Guide to the Isabella Graham Foster Papers

MS 220

compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

April 1983

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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P.O. Box 208240
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http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

CALL NUMBER: MS 220

CREATOR: Foster, Isabella Graham, d. 1955

TITLE: Isabella Graham Foster papers

DATES: 1883–1907

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist almost entirely of Isabella G. Foster’s correspondence and reflects her life as the daughter of well-to-do parents in New Haven, her career as a student at Vassar College, from which she graduated in 1899, and her teaching experiences in the New Haven public schools and at a seminary in Pennsylvania.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0220

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0220.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Florence Hoadley.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation
Isabella Graham Foster Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Isabella Graham Foster: educator; graduated from Vassar College, 1899; studied at Yale and the University of Chicago; taught English and classics in the New Haven public schools and at a seminary in Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents
The Isabelle Graham Foster Collection emcompasses eight manuscript boxes; the majority is correspondence to Miss Foster from personal friends. The collection covers letters, postal cards, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items—such as play programs. The dates of the collection are January 1883-1907, inclusive.

The Foster Manuscripts could be of value for information on New Haven, Connecticut, and Vassar College. Miss Foster’s home was on Orange Street where she resided with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Foster. Mr. Foster was a merchant who operated H.W. Foster and Company, carpets and curtain materials, at 48 Orange Street. From the content of Isabella’s letters, the Foster family moved in the upper social circles of New Haven.

Isabella attended Vassar College sporadically due to illness caused by extensive studies. Although her graduation date was not discussed in the letters, the date was probably in 1899. She later taught in New Haven Public Schools and at a seminary in Pennsylvania. Her major was apparently the Classics, Latin and Greek.

Among the newspaper clippings is an article of particular interest which states that Anita Hemming, an outstanding and beloved member of the class of 1897 of Vassar College, was a Negro. She was allowed to graduate from Vassar. The story is covered in an article filed for March 22, 1897 “How a Negro Slipped Through Vassar College.” The newspaper stories, other than the numerous society columns, are listed on a following register page.

As a reference work, the Isabelle Graham Foster manuscripts are of value for New Haven, Connecticut and Vassar College.
# Collection Contents

## Inventory

| b. 1 | Correspondence | 1883–1894 |
| b. 2 | Correspondence | 1895–1896 September |
| b. 3 | Correspondence | 1896 October–1897 November |
| b. 4 | Correspondence | 1897 March–November |
| b. 5 | Correspondence | 1897 December–1898 October |
| b. 6 | Correspondence | 1898 November–1899 November |
| b. 7 | Correspondence | 1899 December–1907, undated |

### Miscellaneous

| b. 8, f. 1 - 8 | Postal Cards | undated |
| b. 8 | Programs | undated |
| b. 8 | Calling cards and invitations | undated |
| b. 8 | Miscellaneous | undated |

### Newspaper clippings

| b. 8 | Statement regarding a residence on Elm Street, owned by an Edwards family and not to be sold | November 4, 1895 |
| b. 8 | Article concerning Yale students not being hopeless offenders of the law | December 15, 1895 |
| b. 8 | “Too Happy to Be Still,” a demonstrative celebration for McKinley in New Haven | November 3, 1896 |
| b. 8 | Opening of a tea room at the New Haven Woman’s Exchange | December 14, 1896 |
| b. 8 | “Long Service on the Bench,” information on Judge Elisha Carpenter | January 31, 1897 |
| b. 8 | Mrs. Hattie Chapin, a minister’s wife, kills herself and her lover in Falls Village, Connecticut | February 21, 1897 |
| b. 8 | Dr. Frank T. Budd sued Miss Lina Phipps | May 11, 1897 |
| b. 8 | “Let All Render Thanks,” Thanksgiving proclamation of President Cleveland | July 31, 1897 |
| b. 8 | Congressman Hartman of Montana offers an amendment to the Indian Appropriation Bill | July 31, 1897 |
| b. 8 | "How a Negro Girl Slipped Through Vassar College," the story of Anita Hemming | August 22, 1897 |
| b. 8 | "Pupils Leave High School," students leave Hillhouse as parents consider overcrowded conditions injurious to their health | March 15, 1899 |
| b. 8 | "Dr. Douglas Receives Call," the resignation of the Reverend George William Douglas as rector of Trinity Church to become "special preacher" at Grace Church, New York | February 19, 1900 |
| b. 8 | Vassar Will Not Teach Cooking, President Taylor thinks out of place in college course - wants to put women on same intellectual plane as men | undated |
| b. 8 | "In a Padded Cell," concerning heirs of House of Wittelsbach, Otto and brother, Ludwig, of Bavaria | undated |
| b. 8 | "Miss Bartlett's New Book," historical sketches of New Haven, as, New Haven Green, a church, Grove Street Cemetery, Hillhouse Avenue, John Trumbull, etc. | undated |
| b. 8 | "Every Day Use of English," by Professor Palmer of Harvard | undated |
| b. 8 | Review of Barbara, a book by Alice Bently Twitchell | undated |
| b. 8 | "Impressions of Rome," letter concerning Rome visit by Mrs. Alice Twitchell | undated |
| b. 8 | "Loss by Fire of '50,000'," Bowditch Furniture Company burned out on Orange Street | undated |
| b. 8 | "Opening of Davenport," a hotel at corner of Orange and Court Streets | undated |
| b. 8 | "Thomas R. Trowbridge Dead," account of death of owner of largest shipping firm in New England | undated |
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Educators
Students
Upper class
Women
Women -- Education
Women teachers

Geographic Names
New Haven (Conn.) -- Social life and customs

Genres / Formats
Postcards

Names
Foster, Isabella Graham, d. 1955

Corporate Body
Vassar College