

SCHMIDT, EMANUEL

**An address delivered at the banquet  
given by His Majesty's vice consul and  
Mrs. Andrew Chilberg in celebration of the  
birthday anniversary of H.M. King Oscar of  
Sweden January 21, 1907.**

Seattle, Wash.  
1907

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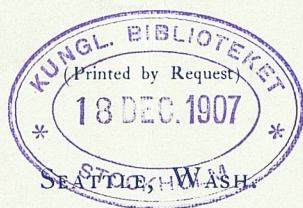
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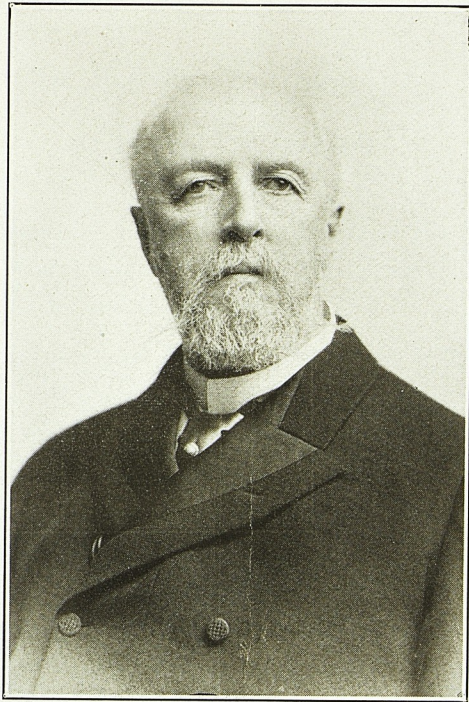
AN ADDRESS  
DELIVERED AT THE BANQUET GIVEN BY  
HIS MAJESTY'S VICE CONSUL  
AND  
MRS. ANDREW CHILBERG  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE  
BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF  
HIS MAJESTY, KING OSCAR OF SWEDEN  
JANUARY 21, 1907  
BY  
EMANUEL SCHMIDT, PH. D.  
PRESIDENT ADELPHIA COLLEGE



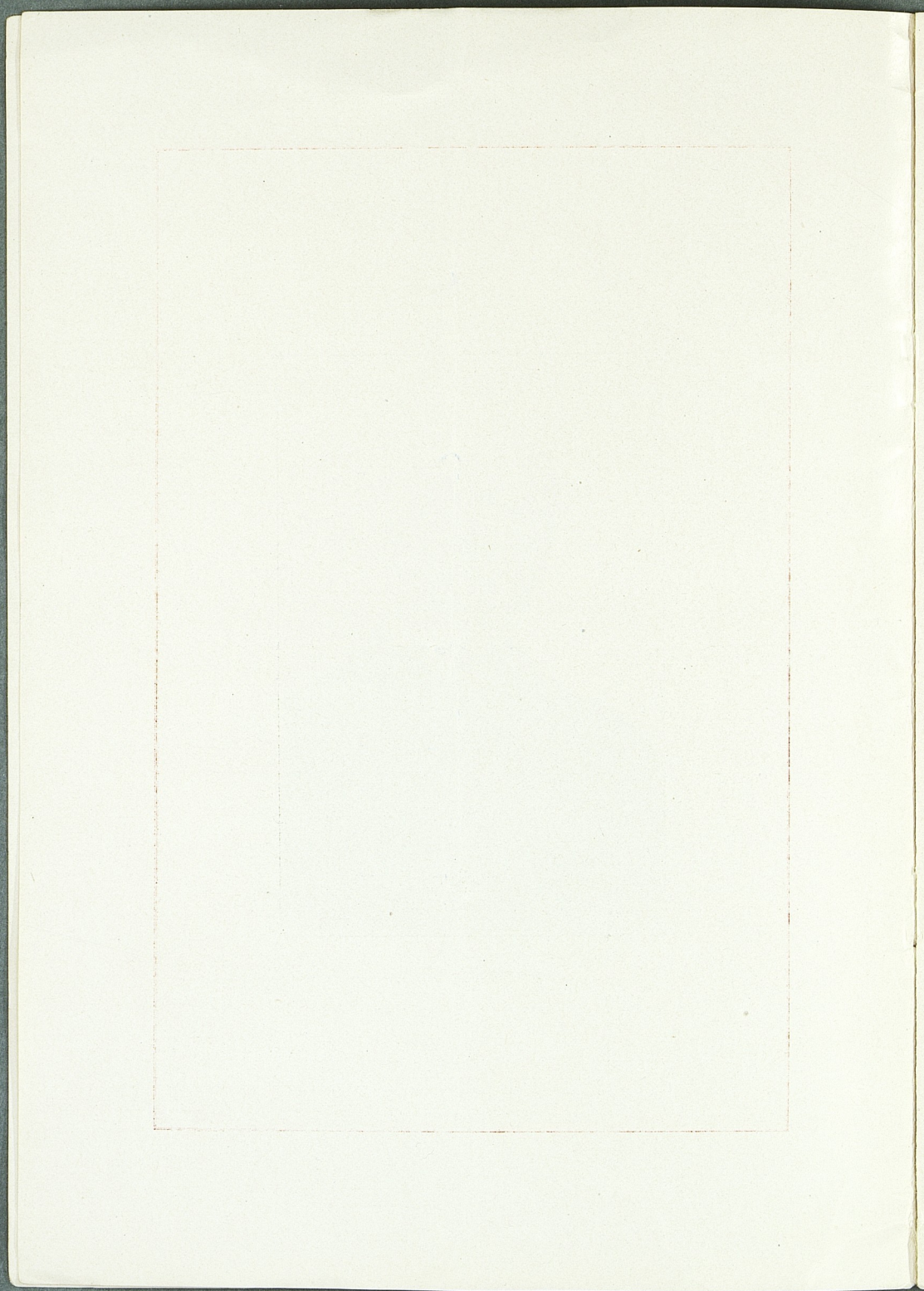
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KING OSCAR OF SWEDEN





IN RESPONSE TO THE TOAST

“KING OSCAR”

Mr. Toastmaster, Honorable Vice-Consul of His Majesty,  
King Oscar of Sweden; Mrs. Andrew Chilberg,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I regard it a great privilege to be present at this festive occasion, and appreciate highly the honor bestowed upon me when asked to respond to the toast, “King Oscar.”

Friends, there is joy to-night in the Royal Palace of Sweden. There is gratitude to God in the hearts of a loyal people, that He so graciously has spared the life of their beloved king. From thousands of homes there ascend to-night the warmest prayers to the throne of God for the richest blessings on the head of the aged monarch, for the brightest future of the House of Bernadotte.

The last two years of the reign of this illustrious king have been years, fraught with threatening dangers, not only

to the peace of the North, but to the equilibrium in the realm of world politics. And to him, in whose honor we have gathered here to-night, these have been years of bitter experiences, sorrows and heartaches, trials and tribulations. But they have also revealed to the world a glorious vision, that of the man who issued from the fearful struggle a conqueror, indeed, the man with the perfect self-control, the man with the iron will in the hour, when the destinies of nations weighed in the scales, the man above reproach, who would not listen to personal insults, who would rather sacrifice a kingdom than be false to his motto, "The Welfare of the Brother Nations;" who suffered personal wrongs that universal peace might still prevail. That vision revealed the radiant lustre of the crown of true royalty. The king of Sweden has amply proven himself a monarch in the sphere of genuine manhood, in the realm of nobility of soul. And, therefore, it gives us great pleasure to-night, though far from our native land, to join with our brethren of the North in joyful celebration of the 78th anniversary of the day that saw his birth.

Ladies and gentlemen, the time is past when, by virtue of the supposed "divine rights of kings," a ruler can, at the slightest whim, arbitrarily drag his people into wars of conquest with its intense sufferings and needless bloodshed. The time is gone when the worth of the rulers of the world is determined by chances of birth, but now their real esteem

is based on their strength of character, their purity of soul, the grandeur of their achievements, and the blessings their reign has brought to their people.

We who have made our homes in this land of the free, who know what it means to enjoy the privileges and blessings of those institutions of liberty over which the Star-spangled Banner is floating; we who, of our own accord, have landed on Columbia's shores, and who love this land as our chosen bride, though our hearts still are beating warmly for our kind mother in *Ultima Thule*, we have learned the lesson, that no matter where one's cradle has stood, no matter under what flag one's life work is done, no matter under what circumstances and callings in life one's lot has been cast, *he is a king, indeed, who has conquered himself*; he is truly great who has become the master of the situation, who has removed obstacles and overcome difficulties, and he is worthy of our greatest admiration, who, by virtue of his own achievements, has ascended the lofty heights of refinement and culture, who has won his laurels in the halls of learning, in the field of sciences and arts, and who has become the crowned favorite of the Muses in the enchanted world of poetry and song. It is, therefore, not only to Oscar II, the crowned monarch of the land of our fathers, but to Oscar Fredrik, the genuine man, the prudent statesman, the wise ruler, the great orator, the man of letters, the

friend of learning, the accomplished poet, the herald of peace, I would pay my tribute to-night.

King Oscar is, in the best sense of the word, a gentleman. This is the testimony not only of the people who love him, but also that of distinguished strangers, who have visited his capital. The other night Mr. Bryan, who by no means is an admirer of crowned heads, paid him the greatest compliment when he spoke of him "as a true gentleman, a lover of peace."

A man's career in life, if successful, is largely founded on strength of character, and this, in turn, depends to a great extent on the ideals he is striving to attain. The future historian of King Oscar's reign will, no doubt, emphasize as the real secret of his success the noble and lofty ideals he, as a young man, placed before him when he assumed the responsibilities of his high office. What better goal could a ruler seek to attain than his: "Brödrafolkens Val" "The welfare of the brother nations"? And in what nobler way could he have proven his fidelity to this pledge than by bridling his own pride and giving up his crown rather than to plunge two nations, whom he dearly loved, into an unfortunate, a deadly struggle? What loftier aims could he set before the young than these grand words from his address to the students of Lund, October 19, 1876:

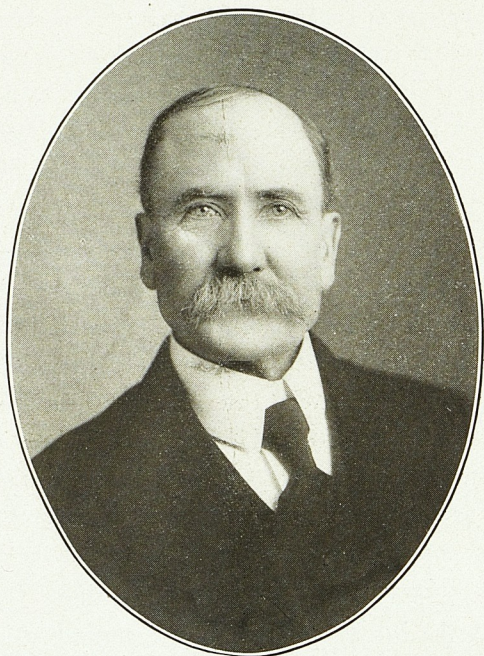
"Independent study develops and promotes independence of character, and this has an inborn power to conquer, and

awaits with calm serenity the sentence of the future, provided it is founded on fear of God, love of man, and sense of duty."

That independence of character he possessed; that fear of God he revealed many a time during the vicissitudes of his long reign; that love of man he manifested in the hours of serious trial, when the eyes of an astonished world were fixed upon him; that sense of duty was his constant companion in life. All honor to Oscar Fredrik, the true, the noble man!

In the family of nations there frequently arise difficult problems to solve. In former days international disputes were settled by the fortunes of war. During the latter half of the past century the study of international law has come to the forefront, and several cases of serious difficulties have been settled by courts of arbitration. Then there is need of men with sane judgment. It is to King Oscar's credit that the great powers at several such occasions have sought his services as a mediator of peace. As a statesman of high order he ranks among the foremost in the world.

That he has been a wise ruler in regard to internal affairs, the great industrial and commercial development of Sweden bears abundant testimony. The agricultural resources of the country have been developed. The land is traversed with railroads. The other day I had an opportunity to read a volume of King Oscar's speeches, and I



MR. ANDREW CHILBERG  
VICE CONSUL OF SWEDEN



MRS. ANDREW CHILBERG

found fourteen delivered at the opening of some new railroad. In the short period of one generation the whole country has undergone a marvelous transformation, and it is largely due to his sound judgment and great foresight.

And if we should compare the military system of Sweden as it was when he ascended the throne, and what it is to-day, we would be even more amazed at the tremendous changes that have taken place. The army is more efficient in its work, better equipped to meet any emergency; the splendid harbors of Sweden can be better defended by fortresses and mines in case of war. But it is above all in the Swedish navy we notice the greatest change. Ever since he, as a boy of ten, received his first lessons on board a man-of-war, his heart has followed with intense interest the growth of the Swedish navy. In his youth, in the days of sailing vessels, before the formidable ironclads came upon the scene, Sweden had a strong navy, surpassed only by those of England, France and Russia. During the reigns of his father and his brother the inventions, based on steam as a motive power, revolutionized the entire naval forces of the world, and Oscar, when assuming the reign, found himself confronted with the serious situation of not having a single modern battleship in case of defensive war. But behold the Swedish navy to-day with its eleven ironclads, ten torpedo boats and four destroyers, balloon vessel, submarine boat and cruiser, besides numerous smaller vessels for the coast defense.

And yet, though well prepared for war, he is the man of peace.

A few years ago, while I was studying at the University of Chicago, President Harper sometimes invited a few of his favored students to his private library, and as the evening hours passed and he thought we had been feasting long enough on Hebrew roots, he used to call for some light refreshments, and in the social hour that followed, he would tell us reminiscences of his experiences in Europe and his visits with learned men, but he would invariably end with a description of his visit to Stockholm, when he represented America at the Oriental Congress. He told us of King Oscar's erudition and hospitality; how he opened the Congress with a speech in French; how he conversed freely with his guests in English; what a deep interest he took in the deliberations of this company of learned men and Oriental sages, and how he closed the Congress with an address in flawless Latin.

King Oscar's fame as a great linguist, as a friend of learning, as a forceful speaker, as a charming man of letters has reached the uttermost parts of the world. No one can read his masterful speeches at festive occasions of various kinds without being filled with admiration for his wonderful command of language, his beautiful diction, his well balanced sentences, his high and noble thought; and one feels

that one's soul has been touched by the spirit of a great, a majestic personality. No one can study his treatises on "Charles XII," and "A Contribution to the Military History of Sweden During the Years 1711, 1712 and 1713," without feeling that here is an historian of the highest order, an accurate scholar and a great student of the philosophy of history. And well did he deserve the tokens of honor which several of the greatest universities in the world bestowed upon him, when in the year of his jubilee they conferred upon him their highest degrees. "All honor to him to whom honor is due."

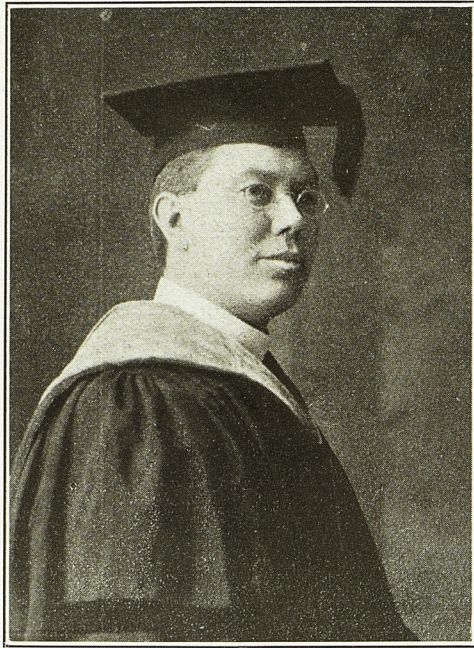
But our hearts are aglow with a greater joy; our souls are stirred with a deeper emotion as we read the magnificent poems of the sweet singer in Svithiod, the royal bard of the North. Fortunately for the king himself, but especially for Swedish literature, he was not called upon to ascend the throne until the best years of his youth and early manhood had passed. Thus he was enabled to devote his time to travel and study and literary work. From his extensive travels he has left us some elegant works of poetic prose, masterpieces of description, as that of his trip through the mountain regions of Norway; that of his hunting expeditions in the Tyrolean Alps, and his visit to the wonderful scenes of Switzerland. It is at this period also, that he made his splendid translations from Latin and German. He

translated the Odes of Horace and the dramas "Cid" and "Torquato Tasso."

In the ancient days of the Vikings it was customary to assemble around the hearth in the festive hall during the long winter nights, and then some famous poet would seize his harp and with skillful hands would strike the golden chords, and with powerful, soul-stirring voice would sing the glories of mighty deeds, praise the heroic acts of Vikings brave, and inspire the men with a dauntless courage to face every danger on land and sea. Is it not, as if you heard the dying echoes from the harp of that ancient bard when you listen to the deep and melancholy rythm of that greatest cycle of songs, which won for the king the prize of the Swedish Academy, "Ur Svenska Flottans Minnen"? And is there a Swede who is not seized with an overwhelming longing for home when he reads the "Baltic," the most radiant gem in that wreath of songs?

"Du blånande haf, som mång tusende år  
Mot Skandiens klippor har slagit,  
Som brutit din boja hvar gryende vår,  
Och frigjord i fjärran har dragit,  
Dig ägnas min sång, ty jag längtar dit ut,  
När böljorna slå emot skären."

But the grandest and most sublime of his poetical creations is "Treklangen," "The Chord of the Triad." On the wings of a vivid imagination he brings you into the mystic



EMANUEL SCHMIDT

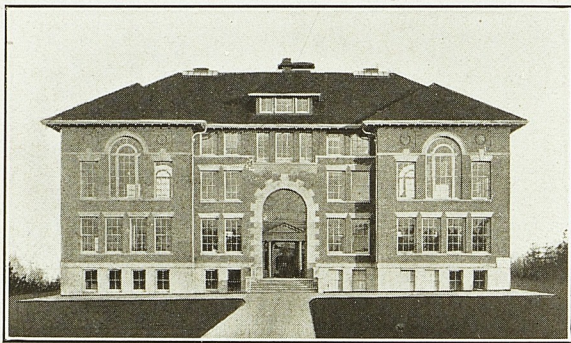
realm of revelation in the universe of God. And the three chords in this unity of revelation are the image, the tone and the word; the image of the glories of the external world, the tone of the sweetest music, and the life-giving word divine, forming the perfect harmony, the Chord of the Triad in the celestial spheres.

Great as he is as a ruler and statesman, as a thinker and a man of culture, still he is greatest as a master of poetic art. His song is pure as the silvery brook; lofty as the rugged mountain peaks; bright as the Aurora in the Northern sky; clear as the trills of the lark in the depths of the forests; deep as the sea, which he loved so well; strong as the clang of swords in helmets; sweet as the fragrance of violets at early dawn.

But while setting forth this appreciation of the intrinsic value of the character and life work of this royal bard, I would not forget to pay a tribute also to her, who was the love of his youth, the inspiration of his song, the faithful companion in his trials and the sharer of his joys, that Christian Queen, whose love and devotion and prayers have played an important part in making King Oscar—the greatest monarch of Sweden.



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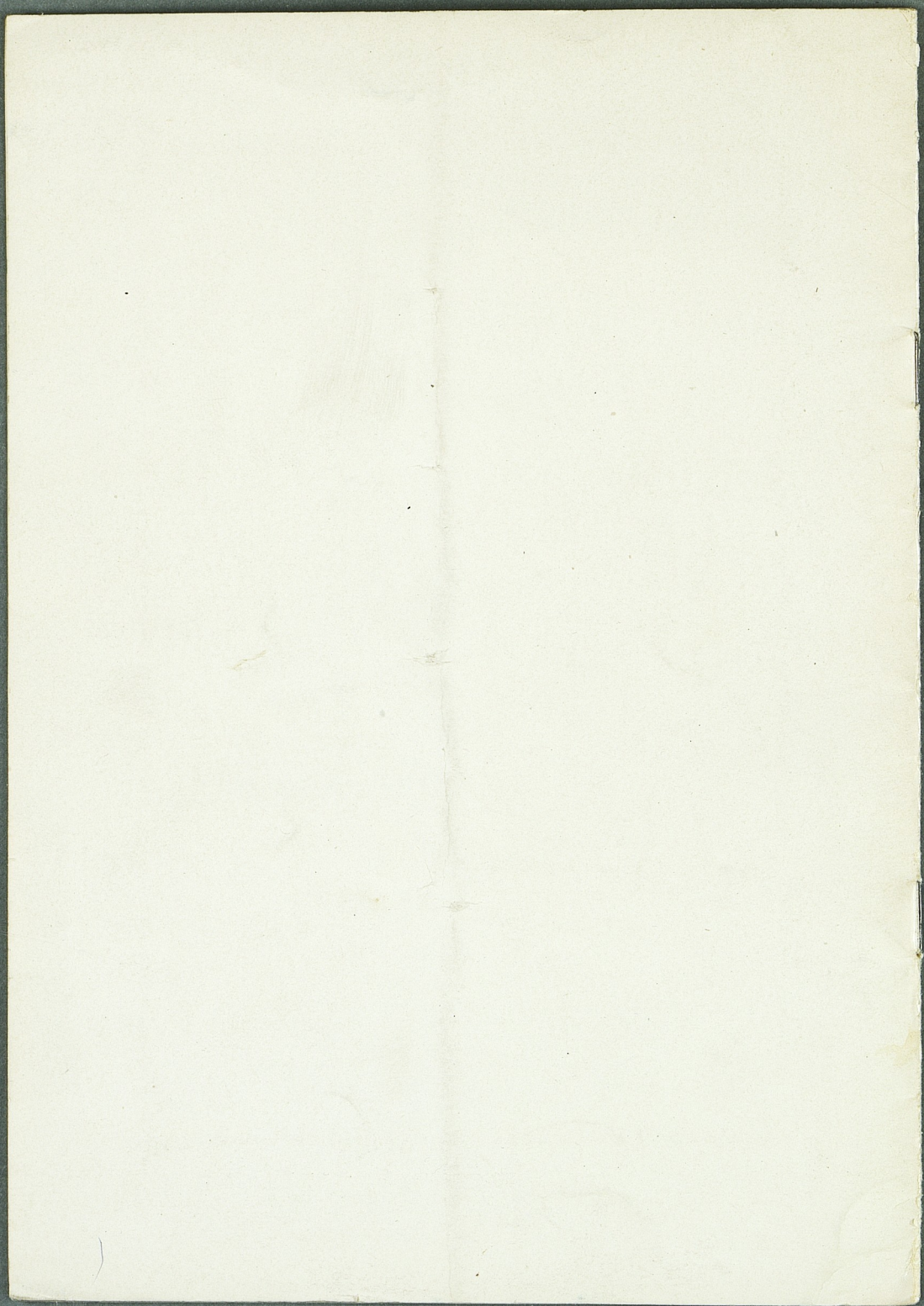


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