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Papers of Nelson Poynter, Third Accession

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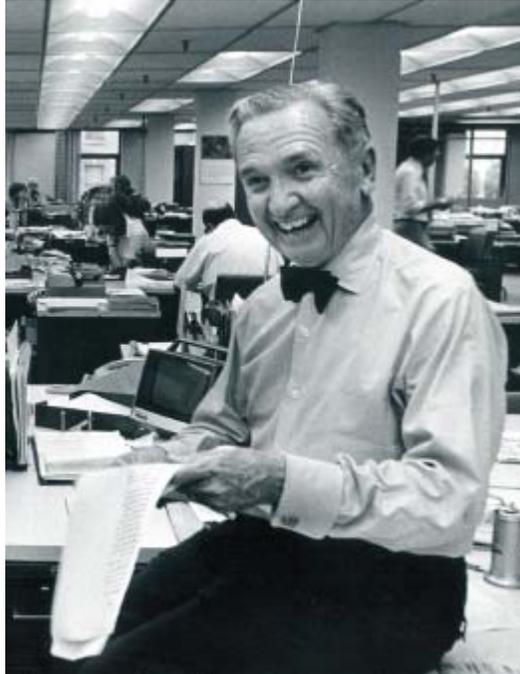
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The Papers of Nelson Poynter, Third Accession



Nelson Poynter "at home" in the Newsroom, 1974

A Collection Guide by

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Introduction to the Collection

On 13 September 2013, William C. Ballard—a former member of the Fisher & Sauls law firm—deposited a collection of personal correspondence and other documents related to the management and operation of the Times Publishing Company with Special Collections and University Archives, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. These documents, held by the firm since approximately 15 June 1978, the date of Nelson Poynter’s death, cover the years from 1936 through 1959 and may have been helpful in establishing intra-familial relationships regarding the *St. Petersburg Times* [now *Tampa Bay Times*], *St. Petersburg Evening Independent*, and other publishing and operational entities of the Times Publishing Company during any probate or other hearings. Although many documents discuss newspaper operations, they were also of a personal nature and were not necessary official company documents. Ballard maintained contact with heirs of the Poynter estate, and with their consent supplied these materials to the USFSP Poynter Library for possible inclusion in the collection. The special collections librarian contacted all parties in December 2013 and processing of this collection began in early 2014.

Preservation Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of items within this collection, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all fragile materials. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Papers of Nelson Poynter, Third Accession

This collection falls under both the Journalism and Media Studies provenance and the Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and University Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents/Related Collections

The contents occupy a single document boxes (0.20 ln. ft.) and represents the third accession of materials that comprise the Papers of Nelson Poynter. The first accession, received in the early 1980s, includes a variety of archival, manuscript, and some three-dimensional materials that became the first notable special collection in the USFSP library (approximately 58.00 ln. ft). A second accession, received on 26 June 2010 from Sally Poynter, included additional family materials (0.30 ln. feet). This third accession is directly related to the two previous accessions, though this finding aid treats the contents of the third accession as a separate entity since the library received them more than three decades after the original accession. Another related collection that may be of interest to researchers is the Jean Chance Research File on Henrietta Poynter, a collection that Chance compiled during a sabbatical from her teaching duties as a faculty member at the University of Florida. A finding aid for the Jean Chance collection is available to researchers who visit the USFSP Digital Archive.

Container Listing: Third Accession

Box 1

Folder 1: Miscellaneous Correspondence and Documents (July 1938- March 1956)

Letters addressed to Nelson Poynter regarding stock

Letter regarding Nelson Poynter's return to St. Petersburg. (Letter is hand-dated in red pencil "1942" this date may be incorrect given the content of the letter.)

Letters from lawyers and financial advisors

Itemized account of stock certificates with certificate numbers

Letters addressing whom (within the family) owned what shares of which stock

Letter detailing the value of stock and whom within the family should own the St. Petersburg times.

Poem "An American Indian poem"

Multiple letters detailing stocks, their worth, and how they should be handled by the family.

Folder 2: Correspondence between Nelson Poynter and his sister, Eleanor (November 1941- July 1957)

Letters between Nelson Poynter and lawyers about his sister's stock.

Letter to Eleanor regarding leaving St. Petersburg. (Letter is unsigned)

Letter from Eleanor requesting: an outside audit, an appraisal of the property, an investigation of the tax status of the Times Publishing Company.

Letter from Eleanor to Nelson explaining her conversations and interactions with various family members.

Letter discussing the ownership of the *St. Petersburg Times*

Letter from Nelson to Eleanor about stock in the *St. Petersburg Times* and explaining to Eleanor business interactions within the families

Multiple letters regarding stock in the *St. Petersburg Times*

Correspondence between Nelson and Eleanor related to familial matters

Letter about profit of the *St. Petersburg Times* and the financial standing of the *Times* and how the *Times* should invest. (Possibly in radio and television).

Folder 3: Family Correspondence related to Business Practices and Ownership

Carbon of letter from Nelson Poynter detailing how his successor will be chosen upon his death.

Standards for ownership of a newspaper or radio enterprise

Letter detailing an extensive audit of the Times Publishing Company.

Letter to Austin Richardson from Nelson Poynter requesting him to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of a trust agreement.

Multiple letters regarding stock in the *St. Petersburg Times* and who owned or purchased how much stock at what price.

Agreement for sale of stock

Multiple letters addressing family dynamics

Option to Purchase signed by Paul Poynter.

Option to Purchase signed by Alice N. Poynter

Other family correspondence

Folder 4: Correspondence (June 1945-March 1951)

Details of buying and selling stock

Reasons why Nelson Poynter had wanted to leave St. Petersburg

Dealings with the St. Petersburg Times

Folder 5: Correspondence with A. L. Richardson (November 1941-February 1950)

Details of positions of stockholders

Details of the affairs of the *St. Petersburg Times*

Folder 6: Correspondence with the Hays and Hays Law Firm (May 1950-October 1950)

Details of declined financial offers between Nelson and Eleanor

Copies of legal documents and letters

Letters discussing shares of stock

Folder 7: Familial and Business Correspondence (December 1941-March 1959)

Letters detailing stock and tax options

Letter regarding *Indiana Weekly*

Letter suggesting the sale of the *St. Petersburg Times*

Letters regarding business aspects of the *St. Petersburg Times*

Folder 8: Agendas, Memorandums, Legal Documents (June 1938-December 1962)

Documents regarding Paul and Nelson Poynter's professional relationship

Documents regarding who outside the family owned stock in the St. Pete Times

Documents about buying and selling stock within the family

Board meeting minutes

Transcript of proceedings