

**Finding Aid to
Idah Pratt Scrapbook
1912-1967
Archives of Women Artists**

Finding Aid Prepared by: Emily Moore (March, 2020)
Collection Processed by: Patrick Brown (August, 2006)

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Overview

Repository Information:

National Museum of Women in the Arts,
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Email: lrc@nmwa.org
Phone: 202-783-5000

Title:

Idah Pratt Scrapbook

Provenance:

Unknown

Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1912-1967

Physical Description:

1 box (approx. 2 linear feet)

Summary:

This collection consists primarily of a scrapbook and clippings related to the life and work of Idah Pratt.

Finding Aid URL:

https://nmwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/4.3.4.2_idah_pratt_papers_1912-1967.pdf

Administrative Information

Access Information:

Unrestricted

Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, Idah Pratt Scrapbook, Archives of Women Artists, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

Processed by:

Patrick Brown, August 2006.

Processing Note:

The collection is contained in one box, located in the Library and Research Center. In 2003 a finding aid was written. Loose material was placed in mylar sleeves and a majority of the scrapbook has been interleaved. Reprocessed in 2006, the collection was separated into four series (Scrapbook, *Redondo Breeze*, Loose Clippings, and Obituary on Prayer Card.) and re-housed in acid-free folders as well as a larger box to minimize damage while handling. The finding aid was formatted to DACS standard, and then updated to a new format in 2020.

Biographical Note

Idah Sidonia Ambuhl Pratt Foster was born in Farina, IL in 1884. As a young woman, Pratt lived in New Orleans and Dallas. Very little is known of her early life until she moved to San Francisco at age 24, with two small sons and her first husband Charles F. Pratt Sr, whom she later divorced.

Around 1915, Pratt began to publish and edit the *Redondo Breeze*, a small paper in Redondo Beach, CA, and also wrote for the *San Francisco Times* on occasion. She became something of a local celebrity and received 30 marriage proposals after her photograph appeared in an article in the *Examiner*, a local paper. The article described her work and ownership of the *Redondo Breeze*.

Also in 1915, Pratt was in charge of the model kitchen and laundry exhibition installed in the Home Economy Building at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego.

Idah Pratt was always involved in women's rights. She became active in the referendum drive to win the vote for women in California, an act that was finally passed in 1916, the year she met and married Carol Howe Foster, an English instructor at the Naval

Academy in Annapolis. The couple married in Alexandria, VA after Pratt had come to DC to take a course at the National Service School for Women through the Red Cross.

In 1919, Foster became consul in Vienna, Austria, later serving as U.S. Consul General in Brazil and South Africa. In the mid-1940s, and always the activist, Pratt worked for passage of legislation benefiting consular officers' widows for whom, at that point, there were no annuity arrangements. Her husband died in 1957, but she still remained active in her community.

At 81, she became a member of the National Women's party and was elected to the National Council in 1965. She eventually became the National Finance Chairman. Idah Pratt died at age 83 in 1967 in Maryland.

Chronology:

- 1884** Idah Sidonia Ambuhl Pratt Foster was born in Farina, IL .
- c. 1908** Moves to San Francisco with two small sons and her first husband, Charles F. Pratt Sr.
- c. 1915** Pratt begins to publish and edit a small paper called the *Redondo Breeze*.
- 1915** Pratt in charge of the model kitchen and laundry exhibition installed in the Home Economy Building at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego.
- 1916** Active in women's rights, referendum to win the vote for women in California was passed.

Went to DC to take a course at the National Service School for Women through the Red Cross.

Met and Married Carol Howe Foster; he was an English Instructor at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.
- Mid-1940s** Pratt worked for passage of legislation benefiting consular officers' widows for whom, at that point, there were no annuity arrangements.
- 1957** Carol Howe Foster dies.
- 1965** Pratt became a member of the National Women's party and was elected to
the National Council.
- 1967** Pratt dies in Maryland at age of 83.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is composed of the contents of one scrapbook. Constructed by Idah Sidonia Pratt Foster out of a folder sample book, the scrapbook contains a wide variety of material. There are photographs from the Panama-California Exposition in 1915, showing buildings and people, as well as articles mentioning Pratt's involvement with the expo. Correspondence and articles are also included in the scrapbook. The scrapbook spans the dates 1912-1916. Also in the collection is a copy of Pratt's obituary laminated on a prayer card and copies of her newspaper, *Redondo Breeze*.

Organization and Arrangement Information

Arrangement Note:

The collection is divided into four series:

Series 1: Scrapbook, c.1912- c. 1916

This series consists of the scrapbook which contains photographs of buildings and people, an article mentioning Pratt's involvement with the expo, correspondence, and articles.

Series 2: *Redondo Breeze*, 1915

This series contains copies of Pratt's newspaper, *Redondo Breeze*, from 1915, in chronological order.

Series 3: Loose Clippings, 1915-1916

This series includes loose clippings in mylar sleeves, arranged chronologically.

Series 4: Obituary on Prayer Card, 1967

This series is a prayer card with Idah Pratt's obituary laminated on the back.

Container Inventory

Series #1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1900-1959

Box #	Folder #	Folder Contents
1	1	Scrapbook

Series #2: REDONDO BREEZE, 1915

Box #	Folder #	Folder Contents
1	1	July 31, 1915 edition
1	1	August 14, 1915 edition
1	1	September 4, 1915 edition

Series #3: Loose Clippings, 1915-1916

Box #	Folder #	Folder Contents
1	2	"Modern Laundry Sanitary Kitchen Planned for 1915."
1	2	"A Busy Newspaper Girl," <i>El Paso, Texas, Herald</i> : August 6, 1915.
1	2	"30 Propose to Beach Girl All Due to Examiner Story."
1	2	"Annapolis Instructor and His Recent Bride," <i>Washington Post</i> : Sunday, July 12, 1916.
1	2	"A Chronicle of Society," <i>The Washington Times</i> : Sunday, July 23, 1916.
1	2	"Pretty Bride to Remain Here Until She Goes to Annapolis in Autumn," <i>The Washington Post</i> : Monday, July 31, 1916.
1	2	Two sheets of Welles, Pratt & Co. stationary with Idah S. Pratt Listed as Sec'y-Treas.

Series #4: Obituary on Prayer Card, 1967

Box #	Folder #	Folder Contents
1	3	Prayer card with obituary laminated on the back.