The Potters' Wheel Collection, 1904-1907  
4 boxes, 18 volumes  
Processed by Sam Cooper, November 1998

REPOSITORY  
Missouri Historical Society Archives  
P.O. Box 11940  
St. Louis, MO  63112-0040  
314-746-4510  
archives@mohistory.org

DONOR INFORMATION  
Items in The Potter’s Wheel Collection were donated by Mrs. Alfredo S. Herrera in July 1952 and February 1962; Robert M. Ryan in January 1956; and Miss Alice Ernst in July 1968.

RESTRICTIONS  
Preservation copies of The Potter’s Wheel, the criticism pages and the Christmas Remembrance Book are contained in the first two boxes of the collection and must be used prior to the originals. The original copies of The Potter’s Wheel will only be paged after the preservation copy has been referenced, and then only if actually required to clarify some research question or to verify the original color, texture or size. All photocopies must be made from the preservation copies.

HISTORICAL SKETCH  
The Potter’s Wheel was the only creation of the Potters. The Potters were all young women in their late teens and early twenties: Vine Colby, Inez Dutro, Celia Harris, Grace Parrish, Williamina Parrish, Guida Richey, Caroline Risque, Petronelle Sombart, Sara Teasdale, and Edna Wahlert. Lillie Rose Ernst, a prominent figure in the St. Louis Public School system, was an important figure to the Potters and much of their work is dedicated to her. The Potter’s Wheel was discontinued after the completion of the third volume. Some of the women went on to become widely recognized for their talents.

From November 1904 to October 1907, The Potter’s Wheel was issued once a month. A single issue of the The Potter’s Wheel was created and bound solely by hand. The magazine was at first issued at a standard 8 × 10 size. However, after the first volume of twelve issues was completed, the size was enlarged to 10 × 12 for the second and third volumes. The size change was not explained. The magazine itself consisted of original prose, poetry, design, drawing, photography, sculpture (by way of photograph), and plays. Along with these original works were interwoven famous quotations, mostly pertaining to friendship, which seem to crystallize the various works. The issues were originally accompanied by a small volume of criticism pages that allowed the artists to critique each other’s work; however, after the first volume, the criticism pages were discontinued. At first, the criticism pages were attached to the actual magazine but later were kept separate from the magazine.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE  
The collection contains sixteen issues of The Potter’s Wheel and twelve issues of the criticism pages. Various other works are also included: a Christmas Remembrance Book; five published
copies of “From the Potter’s Wheel”; a booklet “The Soul’s Inheritance” by George Cabot Lodge, bound by W. Parrish; two handwritten copies of “Ye Comet’s Tale” by V. Colby and W. Parrish; “The Pursuit of the Ideal,” a play written by the March Hare; a sheet of handmade wrapping paper; a 1 x 1 handmade notebook describing the personalities of the Potters; and a list of S. Teasdale’s contributions to *The Potter’s Wheel*. 
FOLDER LIST

Box 1
folders 1-16 Preservation copies of *The Potter's Wheel*, vol. I-III (1904-1907)
  folder 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov. 1904
  folder 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec. 1904
  folder 3 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb. 1905
  folder 4 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
  folder 5 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
  folder 6 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
  folder 7 Vol. II, No. 4 - Feb 1906
  folder 8 Vol. II, No. 7 - May 1906
  folder 9 Vol. II, No. 8 - Jun 1906
  folder 10 Vol. II, No. 9 - Jul 1906
  folder 11 Vol. II, No. 11 - Sep 1906
  folder 12 Vol. II, No. 12 - Oct 1906
  folder 13 Vol. III, No. 3 - Jan 1907
  folder 14 Vol. III, No. 7 - May 1907
  folder 15 Vol. III, No. 8 - Jun 1907
  folder 16 Vol. III, No. 9 - Jul 1907

Box 2
folders 1-13 Preservation copies of the “Criticism Pages,” vol. I, no.1-12 (no. 9 missing)
  folder 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov 1904
  folder 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec 1904
  folder 3 Vol. I, No. 3 - Jan 1905
  folder 4 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb 1905
  folder 5 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
  folder 6 Vol. I, No. 6 - Apr 1905
  folder 7 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
  folder 8 Vol. I, No. 8 - Jun 1905
  folder 9 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
  folder 10 Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
  folder 11 Vol. I, No. 11 - Sep 1905
  folder 12 Vol. I, No. 12 - Oct 1905
  folder 13 “Christmas Party Remembrance Book,” Feb 1907

Box 3
folders 1-12 Original “Criticism Pages,” vol. I, no.1-12 (no. 9 missing)
  folder 1 Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov 1904
  folder 2 Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec 1904
  folder 3 Vol. I, No. 3 - Jan 1905
  folder 4 Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb 1905
  folder 5 Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
  folder 6 Vol. I, No. 6 - Apr 1905
  folder 7 Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
  folder 8 Vol. I, No. 8 - Jun 1905
folder 9  Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
folder 10  Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
folder 11  Vol. I, No. 11 - Sep 1905
folder 12  Vol. I, No. 12 - Oct 1905

folder 13  1906 Sept. 27: Booklet bound by W. Parrish, “The Soul’s Inheritance” by George
Cabot Lodge
folder 14  1908 February: Bound, handwritten play, “The Pursuit of the Ideal” by the March
Hare
folder 15  1908 February: Loose pages from, “The Pursuit of the Ideal”
folder 16  1910: Booklet, “From the Potter’s Wheel” with added handwritten works
folder 17  1910: Booklet, “From the Potter’s Wheel” with photographs of the Potters
folder 18  1910: Booklet, “From the Potter’s Wheel” (3 copies)

Box 4
folder 1  1933: Bound play, “Ye Comet’s Tale” by W. Parrish and V. Colby
folder 2  1945 Aug 2: Article, “The Potter’s Wheel” by Mamie Teasdale Wheless
folder 4  no date: Gift card to L.R.E. (Lillie Rose Ernst) presented with “Ye
Comet’s Tale”
folder 5  no date: Play, “Ye Comet’s Tale” by W. Parrish and V. Colby
folder 6  no date: Cover for “Ye Comet’s Tale”
folder 7  no date: List of S. Teasdale’s contributions to The Potter’s Wheel
folder 8  no date: Handmade wrapping paper by Vine Colby. Oversize

Bound Volumes
volume 1  Vol. I, No. 1 - Nov 1904
volume 2  Vol. I, No. 2 - Dec 1904
volume 3  Vol. I, No. 4 - Feb 1905
volume 4  Vol. I, No. 5 - Mar 1905
volume 5  Vol. I, No. 7 - May 1905
volume 6  Vol. I, No. 10 - Aug 1905
volume 7  Vol. II, No. 4 - Feb 1906
volume 8  Vol. II, No. 7 - May 1906
volume 9  Vol. II, No. 8 - Jun 1906
volume 10  Vol. II, No. 9 - Jul 1906
volume 11  Vol. II, No. 11 - Sep 1906
volume 12  Vol. II, No. 12 - Oct 1906
volume 13  Vol. III, No. 3 - Jan 1907
volume 14  Vol. III, No. 7 - May 1907
volume 15  Vol. III, No. 8 - Jun 1907
volume 16  Vol. III, No. 9 - Jul 1907
volume 17  Handmade notebook, “A Complete Compendium of Natural Potter History: Giving
their haunts and habits”
volume 18  “Christmas Party Remembrance Book,” Feb. 1907
RELATED MATERIALS AT THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Collections in the Archives:
  Lillie Rose Ernst (Alphabetical File)
  Risque Family (Alphabetical File)
  Parrish Sisters Castle Square Opera Company Scrapbook, 1902-1903
  The Pearl Pollard Curran Patience Worth Collection, 1913-1937
  Poems Collection, 1850-1967
  Sara Teasdale Collection, 1905-1956
  Theater Programs Collection

In the library:
  “The Potter’s Wheel—an early twentieth century support network of women artists
  and writers” by Beverly D. Bishop, 1984
  Grace Parrish Scrapbook, 1898-1926
  “Poems from Patience Worth for Williamina Parrish, 1924-1928”
  Various books of poetry by Sara Teasdale
  Works on Teasdale by Thomas Moult, Margaret Haley Carpenter, Catharine
  Cranmer, Helen Sayre DeFrance, Aline Janis, Rudolf Rieder, William D. Drake,
  and Carol Schoen

Vertical files on the following:
  Vine Colby
  Lillie Rose Ernst
  Celia Harris
  Grace Parrish
  Williamina Parrish
  Potter’s Wheel
  Caroline Risque
  Petronelle Sombart
  Sara Teasdale
  Edna Wahlert