

THE CENTER FOR THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN HERITAGE  
UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
DAYTON, OHIO



**Collection HC-30**

**The Ellen Jane Lorenz Porter Papers**

*Processed by Timothy Binkley*

*June 2005*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ellen Jane Lorenz Papers reflect Dr. Porter's great interest in hymnody, handbells, and church music publishing. Furthermore, they complement one of Memorial Library's most significant special collections: the 404 volume E. S. Lorenz Hymnal Collection.

Collection HC-30 occupies one linear foot of shelf space. The Lorenz papers have been organized into the following series:

- Series I: Correspondence
- Series II: Family History
- Series III: Awards & Honors
- Series IV: Publications
- Series V: Unpublished Manuscripts
- Series VI: Notes

The exact provenance of these records is not clear. Some items were found in the Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage archive room and others were located in the United Theological Seminary Archives. In June of 2005 these two source files were combined into one historical collection. At the same time, the entire E. S. Lorenz Hymnal Collection was inventoried, foldered and boxed to enhance preservation and access.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Ellen Jane Lorenz Porter (1907 – 1996) was the granddaughter of Lorenz Publishing Company founder Edmund S. Lorenz, the “Dean of Gospel-song Writers.” Ellen Jane attended Wellesley College, where she majored in music. She taught music in Akron, Ohio, before going to Paris to study music composition. From Paris, she returned to her home town of Dayton, Ohio, where she served Lorenz Publishing Company as music editor from 1932 to 1963.

Her grandfather, Edmund S. Lorenz, LL.D., D. Mus. (1854-1942), had collected more than 400 American hymnals and song books and was one of the first to recognize the unique qualities of American folk hymns. Upon retiring from the publishing business, Ellen Jane went back to school and wrote her Master's Thesis on the E.S. Lorenz hymnal collection. She then went on to Union Graduate School to study northern camp-meeting spirituals. Ellen Jane received her doctorate at the age of 71. An abbreviated version of her dissertation was published

as the book, *Glory, Hallelujah!* Between 1972 and 1986, Dr. Porter taught at United Theological Seminary as Adjunct Instructor in Sacred Music.

Ellen Jane Lorenz Porter was long associated with Choristers Guild, handbell choirs, handbell music, and the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR). She and her musician husband, James, traveled extensively and collected bells from around the world. Ellen Jane was also known for her repertoire of bell lore. She was a popular lecturer at national handbell festivals and other events.

Additional historical data on the Lorenz family and the Lorenz Publishing Company can be found at <https://www.lorenz.com/index.aspx?page=aboutus> .

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

Series I, Correspondence, is the smallest series. Its one folder contains a few letters concerning the E. S. Lorenz Hymnal Collection and Ellen Jane's work at United Theological Seminary.

Series II, Family History, includes published articles, research notes, and an unpublished family history written by Edmund S. Lorenz.

Series III, Awards, contains articles announcing the awarding of the Ohioana Music Citation for distinguished service to Ohio in the field of music to Dr. Porter in 1986.

Series IV, Publications, consists of a few handbell compositions and arrangements by Dr. Lorenz, a number of her hymnological articles, and a copy of her book, *Glory, Hallelujah! The Story of the Campmeeting Spiritual*.

Series V, Unpublished Manuscripts, is the largest series. Its twelve folders contain complete hand-typed copies of Dr. Lorenz's Master's thesis, Doctoral dissertation, and two later research papers.

Series VI, Notes, includes hand-written research notes compiled by Dr. Porter.

## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
Series I:		Correspondence	
1	1	Correspondence	1969-86
Series II:		Family History	
1	2	Manuscript: "Autobiographical Excepts from the Lorenz Family" n.d. By E. S. Lorenz, with forward by Mrs. J. Balmer Showers	
	3	Lorenz Publishing Co. and Lorenz Family articles	1936-82
Series III:		Awards & Honors	
1	4	Ohioana Music Citation; Dayton Music Club Centennial Program	1986-88
Series IV:		Publications	
1	5	Handbell Music	1973-74
	6	Hymnology Articles	1969-83
	7	Book: <i>Glory, Hallelujah! The Story of the Campmeeting Spiritual</i>	1980
Series V:		Unpublished Manuscripts	
1	8	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol.1</i>	1971
	9	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol. 2</i>	1971
	10	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol. 3</i>	1971
	11	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol.4</i>	1971
	12	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol. 4 copy 2</i>	1971
	13	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol.5</i>	1971
	14	M.S.M. Thesis: <i>A Critical Bibliography of the E. S. Lorenz Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Songbooks, Vol.6</i>	1971
	15	Ph. D. Dissertation: <i>A Treasure of Campmeeting Spirituals</i> Parts 1-3 (title page to page 202)	1978
	16	Ph. D. Dissertation: <i>A Treasure of Campmeeting Spirituals</i> Parts 4-6 (pages 203-445)	1978
	17	Ph. D. Dissertation: <i>A Treasure of Campmeeting Spirituals</i> Parts 4-6 (pages 203-445) – copy 2	1978
	18	Paper: "Nineteenth Century American Songs and Hymns"	1980s
	19	Paper: "The Persistence of the Primitive in American Hymnology"	1980s
Series VI:		Notes	
	20	Notecards concerning the Lorenz Hymnal Collection	ca. 1970s

7/1/2005