

# Ernst Teofil Skarstedt collection, 1857-1929

**Size:** 10.5 linear feet, 25 boxes

**Acquisition:** The scrapbooks were created and donated to the Augustana College Library by Ernst T. Skarstedt's son Marcus Skarstedt sometime in the 1930s. Another donation consisting of letters, diaries and clippings was made to the Swenson Center in 1996 by his great grandson Vance R. Skarstedt.

**Access:** The Collection is open for research. A limited amount of photocopies may be requested via mail

**Processed by:** Library staff 1930s, Christina Johansson 1997, with additions in 2005.

**Control Num.:** SSIRC MSS P:149

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## Provenance

The scrapbooks were cataloged and part of the Immigration Collection at the Augustana College library until December of 1983. They were then transferred to the Swenson Center. The material in series III was donated to the Swenson Center in 1996 by Ernst T. Skarstedt's great grandson Vance R. Skarstedt.

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## Biographical Note

Distinguished Swedish-American journalist, author, poet, farmer and musician, Ernst Teofil Skarstedt was born 14 April, 1857 in Solberga parish, Bohuslän to Carl W. Skarstedt and Hedvig Elina Wieselgren. Skarstedt was raised and educated in Lund and at *Tekniska Högskolan* in Stockholm. After interrupted studies in Stockholm and a brief career as a sailor, he immigrated to the United States in the 1878.

Upon arrival in the United States, Skarstedt supported himself as a railroad and farm worker in the Midwest. He became the editor of *Kansas Stats-Tidning* in Lindsborg, Kansas in 1879. From Kansas, Skarstedt moved to Chicago to work for *Svenska Amerikanaren*, 1880-1884 and *Svenska Tribunen*, 1884-1885. In Chicago, Skarstedt married Anna Hult in 1881. They had two children in Chicago, Esther born in 1882, and Marcus, 1884. The family left Chicago for Washington Territory in the spring of 1885 and rented a small cabin in the Mount Bell area. While in Mount Bell, Skarstedt contributed articles and poems regularly about life in the forest to *Svenska-Amerikanaren* and translated novels from English to Swedish.

In the fall of 1885, the Skarstedt family went back to Chicago where they embarked on a journey for Sweden. The Skarstedt family stayed in Sweden visiting with family and friends for 6 months. Their third child, Wilma was born in Lund in the winter of 1886. In June of 1886, the family left Sweden and went back to Washington where Skarstedt purchased land in the remote area of Mount Bell. They built a small home on the lot and begun to farm. To supplement the income, Skarstedt contributed regularly to Swedish-American press and worked as a photographer, and Anna wove carpets. Anna Skarstedt died from typhoid fever on September 28, 1888. After his wife's death, Skarstedt sold the farm and placed the children with friends. Skarstedt spent the years after his wife's death traveling and living in various places in the Pacific Northwest. He supported himself as a writer and photographer.

In 1891, Skarstedt became the editor of the San Francisco newspaper, *Vestkusten*, a position he held until 1896. In San Francisco, he met Ellen Högberg whom he married on November 22, 1893. The years at *Vestkusten*, marked some of his most productive and energetic years. Skarstedt wrote more than 500 articles on various subjects for the newspaper during this period and translated numerous of short-stories from English to Swedish. In addition, he was active as a violinist in orchestras, and a regular attendee at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church.

The Skarstedt family moved to Castle Rock, Washington in 1896 and stayed in that area until 1902. After a brief stay in San Francisco, the family settled in Laton, California where Skarstedt purchased 40 acres of land and begun to farm again. Despite breaking new land and setting up a new irrigation system, Skarstedt wrote more than 400 articles published in Swedish-American press during the period 1903-1906. In 1906, Skarstedt sold the farm in Laton and moved his family to Columbia City, Washington. During the time in Columbia City, Skarstedt continued to contribute articles to the Swedish-American press and he also traveled extensively from 1908 to 1911 to collect material for the volumes on the Swedish population in the Northwest: *California och dess svenska befolkning*, *Oregon och dess svenska befolkning* and *Washington och dess svenska befolkning*. Skarstedt traveled more than 6000 miles per year during this period, with the exception of 1910 when he also went to visit his son Marcus Skarstedt at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and Chicago. He was also an active member of an orchestra during this time.

After several months of searching for land in Washington, Skarstedt finally found a suitable farm on Orcas Island about 100 miles from Seattle in 1912. The family lived there from April of 1912 to 1919. While farming on Orcas Island, Skarstedt continued to write articles and editorials for the Swedish-American and the Swedish press. He occasionally submitted articles to American agricultural periodicals.

The Skarstedt's sold their farm on Orcas Island in 1919 and after spending some time in the Seattle area, Skarstedt again purchased land, this time on San Juan Island in Puget Sound. The family moved to their new home near Friday Harbor on San Juan Island in 1920. In the summer of 1920, Skarstedt was offered the editorship of *Nordstjernen* in New York City. He accepted and left his family on San Juan Island. Skarstedt stayed with *Nordstjernen* for 6 years before he returned to his wife Ellen and family who had relocated to Seattle. After a brief employment as the editor for the *Pacific Tribune* in Seattle, Skarstedt went back to San Juan Island and purchased yet another farm. Ellen refused to join him and stayed in Seattle. With the exception

of frequent visits to friends and his wife in Seattle, Skarstedt remained on the island farming and writing until his death on March 13, 1929. Ernst and Ellen had three children: Mellie born 1896, Martha b. 1899, and Vera b.1905.

Skarstedt's prolific literary and journalistic career spanned over five decades. He wrote 13 books, edited 3, and translated 2. He also wrote more than 4500 articles, essays and editorials published in various newspapers and periodicals. Even though he had excellent command of the English language, the vast majority of his writing was done in the Swedish language.

Skarstedt's more well-known publications are:

*Svensk-Amerikanska poeter i ord och bild, 1890*  
*Våra Pennfäktare. Lefnads-och karaktärsanteckningar, 1897*  
*Vagabond och Redaktör, 1914*  
*Svensk-Amerikanska Folket i Helg och Söcken, 1917*  
*California och dess svenska befolkning, 1910*  
*Oregon och dess svenska befolkning, 1911*  
*Washington och dess svenska befolkning, 1908*

For further information about the life of Ernst T. Skarstedt, please see *An Immigrant's American Odyssey. A biography of Ernst Skarstedt*, by Emory Lindquist. Published by Augustana Historical Society in 1974.

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## Scope and Content

This collection includes more than 40 scrapbooks compiled by Ernst T. Skarstedt. The volumes contain his own writings and editorials submitted to the Swedish and Swedish-American press and clippings on a wide variety of subjects such as Swedish-American biography and history, farming and agriculture, description and travel, prohibition, vaccination, criticism of the labor movements, literature, music and art.

Skarstedt's diaries contain daily entries from 1876-1884. His meticulous journals include chronological listings of: articles and books he published 1879-1925; poems translated 1877-1928; listings of all photographs taken 1877-1926; listing of articles and poems written 1862-1919; listing of places he lived 1857-1926; trips incl. miles and modes of transportation 1859-1928; Correspondence 1857-1927; sermons attended 1871-1921; entertainment attended 1868-1927.

The collection also contain letters from family members 1878-1888, Marcus Skarstedt's translations of selected works by his father Ernst T. Skarstedt, Marcus Skarstedt's diary 1908-1911 and 1941-1959, and his scrapbooks.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series:

- I. Scrapbooks v. 1-42 (collected and arranged by Ernst T. Skarstedt). Volumes 1-9 include Skarstedt's articles, poems and editorials which he submitted to the Swedish-American and Swedish Press.
  - II. Scrapbooks v. 1-10 (new series, most likely collected and arranged by Marcus Skarstedt).
  - III. Diaries, journals, manuscripts (donated to the Swenson Center in 1996 by great grandson Vance R. Skarstedt).
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## Subject/s

Skarstedt, Ernst T., 1857 -1929  
Skarstedt, Marcus  
Swedish-American press  
Swedish - American Biography  
Description and Travel  
Farming - California, 1900s  
Prohibition, 1920s  
Vaccinations  
Labor and Unions  
Women's Rights  
Religion  
Art  
Music  
Literature 20th century

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## Folder Inventory

Box	Folder/ item	Folder/item title
<b>Series I - Scrapbooks, volumes 1-42.</b>		
1	1	Articles by Ernst T. Skarstedt 1879-1892 (303 numbered clippings from the Swedish-American and Swedish press)
1	2	Poetry, trs. of poetry and short stories, 1880-1918; and articles by E.T.S. 1892-1898 (clippings number 304-518)
2	3	Articles by Skarstedt 1899-1903 (238 clippings)
2	4	Articles by Skarstedt 1903-1904 (270 clippings)
3	5	Articles by Skarstedt 1904-1907 (292 clippings)

3	6	Articles by Skarstedt 1907 - 1911 (260 clippings)
4	7	Articles by Skarstedt 1911-1915 (325 clippings)
4	8	Articles by Skarstedt 1916-1921; and articles by others (clippings not numbered)
5	9	Articles by Skarstedt 1921-1923, majority published in Nordstjernan
5	10	Misc. clippings 1866-1895 (301 pages of clippings)  Swedish-America, biographical articles, programs, announcements,
6	11	Clippings 1996-1902, articles by Skarstedt, subjects: Swedish-America, Biography etc.
6	12	Clippings 1913- , articles by Skarstedt, subjects: Swedish-America, Biography etc.
7	13	Clippings 1919-1928, subjects: Prohibition, Swedish-America, Biography etc.
7	14	Clippings 1920-1926, subjects: Prohibition and articles from Nordstjernan and Svenska Tribunen.
8	15	Clippings 1921-1926, subjects: U.S. News in Swedish-American Press, Biography
8	16	Clippings 1923-1927, majority of clippings from Nordstjernan and subjects: Politics, Culture, Biography
9	17	Clippings from Finska-Amerikanaren, Brooklyn N.Y.  1920-1924, trs. into Swedish from English by E.T.S.
9	18	Articles of interest to Skarstedt from Swedish-American and Swedish press. Subjects include: Swedish-American Relations, Swedish Language Usage in the U.S., History, Philosophy, Marriage, and Women's Rights.
9	19	Articles of interest to Skarstedt, Subjects: Swedish and Swedish-American Biography, Culture, Literature, and August Strindberg.
10	20	Articles of interest to Skarstedt, Subjects: Swedish-American Biographies, Swedish-American Pseudonyms, Literature
10	21	Swedish Poems and misc. clippings on/from Swedish-America n.d.
10	Folder 1	Loose clippings - poems
10	Folder 2	Misc. poems - handwritten transcribed by Skarstedt.
11	Item 22	<i>Literära godbitar ur personliga bref</i> from Elof Nilsson, Stockholm published in the Pacific Tribune and Svante Löfgren i Seattle, published in Nordstjernan, n.d.
11	23	Misc. short-stories, published in the Swedish-American press, n.d.
11	24	Travel writing by Skarstedt; Description and Reflections on New York City, published in Nordstjernan
12	25	Articles on Agriculture and Farming; Raising Animals; Health and Vaccinations; and California weather records 1914-1916.
12	26	Articles about Vaccinations and Serums.

13	27	Art in the Swedish and Swedish-American Press, main subjects: Nature, Politics, Animals, Politics, Carl Larsson, Bruno Liljefors, and Anders Zorn.
13	28	Art in the Swedish and Swedish-American Press, main subjects: Nature, Politics, Portraits, Carl Larsson and Anders Zorn.
14	29	Music, Musicians , World Portraits, Biographical information
14	30	Pictures, Portraits, Politics, Political Cartoons, German-American News Papers.
15	31	Articles on travel to the South Sea and other exotic places, misc. biographical articles, pictures of women, and nature
15	32	General articles about Swedish-Americans and Swedish-America.
15	Folder 1	Articles by E.T.S. published in Svenska Amerikanska Posten
15	Folder 2	2 misc. letter written by E.T.S. in 1916
<b>New Series of Scrapbooks v. 1-10 were most likely collected and created by Marcus Skarstedt, son of Ernst T. Skarstedt.</b>		
16	1	Articles by E.T.S. about Swedish-America 1907-1909.
16	2	Articles about E.T.S., incl. his trip to Sweden in 1916, and criticism he received for his travelogue published in Nordstjernen.
17	3	Articles on Swedish and Swedish-American writers and humor
17	4	Biographical and literal articles from the Swedish and Swedish-American press.
17	5	Swedish-American Press and <i>Svenska Journalistförbundet</i> ; Skarstedt's articles; United States Singers on the Pacific Coast, 1915; <i>Svensk-Amerikanska utställningskommitten</i> , San Francisco, 1915; Swedish Day, San Diego 1916; Adolph Edgren School of Music; <i>Svenska typografföreningen</i> , 1893-1913, Waldemar Skarstedt; Carl Wilhelm Skarstedt.
17	6	Non-Skarstedt : English-language humor, fiction, illustrations
18	7	Biographical articles on E.T.S. mostly newsp. articles 1900-1919, reviews and some non Skarstedt poetry.
18	8	Newspaper articles on Skarstedt, 1899, 1916, 1919, 1920-1927.
18	9	Skarstedt--biographical articles, 1900-1919.
18	Folder 1	Wedding tribute to sister-in-law Selma, 1889
18	Folder 2	<i>En Svensk i Amerika</i> , 1860
18	10	Swedish jokes and humor.
<b>Series III</b>		
<b>Donated to the Swenson Center in 1996 by Ernst T. Skarstedt's, great grandson Vance R. Skarstedt</b>		
1	Folder 1	Misc. clippings 1905-1919, incl. articles translated from English to Swedish by E.T.S.
1	2	Clipped articles of interest, some written and translated by Skarstedt 1920-1923
1	3	Notebook entitled: <i>Övningar i modersmålet H.T. 1870- V.T. 1871</i> ,

		<i>Skara Läroverk</i>
1	4	Skarstedt's diary April 14 - September 10, 1876
1	5	Skarstedt's diary September 11 - February 17, 1884
2	Item 1	<p>Skarstedt's journal vol. 1 includes detailed listings of his publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronological listing of articles and books by E.T.S. 1879-1925 (4165)</li> <li>• Chronological listing of original and translated poems by E.T.S. 1877-1928 (1996)</li> <li>• Chronological listing of photos taken by E.T.S. 1887-1926 (333)</li> <li>• Chronological listing of portraits of E.T.S. 1860-1927</li> <li>• Chronological listing of articles and poems about E.T.S. 1862-1919.</li> </ul>
2	Item 2	<p>Skarstedt's journal vol. 2 includes details on his travels, letters, moves, sermons attended, and entertainment :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moves, places of residents incl. dates 1857-1926</li> <li>• Travels, 1859-1928 incl. dates and how many miles by foot and other transportation.</li> <li>• Correspondence 1857-1927, incl. dates of reception and writing</li> <li>• Sermons attended 1871-1921, incl. dates, preacher and sermon subject.</li> <li>• Entertainment and amusements 1868-1927, incl. specific dates, the nature of the event etc.</li> </ul>
2	Folder 6	Letters from Anna H. Skarstedt 1878-1888
2	Folder 7	Letters from Ester Skarstedt 1906-1907
2	Folder 8	Letters from Marcus Skarstedt 1907-1910
2	Folder 9	Letters from Conrad Skarstedt 1907-1910
2	Folder 10	Letters from Waldemar Skarstedt
2	Folder 11	Letters from morbror Sigfrid Wieselgren 1906-1910
2	Folder 12	Letters from M. Wieselgren, Elof, Josua, and Wilma Skarstedt 1909
2	Folder 13	<i>An Out-and Outer</i> by E.T.S. trs. by Marcus Skarstedt, 1967
2	Folder 14	<i>Vagabond and Editor</i> by E.T.S. (typewritten in English)
2	Folder 15	Scrapbook entitled: Tributes at Death, 1929 (obituaries and tributes from the Swedish-American press)
3	Item 1	Manuscript: Abraham Lincoln. Sketch of his life and character by Ernst T. Skarstedt, 1918. Translated by Marcus Skarstedt, 1967.

		(2 copies)
3	Item 2	Manuscript: Mrs. Ott, by Ernst Skarstedt. Translated by Marcus Skarstedt. The Swedish version appeared in <i>Prärieblomman</i> 1902.
3	Item 3	Manuscript: A Dog's Life for Eighteen Months-Notes from a Real Life, by Ernst T. Skarstedt. Translated by Marcus Skarstedt, 1961.  Original title: <i>Aderton Månaders Hundlif. Verklighetsteckningar</i> , published in Valkyrian in 1899.
4	Item 1	Manuscript: <i>Vid hennes sida. Öden och äfventyr. Minnen av ett sjuårigt äktenskap. Samlade i tolf brev av Ernst T. Skarstedt.</i>  (2 handwritten bound copies). Rikligt illustrerade med 11 fotografier, 5 stentryck, 1 träsnitt, samt 50 pennritningar af Olof Grafström
4	Item 2	Manuscript: <i>By her Side. Experiences and Adventures, Memories and Observations Life and Character Sketches from a seven-year Marriage. Twelve letters plus forewords and conclusions, translated by Marcus Skarstedt (1 typewritten copy, and 1 bound and printed). The English version also incl. photographs, lithographs, woodcuts, and pen and ink drawings by Olof Grafström, trs. by Marcus Skarstedt in 1956. Included are also notes by Marcus Skarstedt and reviews of the book by Josua Lindahl, O.A. Linder, Waldemar Skarstedt, Magnus Wieselgren.</i>
5	Item 1	<i>An Immigrant Odyssey. A biography of Ernst T. Skarstedt</i> by Emory Lindquist published in 1974 by the Augustana Historical Society, Rock Island, Illinois.
5	Item 2	Special edition of the above title prepared for Mark, Carol, Susan and Vance - Ernst T. Skarstedt's great grandchildren (4 copies)
5	Item 3	Dagbok C.W. Skarstedt (?) May 1864 - August 1864
5	Item 4	<i>Psalmskatt. Mer utvald samling af psalmer ur den evangeliska kyrkans förråd gjord i öfversättning af Mag. C.W. Skarstedt, 1844</i> (handwritten)
5	Item 5	<i>Handbok i den bibliska fornkunskapen jemte förklaring af åtskilliga dunklare ställen in den heliga skrift.</i> Utgifwen av Carl W. Skarstedt, inkl. anteckningar och redigeringar för den tredje upplagan.
5	Item 6	Travel diary by Bessie Skarstedt. Trip to Sweden with Gripsholm, July 3, 1953.
6	Item 1	Diary of Marcus Skarstedt 1908-1911, and 1941-1959  Notes from life at Augustana College, 1908-1910; University of Ill. 1910-1911 as librarian; other notes and mathematical problems, diary continued 1941-1959
6	Item 2	Marcus Skarstedt's scrapbooks, 1895-1912 incl. clippings of Skarstedt's works, Augustana programs, pamphlets, etc
6	Item 3	Marcus Skarstedt's scrapbook incl. 1905-1909 incl. Augustana



	announcements, pamphlets, musical programs, receipts etc.
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