Overview of the Collection

Repository: University of Redlands
Armacost Library
1200 E. Colton Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373

Creator: Leach, Rowland, 1885-1963

Title: Compositions of Rowland Leach

Dates: unknown

Abstract: The Rowland Leach collection at Armacost Library contains manuscripts of original compositions by Rowland Leach (1885-1963), former director of the Division of Arts and School of Music at the University of Redlands.

Historical Sketch

Rowland Leach was born in Massachusetts on April 26, 1885. He graduated from Beloit College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1908, and pursued further music study at Yale College. There he received a composition prize in 1909, was recognized with Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Lambda distinctions, and graduated with his Bachelor of Music in violin and composition in 1910.

Moving to Rockford, Illinois, Leach taught violin in a private studio for several years, and spent a year as concertmaster with the Calgary Symphony Orchestra. Returning to Illinois, he joined the faculty of the Bush Conservatory of Music in Chicago in 1914, and taught violin and music theory at DePauw University between 1928 and 1933. During this time, he authored the first edition of his textbook, University Harmony. He wrote that the aim of this book was “not that the student shall form the habit of naming, tagging, classifying each chord … but rather that through long practice he
shall become able to recognize without classifying as he recognizes a friend on the street.”

Moving to California, Leach joined the faculty of the University of Redlands in 1933, teaching harmony courses and overseeing the violin studio. In 1942 he was appointed Director of the School of Music, and, after a university reorganization, also directed the Division of Arts. He continued to teach violin and offer courses in composition and orchestration until he left the university in 1948.

Leach was married to Charlotte Van Winckle. He enjoyed boxing and wrestling, and in his later years, he became known as a landscape painter after taking up the hobby spontaneously “one rainy day in Hollywood.” He died in Arizona in March 1963.

**Scope and Content Note**
The collection contains manuscripts of original musical compositions by Leach, including operas and vocal works.

**Administrative Information**
**Acquired From:** Wendy Bolduc, Rowland Leach’s granddaughter, donated the collection to Armacost Library in 2015.

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on research use of this collection. The collection is still being processed. Contact Sanjeet Mann (Sanjeet_mann@redlands.edu) for assistance.

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Folder List
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