

Lawrence Hiett Collection Biography

Lawrence (Larry or "Bud") Hiett, Toledoan, was born October 18, 1895, the third son of Emery Rankin Hiett, founder, first secretary and manager of the People's Savings Association, and Ella Frances Hiett, whose family relationship to her husband was described at the time of their wedding in 1882 as "traceable to a period of one hundred and fifty years ago" [that is, *circa* 1732].

Larry Hiett first became interested in birds during his high school days before World War I. Later, he took up photography and eventually he combined the two to become one of the best-known bird and nature photographers in the Midwest.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and Cornell University, Mr. Hiett was trained as a horticulturalist but returned to Toledo where he served forty years as the chief metallurgist for the Electric Auto-Lite Company, retiring in 1960.

However, his real love was nature photography. A bachelor, Mr. Hiett's weekends and vacations were devoted to tramping the fields and marshes, looking for the perfect photo, and his nights were spent developing and printing his work in the darkroom of his home in the 1900 block of Ottawa Drive. Four of his bird photos were chosen for the 1953 edition of *Land Birds of North America*.

After he retired and moved to an apartment in the 1000 block of North Byrne Road, Mr. Hiett donated his countless prints and negatives and about three thousand color slides to the Naturalist Camera Club of Toledo, of which he was a charter member. His last major photographic project, which he completed in the late 1960s, was of mushrooms and toadstools of northwest Ohio. The Toledo Naturalist Association honored him as "Naturalist of the Year" in 1968.

He remained active with the camera until about age eighty, and was an associate member of the Photographic Society of America. Active in the Boy Scouts, Mr. Hiett served as a merit-badge examiner in bird study and photography. He also was a charter member of the Toledo Metallurgist Association.

In the winter of 1980-81, the Naturalist Camera Club of Toledo honored Mr. Hiett at a dinner which included a slide-lecture of his work and an exhibit of his photography which was later shown at the Sanger branch of the Toledo—Lucas County Public Library. Mr. Hiett lived the last two years of his life in the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Waterville, Ohio, where he died at age 85 on May 6, 1981.

Lawrence Hiett Collection Scope and Content Note

The correspondence in the Lawrence D. Hiett collection includes one six-page letter dated March 11, 1919 from Lawrence's older brother, Stanley, serving as an ordnance sergeant in the American Expeditionary Forces, addressed to their mother, Mrs. Ella F. Hiett, from Marseilles, France, in which he describes a brief tour of Versailles, where "we all touched the inlaid table where the treaty [ending World War I] will be signed" [three and a half months later, on June 28, 1919]. The remaining 270 letters are almost entirely letters which Mrs. Ella F. Hiett wrote to her son, Lawrence, from September 26, 1919 through October 25, 1922, mostly encouraging him in his studies at Cornell and assuring him of her health, particularly following surgery on January 19, 1920 for repair of a hernia and an appendectomy, with occasional reports of the business activities of his brothers Ralph W. Hiett and Stanley J. Hiett. Besides references to her brother-in-law, Oliver N. Hiett (invariably called "Unkie") and other relatives or acquaintances, the collection would seem to be of most interest for allusions to the neighborhood of the family home of thirty years at 2211 Parkwood Avenue near Bancroft, then, from April 11, 1920, 604 Stratford Place at the corner of Parkwood, and, by April 5, 1921, 2617 Parkwood Avenue.

Lawrence Hiatt Collection Inventory

Box 1

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| Folder 1 | Correspondence, March 11, 1919-October 12, 1919 |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence, October 14, 1919-November 4, 1919 |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence, November 7, 1919-November 30, 1919 |
| Folder 4 | Correspondence, December 3, 1919-January 13, 1920 |
| Folder 5 | Correspondence, January 14, 1920-January 23, 1920 |
| Folder 6 | Correspondence, January 25, 1920-February 3, 1920 |
| Folder 7 | Correspondence, February 4, 1920-February 12, 1920 |
| Folder 8 | Correspondence, February 13, 1920-February 28, 1920 |
| Folder 9 | Correspondence, February 29, 1920-March 25, 1920 |
| Folder 10 | Correspondence, March 28, 1920-May 7, 1920 |
| Folder 11 | Correspondence, May 9, 1920-June 3, 1920 |
| Folder 12 | Correspondence, June 7, 1920-June 18, 1920 |
| Folder 13 | Correspondence, June 20, 1920-August 19, 1920 |
| Folder 14 | Correspondence, September 20, 1920-November 7, 1920 |
| Folder 15 | Correspondence, November 10, 1920-April 22, 1921 |

Box 2

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| Folder 16 | Correspondence, April 28, 1921-June 15, 1921 |
| Folder 17 | Correspondence, June 16, 1921-July 8, 1921 |
| Folder 18 | Correspondence, July 10, 1921-July 31, 1921 |
| Folder 19 | Correspondence, August 1, 1921-August 30, 1921 |
| Folder 20 | Correspondence, August 30, 1921-September 26, 1921 |
| Folder 21 | Correspondence, September 28, 1921-March 31, 1922 |
| Folder 22 | Correspondence, April 2, 1922-May 3, 1922 |
| Folder 23 | Correspondence, May 10, 1922-June 7, 1922 |
| Folder 24 | Correspondence, June 14, 1922-July 19, 1922 |
| Folder 25 | Correspondence, July 21, 1922-August 31, 1922 |
| Folder 26 | Correspondence, September 1, 1922-September 25, 1922 |
| Folder 27 | Correspondence, September 28, 1922-October 22, 1922 |
| Folder 28 | Correspondence, October 25, 1922 |
| Folder 29 | Correspondence, n.d. |
| Folder 30 | Diary |
| Folder 31 | Diary |
| Folder 32 | Diary |