the program for this event. One has a letter attached inside the front to the Lawn Contest Committee for the Evening Press, Aug. 8, 1907. There is also a note in the folder to Mrs. Immen from Kate E. Remington, Secretary for the Shakespeariana Club, June 24, 1901.		
In Memoriam, Frederick Immen, 1837-1909. [Husband of Loraine Pratt, both of Mt. Clemens, Dec. 13, 1860 marriage]. Formerly M92.Im6 Im6.00.[0986].1 and .2.	1	2.5
Lincoln Tribute,n.d.	1	3
Longfellow Statue Dedication Program, ca. June 22, 1912.	1	4
Newspaper Clippings, n.d.	1	5
Obituary, Oct. 21,1927.	1	6

Series II. Shakespearian/(LLC) Ladies Literary Club materials

Park Congregational Church Bulletins; Sept. 26, 1897, June 1, 1924, June 24, 1924.	1	7
Patriotic Songs, n.d.: Star Spangled Banner, America	1	8
Select Readings, n.d.	1	9
Sympathy Card, n.d.	1	10
Letters of Travel in California, in the Winter and spring of 1896 / by Loraine Immen. Publ. Originally in the Grand Rapids Herald. 00.[0948].1	1	31
[Program] Apr. 30, 1895. Arranged by Mrs. Immen, ... for the benefit of Plymouth Church ... 00.[5575].1	1	32
Series II. Shakespearian/(LLC) Ladies Literary Club materials		
	Box	Folder
1907-1912, Jeweled Years. 00.[0789].1	1	26
Art's Tribute to Shakespeare / by Loraine Pratt Immen. 4 parts, c. 1900-1904. 00.[0790].1-4	1	27
Pictures of Scenes from Shakespeare's Dramas / arranged by Loraine Immen. 00.[0791].1	1	28
[Cordelia]--cover / [Intro. Beginning with header] The Maples, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Apr. 23d, 1887-1908. / Loraine Immen	1	29

Series III. Photographs, 1909-1925, n.d.

Shakespeare Casket Story (from Merchant of Venice) / by Loraine Pratt Immen. G.R. : Tradesman Co., 1915. 00.[0793].1	1	30
Series III. Photographs, 1909-1925, n.d.		
	Box	Folder
Fountain Dedication, n.d. (1, 3/2000) Shows Mrs. Immen and a group of people standing near a construction with plaques and a tap, near the Soldiers monument.	1	11
Grand Rapids views (from roof of 25 Lafayette, NE), ca. 1913. (2, 3/2000) Accompanied by historical notes.	1	12
Lafayette Street view, n.d. (1, 3/2000)	1	17
Lincoln bust/Statue (Lincoln Place), 1913, n.d. (1 photo and 1 Canaan postcard of the Lincoln bust on its pedestal)	1	18
Longfellow Statue (Fulton/Veteran's Memorial Park), 1913, n.d. (2 photos and 3 postcards, 3/2000)	1	19
Longfellow Statue Dedication, June 6, 1912 at Fulton St. Park (1, 3/2000)	1	20
Poets Corner, Westminster Abbey. Graphic clipping or plate, c. 1900. Boston firm.	1	24
Veteran's Memorial Park (Fulton Street Park), ca. 1910. (1, 3/2000)	1	25

Houses

Houses		
	Box	Folder
Immen house, 35 Lafayette, NE, 1909, n.d. (3, 3/2000)	1	13
Immen house interior, n.d. (2, 3/2000)	1	14
Immen-Pratt house, Mt. Clemens, n.d. (1, 3/2000)	1	15
Prudence Cook Pratt home, Cooperstown, West Virginia	1	16
People		
	Box	Folder
Arthur Pratt Immen, son of Loraine and Frederick., n.d. Jas. Bayne student photo. (1, 3/2000)	1	21
Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Josh B. Immen, Glendale, Calif. Feb. 22, 1925. Two couples standing with landscape background.	1	22
Immen, Loraine Pratt, n.d. (3, 3/2000)	1	23