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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.PUTTKAMMER
Title  Puttkammer, Ernst W. Papers
Date  1914-1953
Size  3.5 linear feet (7 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  Ernst Wilfred Puttkammer (1891-1978) Professor of Law. The collection includes Puttkammer’s teaching aids, such as lecture notes and exams. The collection is divided into three series, they are: Series I: Lecture Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, pre-1916; Series II: Lecture Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, 1916; and Series III: Lecture Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, post-1916.

Information on Use

Access  The collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Puttkammer, Ernst W. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Ernst Wilfred Puttkammer (1891-1978) was the only child of a second son of a Prussian noble family. He was born January 31, 1891, in Chicago. His parents Victorian summer cottage on Mackinac Island figured prominently in Puttkammer’s life and the lives of his descendants.

He was well-traveled and educated by tutors and eventually attended Princeton. While there he became well-versed in Latin, Greek, French, German (in which he was fluent) and English, and was fond of music and history. He developed a major collection of American stamps and the world’s most comprehensive collection of German Empire stamps, which he eventually gave to the Smithsonian Institution.

After graduating from Princeton, Puttkammer attended the University of Chicago Law School where he earned his degree cum laude and was elected to the Order of the Coif. He then traveled
to France as a private in the American Expeditionary Force, serving as a front-line observer of
enemy gun positions and troop movements.

On returning to Chicago, Puttkammer practiced law for a year and then was asked by the
University of Chicago Law School to take a temporary post teaching criminal law. He remained
on the faculty for thirty-six years.

Puttkammer wrote The Administration of Criminal Law, which became a major text. To learn
how the criminal law really worked, Puttkammer informally attended the Police Academy, then
wrote an effective handbook advising police about their rights and the rights of their suspects.

Puttkammer married Helen Baum November 28, 1931. They had a daughter, Helen Lorna and
a son, Charles Wilfred.

Puttkammer joined the Chicago Literary Club in 1923 and delivered nineteen papers, of which
three were published; he delivered two Ladies' Night papers. He traveled widely and often. In
late 1977 he and his family toured Germany and France, and then, early in 1978, he and his wife
went on a long cruise, during which he died on a ship in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

Scope Note
The majority of the collection hold Puttkammer’s teaching aids for his course, such as lecture
notes and exams. The one exception is a copy of a pamphlet he published in 1953, The
Notorious Colonel Blood. The collection is divided into three series, they are: Series I : Lecture
Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, pre-1916; Series II : Lecture Notes, etc.,
University of Chicago Law School, 1916; and Series III : Lecture Notes, etc., University of
Chicago Law School, post-1916.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Puttkammer, Ernst W. (Ernst Wilfred), b. 1891
• University of Chicago. Law School
• Law -- Study and teaching -- Illinois -- Chicago

INVENTORY

Series I: Lecture Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, pre-1916

Box 1
Folder 1
  The Notorious Colonel Blood, 1953
Box 1
Folder 2
Lecture notes, University of Chicago Law School, Public Service Corporations, 1915-1916

Box 1
Folder 3
Examination booklets, University of Chicago Law School, 1914-1916

Series II: Lecture Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, 1916

Box 2
Folder 1
Evidence
Box 2
Folder 2
Bills and Notes
Box 2
Folder 3
Common Law Pleading
Box 2
Folder 4
Practice
Box 3
Folder 1
Corporations
Box 3
Folder 2
Sales
Box 3
Folder 3
Partnership
Box 3
Folder 4
Criminal Law
Box 3
Folder 5
Trusts
Box 4
Folder 1
Wills
Box 4
Folder 2
Titles
Box 4
Folder 3
Agency
Box 4
Folder 4
Equity
Box 5
Folder 1  
Constitutional Law
Box 5
Folder 2  
Conflict of Law

Series III Lecture Notes, etc., University of Chicago Law School, post-1916.

Box 5
Folder 3  
Bills and Notes
Box 5
Folder 4-5  
Criminal Law
Box 5
Folder 6  
Sales
Box 6
Folder 1  
Contracts
Box 6
Folder 2  
Wills
Box 6
Folder 3  
Carriers
Box 6
Folder 4  
Criminal Procedure
Box 6
Folder 5  
Torts
Box 6
Folder 6  
Property
Box 7
Folder 1-5  
Case notes, post-1916