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Music Division

Guide to the

My life with Cowells : being an account of personal relationships / by Olive Thompson Cowell, 1887- , wife of Henry Clayton Blackwood Cowell, known as Harry Cowell, 1866-1954, father of Henry Dixon Cowell, composer, 1897-1965, husband of Sidney Rovertson

1972-1973

JPB 99-3

Summary

Creator: Cowell, Olive Thompson, 1887-1984

Title: My life with Cowells : being an account of personal relationships / by Olive Thompson Cowell, 1887- , wife of Henry Clayton Blackwood Cowell, known as Harry Cowell, 1866-1954, father of Henry Dixon Cowell, composer, 1897-1965, husband of Sidney Rovertson

Date: 1972-1973

Size: 1 item (44 leaves), 28 cm; 1 item (44 leaves), 28 cm

Source: NN, NN, WaOLN

Abstract: Includes material on the career of composer Henry Cowell; encounters with many musicians and other artists, the founding of New Music and the New Music Society; an extended trip to Ireland, Russia, and points between in 1929 with Henry; various later trips without Henry; Henry's imprisonment in San Quentin for a morals charge, 1936-1940 (later pardoned); Henry's marriage to Sidney Robertson, 1942; relationship between Henry's parents and Sidney Cowell; Harry's death, 1954; and Henry's death, 1965.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Use: Olive Thompson, Professor of International Relations at San Francisco State College, married Harry Cowell, writer, tennis instructor and father of composer Henry Cowell. She remained deeply involved in Henry's career throughout the rest of his life

Preferred citation: My life with Cowells : being an account of personal relationships / by Olive Thompson Cowell, 1887- , wife of Henry Clayton Blackwood Cowell, known as Harry Cowell, 1866-1954, father of Henry Dixon Cowell, composer, 1897-1965, husband of Sidney Rovertson, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Scope and Content Note

Includes material on the career of composer Henry Cowell; encounters with many musicians and other artists, the founding of New Music and the New Music Society; an extended trip to Ireland, Russia, and points between in 1929 with Henry; various later trips without Henry; Henry's imprisonment in San Quentin for a morals charge, 1936-1940 (later pardoned); Henry's marriage to Sidney Robertson, 1942; relationship between Henry's parents and Sidney Cowell; Harry's death, 1954; and Henry's death, 1965.

Key Terms

Subjects

Composers -- United States -- Biography

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Memoirs

Poems

Names

Cowell, Olive Thompson, 1887-1984

Cowell, Harry

Cowell, Henry, 1897-1965

Cowell, Sidney Robertson, 1903-1995

American Music Collection

California State Prison at San Quentin

New Music Society of California