E. OGDEN KETTING (1899-1968) PAPERS, 1894-1992
Primarily, 1928-1932

Creator: E. Ogden Ketting (1899-1968)
Extent: 5.5 linear feet
Processor: Valerie Gerrard Browne, March-April 1994

Administration Information
Access Restrictions: None
Usage Restrictions:
Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago, University Archives. E. Ogden Ketting Papers, 1894-1992. Box #, folder #.
Provenance: Donated to the Loyola University of Chicago Archives in September 1992 and March 1994 by Mr. Ketting's daughters, Julie Ketting Baker and Elinor Ketting Ogden, and their respective spouses, James Baker and William F. Ogden, Jr. The papers had been part of the estate of Mr. Ketting's widow, the late Elinor Farwell Ketting of Libertyville, Illinois.
See Also: Samuel Insull Papers

Biographical Sketch

Edward Ogden Ketting was born 28 January 1899 in Kankakee, Illinois, one of three sons of Marie Louise Brosseau [7 February 1874(?) - 1961(?)] and Robert Bailey Ketting, Sr. (6 January 1873(?) - 1952). In 1918 Mr. Ketting graduated from the Marquand School in Brooklyn, New York. There he served as president of the senior class, president of the drama club, literary editor of the yearbook, and a member of the swimming, tennis, track, and football teams. While a student at Princeton University in 1918, Mr. Ketting served briefly in the U.S. Army. He left Princeton before graduating and by 1921 was working in the office of Samuel Insull, beginning as an office boy and later becoming private secretary to Samuel Insull as well as Assistant Secretary of Commonwealth Edison Company.

A close and trusted associate of Samuel Insull and friend of Samuel Insull, Jr., E. Ogden Ketting was appointed a managing director of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., in London in February 1928. In September 1930 he was elected deputy chairman, replacing the Rt. Hon. Lord Churston, thus making him the ranking officer of Insull, Son & Co. abroad. In 1927, prior to his appointment in London, Mr. Ketting had been named Assistant Secretary of Insull, Son & Co., Inc., the parent company of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., and the following year became its Vice President. Insull, Son & Co. went into receivership on 16 April 1932, and Mr. Ketting resigned as an officer on 26 July 1932.

The establishment of the Insull office in London was first outlined in an April 1923 agreement between Ernest E. Ling and Samuel Insull (See Insull Papers, folder 2-5). Its purpose was to sell Insull-managed, American local public utility junior securities ("prior lien, preferred and
ordinary shares") in the European market, especially shares of Middle West Utilities Company and its subsidiary companies. The sales of senior securities, i.e., bonds and debentures, were to be handled largely through Halsey, Stuart & Company. Samuel Insull sought to avoid retail sales, preferring instead to "sell blocks of securities privately to various trusts and investment companies and large financial institutions." Continuing the policy he had pursued prior to World War I, Insull stated a preference for dealing with such firms as Robert Fleming & Company, Shepherd & Wedderburn, Robert Benson & Company, Kitcat & Aiken, and various investment companies.

Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., commenced business in London on 1 October 1924, merging Ling's operations into the new company. In December 1929 Insull, Son & Co. of Canada, Ltd., was organized as a subsidiary of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd. The original office at 32 Bishopsgate Street in London was moved in October 1929 to 43 Threadneedle Street where it remained until it closed in 1932. Members of the staff of the Insull, Son & Co., Ltd. whose correspondence is represented in the E. Ogden Ketting Papers were: Ernest E. Ling, James Gilroy (Jim) Annan, W. H. (Bill) Dadd, P. J. Forscey, and Fabian A. Wrede.

In January 1932, when the market for Insull securities had become very unfavorable and the Insull public utilities empire was threatened with collapse, Mr. Ketting returned to Chicago. There he remained through unsuccessful efforts to save the Insull empire, returning finally to England in June 1932 to close operations in Europe. Samuel Insull also left the United States in June 1932, and Mr. Ketting maintained contact with him through December 1932, serving at times as the intermediary for messages between Samuel Insull and his son, Samuel Insull, Jr.

In late 1932, after the close of the office of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., Mr. Ketting joined the brokerage firm of Spencer Trask & Co. in London. Effective 1 January 1933 he was transferred to Chicago to act as the official representative of a group of British trust companies in salvage work relating to Insull securities. Subsequently, he held positions as a commodities trader, affiliated with the Chicago Board of Trade and associated in 1936 Hallgarten & Co. and in 1940 with Fuller, Rodney & Redmond. In 1942 Mr. Ketting retired to his farm, "Headacres," near Libertyville, Illinois, where he and his wife Elinor engaged successfully in dairy farming. In 1958 the Kettings and the Gaylord Donnelley’s made portions of their adjacent farms into a private game preserve, known as "Heads or Tails," which received notice in the local press.

While in London, Mr. Ketting was on the boards of the London Orphan School, the American Chamber of Commerce in London, the Calcot Golf Club, and the American Society in London. Other memberships included the American Club, Devonshire Club, Ranelagh Club, Reform Club, and the South Berks Agricultural Association. In addition, he served as a director of Walker Vehicles Limited.

Mr. Ketting married twice. His first marriage to Rosemary Ames (11 December 1906-21 April 1988), daughter of Knowlton L. and Adelaide S. Ames of Chicago, took place just prior to his February 1928 departure for England and ended in divorce in 1931. They had one daughter, Julie Brosseau, who was born in on 3 January 1929 and who remained in her father's custody during the separation and after the divorce. His second marriage to Elinor Farwell (3 January 1905-8 March 1992), daughter of Katherine Isham and Arthur Lincoln Farwell of
Chicago and Lake Forest, Illinois, took place 11 June 1932 in Chicago. They had one daughter, Elinor (no middle name), born in 1934.

Mr. Ketting’s daughter Julie married James Baker and had two children: Sandra (married Albert Higby) and Adam. His daughter Elinor married William F. Ogden. They had three children: Laura (married Steve Stackhouse), William, and David.

Mr. Ketting died in Chicago on 9 April 1968.
Scope and Content

The papers of E. Ogden Ketting are both business and personal in nature and revolve primarily around his employment as managing director and deputy chairman of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., in London, England, between 1928 and 1932. These papers are divided into three series as detailed below. An addendum of business and personal papers, which was received in March of 1994, makes up Series 4.


Series 1, composed of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., office files, is divided into six subseries as detailed below.


Chronologically arranged correspondence, telegrams, minutes, agenda, memoranda, letters of introduction, and other papers of or relating to E. Ogden Ketting [EOK] of a personal and business nature which were maintained in the office of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd. Included is correspondence with EOK prior to his transfer to the London office as well as correspondence with him while he was out of the country. Of particular interest are the correspondence, memos, and telegrams between EOK and the London office between January and June of 1932 when he was in the United States and witness to the fall of the Insull empire. Also well documented is his work with the London Orphan School and to a lesser extent, the American Chamber of Commerce in London and the Calcot Golf Club. Other subjects include the stock market, the marketing of stocks in Europe, arrangements for Americans visiting Europe, his search for housing for himself and Insull family members, and the "Century of Progress," the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. Correspondents include James Gilroy (Jim) Annan, Matt C. Brush, W. H. (Bill) Dadd, Gaylord A. Freeman, E. V. Graham, Samuel Insull, Jr., John G. Learned, Lewis E. Meyers, and John F. O'Keefe.


Correspondence, telegrams, statements of financial transactions with the Anglo-French Banking Corporation, Lazard Brothers & Co., Ltd., American Express Company, and National City Bank of New York, relating to margin accounts, primarily in guiders and florins. Arranged chronologically.


Correspondence, telegrams, reports, financial records, clippings, and other papers relating to business and personal matters, sent between Samuel Insull and members of the staff of Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., arranged chronologically or in the order received and answered. Subjects include dinner given in London by Samuel Insull for John J. Mitchell of Illinois Merchants Trust Co.; marketing of securities; economic, political, and business conditions; advice to investors; Reginald McKenna; traction; European business contacts; recapitalization of Middle West
Utilities Company; Insull Utility Investments, Inc.; Pincents Farm; and Samuel Insull's health, arrangements for his trips to Europe, purchases of furniture, and his charities, especially the Insull Memorial Wing of the London Temperance Hospital. Other correspondents include James Gilroy (Jim) Annan, Robert W. Bonesteel, W. H. (Bill) Dadd, P. G. Forscey, Samuel Insull, Jr., Albert Kornfeld, Ernest E. Ling, and John F. O'Keefe.

Subseries 1-D: "Mr. Samuel Insull - Appeals," 1929-1931. Box 6. Appeals to Samuel Insull for charity which were handled through Insull, Son & Co., Ltd., arranged chronologically.


Subseries 1-F: Code, 1931-ca. 1932, n.d. Box 6. Messages of a confidential nature were sent between Insull offices and officers via encoded telegrams. Included in this subseries are code books for April 1931, September 1931, and additional codes for ca. 1932 which were used for sending and deciphering encoded messages.

SERIES 2: "FALL OF THE EMPIRE," 1913-1932, PRIMARILY, JANUARY-JUNE 1932. BOXES 6-7. Series 2 contains correspondence, telegrams, reports, memos, charts, speeches, and related material from the period, January-June 1932, while EOK was in United States and witness to the collapse of Insull stock prices and unsuccessful efforts to procure bank financing, leading to the fall of the Insull empire of public utilities. The materials are arranged chronologically with information of individual companies placed at the end of the series.

SERIES 3: E. OGDEN KETTING PERSONAL FILES, 1900-1932, PRIMARILY 1928-1932, BOXES 7-11. Series 3, containing the personal files of E. Ogden Ketting, is divided into seven subseries which are detailed below.

Subseries 3-A: Halsey, Stuart and Co., 1920s-1932. Box 7. Contains correspondence with Harry L. Stuart and Charles B. Stuart of Halsey, Stuart and Co., pertaining to such subjects as the bond market, the international money market, sale of American bonds in Europe, the U.S. economy, U.S. banking, and European contacts, arranged chronologically. The correspondence is followed by Halsey, Stuart and Company financial and investment training materials of the 1920s.

Correspondence and telegrams between Samuel Insull and E. Ogden Ketting which were considered personal and maintained separately from the Insull office file. Subjects include analyses of business, economic, and political conditions in the United States, England, France, and Germany and their interrelationship, especially during the last quarter of 1931; stock and bond markets; financing and marketing of Insull securities. Subjects of a more personal nature include Pincents Farm (Insull's property in England), itineraries of Insull's trips of England and the Continent, sailing accommodations, Chicago Civic Opera Company, Insull charities, T. P. O'Connor, and entertaining Insull friends, family, and business associates. Other correspondents include Samuel Insull, Jr., Rosemary Ketting, Ernest E. Ling, P. J. McEnroe, and David F. Taber. The papers are arranged chronologically with one file on Corporation Securities Co. of Chicago placed last.

Subseries 3-C: Personal Correspondence with Samuel Insull, Jr., 1928-1932. Box 10.

Correspondence and telegrams between E. Ogden Ketting and Samuel Insull, Jr., pertaining to business and personal matters, such as the formation and financing of Midland Utilities Investment Co.; the U. S. economy, business conditions, stock market, and elections; European banking; Samuel Insull; birth of Samuel Insull, III; employment and other plans after the fall of the Insull empire; and instructions in 1932 for Samuel Insull for his return to the U.S.


Philip J. McEnroe was Samuel Insull's personal bookkeeper and a friend and former office mate of E. Ogden Ketting when he worked in Samuel Insull's office. Correspondence relates to Ketting's personal finances, Pincents Farm, and the disposal of British Power & Light common stock by the Insull receivership.


John F. O'Keefe was a friend of E. Ogden Ketting and member of Samuel Insull's personal office staff of which EOK had also been a part. Correspondence, telegrams, and clippings relating to office personnel and news, Samuel Insull, politics and elections in the United States (federal, state, and local), the press, opera and the Chicago Civic Opera House, the code for telegraphic messages, and Insull securities.


Responses of European contacts to Samuel Insull's letter announcing that EOK was joining the London office; clippings relating to Samuel Insull; photographs of EOK and Samuel Insull, Jr.; correspondence, telegrams, financial and statistical reports, pamphlets, and other papers relating to personal and family matters as well as to the British, European, and Illinois economies, British politics, stock and bond markets, La Maison des Nations (Paris), Journal of Commerce (Chicago), investment trusts, the cotton spinning trade, Insull companies, and the Calcut Golf
Club. Correspondents include Knowlton L. Ames, Knowlton L. Ames, Jr., Rex Benson, Matt C. Brush,

E. V. Graham, Samuel Insull, Samuel Insull, Jr., R. H. James, David F. Taber, and A. J. Thomas. Correspondence is arranged chronologically and is followed by subject files.

**Subseries 3G: General Correspondence and Finances, 1929-1932 (primarily, July-December 1932). Box 11.**

Correspondence and other papers reflecting primarily the period, July-December 1932, following the collapse of the Insull empire, when EOK had returned to England to close the London office and find employment for himself. Subjects include his personal finances, his search for another position, resignation of his memberships, income taxes, and selling or renting his home. Correspondents include A. B. Dick, Marshall P. Blankarn, Matt C. Brush, W. H. Dadd, Maurice Hely-Hutchinson, Gordon Selfridge, H. L. Stuart, and A. J. Thomas,


An addendum, composed of letters of introduction, correspondence, cables, photographs, clippings, Christmas list, bank statements, biographical data, pamphlets, and other papers and publications relating to the business and personal affairs of E. Ogden Ketting and his family were received from Julie Baker Ketting in March 1994. Correspondents and subjects include Samuel Insull, Marie Brosseau Ketting (mother of EOK), John F. O'Keefe, Murray Corporation of America, and EOK's London and Libertyville properties.
E. OGDEN KETTING PAPERS

CONTAINER LIST

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Subseries 1-A: "E. Ogden Ketting" Office File, 1926-1932

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11-14 Personal File - The Promised Land of Industry, by John B. Maling, 1927
11-15 Personal File - Shares Without Par Value, Extract from Pamphlet Compiled and Published for the Corporation Trust Company, New York, January 1, 1926
11-16 Personal File - "Four Representations of Psycho-Analysis in Their Social
Significance" by Paula Freeman, n.d.

Personal File - A black and white, 8"x10" photograph of E. Ogden Ketting, 1929, and a black and white, 8"x10" photograph of Samuel Insull, Jr., as a young man, ca. 1920s

**Subseries 3-G: Personal Correspondence and Finances, 1929-1932**
(Primarily July-December 1932)

11-18 Bankers Trust Company Statements, 1930-1932
11-19 Personal Correspondence and Finances, 1929-1931, n.d.
11-20 Personal Correspondence and Finances, July-August 1932
11-21 Personal Correspondence and Finances, September 1932 [January 1932], n.d.
11-22 Personal Correspondence and Finances, October-November 1932 [1930], n.d.
11-23 Personal Correspondence and Finances, December 1932

**SERIES 4: BUSINESS AND PERSONAL PAPERS, 1894-1932**

12-1 Letters of Introduction of EOK from Samuel Insull, 21 February 1928
12-2 Letters of Introduction of EOK from H. L. Stuart, February 1928
12-3 Letters of Introduction of EOK, 1928
12-4 Letters of Introduction of EOK, 1930-1931
12-5 Samuel Insull - Correspondence, 1928-1929, 1932
12-6 John F. O'Keefe - Correspondence, 1929
12-7 Murray Corporation of America, 1928
12-8 Promotion and Resignation Notices, 1930, 1932
12-9 Marriage certificate of EOK's parents, Marie Brosseau and Robert Ketting, 4 October 1894
12-10 *Helmet*, Marquand School Yearbook, 1918
12-11 U. S. Army Discharge, 1918
12-12 Marie Brosseau Ketting (Mother of EOK) - Correspondence, 1930, 1932
12-13 Personal Correspondence and Cables, 1928-1932
12-14 Personal Finances and Investments, 1929-1932
12-15 Personal Mementos, 1929-1932
12-16 London Property - 23 Lansdowne Road, W., 1929-1932
12-17 Christmas Card List, 1930
12-18 Medicinal Prescription for EOK, 26 March 1931
12-19 Clippings - EOK Marriages and Death of Samuel Insull, Jr., 1928, 1932, 1983
12-21 Elinor Farwell Ketting - Biographical Sketch, January 1992
12-22 Automobile Taxes and "Rules of the Road" for various countries, 1930-1932
12-23 London Orphan School Annual Report, 1931
12-24 Photographs of E. Ogden Ketting, 1927-ca. 1930 (6 photos)
   1 snapshot outside Beverly Hills Hotel, California, Fall 1927
   1 portrait, wearing vested suit and hat with finger in watch chain, ca. 1927-1928
1 portrait in suitcoat with striped tie and handkerchief in pocket
1 profile snapshot in sport coat, holding handkerchief, with trees in background, 1928
2 small head and shoulders "Poso-Graph" portraits, ca. 1930

12-25 Photographs of E. Ogden Ketting with J. Gilroy (Jim) Annan and Samuel Insull, Jr., 1928-1929 (3 photos)
   1 snapshot, dining outdoors with Jim Annan, October 1928
   1 postcard snapshot, feeding the pigeons with Samuel Insull, Jr., ca. 1928
   1 snapshot on a dock by a ship with Samuel Insull, Jr. (with pipe in his mouth), ca. 1928-1929

12-26 Photograph (snapshot) of Rosemary Ames Ketting (holding dog) and friend, Mary Feliz(?) Hayward de Bruque(?) at Pincents Farm, July 1929 (1 photo)

12-27 Photograph of Elinor Farwell Ketting, ca. 1932 (1 photo)

12-28 Photographs of Samuel Insull, 1920s (3 photos)
   1 autographed portrait, 1921;
   1 snapshot with schoolgirls, ca. 1927-1928;
   1 snapshot at Pincents House on Insull's estate in Theale, Berkshire, England, with unidentified male, ca. 1929