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# Guide to the Mary Smyth Hunter Correspondence

OSB MSS 186



by Beinecke staff

2018

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Information About Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Cite As .....	4
Mary Smyth Hunter (1856-1933) .....	4
Description of the Papers .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Letters to Mary Smyth Hunter, 1895–1935 .....	5
Series II: Letters to Elizabeth Williamson, 1923–1940 .....	8
Series III: Letters to Phyllis Williamson, 1898–1936 .....	9
Selected Search Terms .....	10

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 186

**CREATOR:** Hunter, Mary Smyth, 1856-1933

**TITLE:** Mary Smyth Hunter correspondence

**DATES:** 1895–1940

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Autograph manuscript letters and postcards, mostly signed, addressed to Mary Smyth Hunter and to two of her descendants, her daughter Cary Phyllis (Hunter) Williamson, and her grand-daughter Elizabeth Williamson. Major correspondents include Maurice Baring, Max Beerbohm, Gabriel Fauré, Edmund Gosse, Edvard Grieg, George Henschel, Henry James, William James, Claude Monet, George Moore, Auguste Rodin, John Singer Sargent, Henry Tonks, Edith Wharton, and Virginia Woolf. The collection also features approximately 275 pieces of correspondence to Elizabeth Williamson from Mary Smyth Hunter's sister, the composer and suffragist Ethel Smyth.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mshunter>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mshunter>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Joan Winterkorn on the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection Fund, 2013.

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### Information About Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Mary Smyth Hunter Correspondence is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Cite As

Mary Smyth Hunter Correspondence. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Mary Smyth Hunter (1856-1933)

Mary (Smyth) Hunter (1856-1933), born in India to Major General John Smyth (1815-1894) and Nina (Struth) Smyth, married the wealthy coal-mining heir Charles Edward Hunter in 1875. Mary was known for her lavish hospitality at Hill Hall, their country house near Epping, in Essex county, England, and for her patronage of musicians, writers, and artists.

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## Description of the Papers

Autograph manuscript letters and postcards, mostly signed, addressed to Mary Smyth Hunter and to two of her descendants, her daughter Cary Phyllis (Hunter) Williamson, and her grand-daughter Elizabeth Williamson. Major correspondents include Maurice Baring, Max Beerbohm, Gabriel Fauré, Edmund Gosse, Edvard Grieg, George Henschel, Henry James, William James, Claude Monet, George Moore, Auguste Rodin, John Singer Sargent, Henry Tonks, Edith Wharton, and Virginia Woolf. The collection also features approximately 275 pieces of correspondence to Elizabeth Williamson from Mary Smyth Hunter's younger sister, the composer and suffragist Ethel Smyth.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Letters to Mary Smyth Hunter, 1895-1935. II. Letters to Elizabeth Williamson, 1923-1940. III. Letters to Phyllis Williamson, 1898-1936.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Letters to Mary Smyth Hunter, 1895–1935

1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)

Series I. consists of letters to Mary Smyth Hunter. Larger files can be found for Henry James, Claude Monet, George Moore, John Singer Sargent, and for Mary's younger sister, the composer and suffragist Ethel Smyth. Other correspondents include Max Beerbohm, Gabriel Fauré, Edmund Gosse, Edvard Grieg, George Henschel, William James, Auguste Rodin, and Edith Wharton.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1, f. 1	Abbey, Edwin A.	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Aitken, Charles	1929
b. 1, f. 3	Arthur, Prince, Duke of Connaught	1917, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Balfour, A. J.	1895-1901
b. 1, f. 5	Beerbohm, Max, Sir	1913-1919
b. 1, f. 6	Blanche, Jacques-Émile	[1895?], undated
b. 1, f. 7	Boldini, Giovanni	1902-1903, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Brabazon, Hercules Brabazon	1898, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Brown, Henry Harris	1904, undated
b. 1, f. 10	Carr, J. Comyns (Joseph Comyns)	undated
b. 1, f. 11	Chamberlain, Austen	1902-1906
b. 1, f. 12	Charteris, Evan	1917 May 20
b. 1, f. 13	Dayot, Armand	1909, undated
b. 1, f. 14	Fauré, Gabriel	undated
b. 1, f. 15	Fildes, Luke, Sir	[1901?] April 4
b. 1, f. 16	Fisher, Mark	1917, undated
b. 1, f. 17	French, ----	1902 July 16
b. 1, f. 18	French, [John, Viscount]	1916, 1919
b. 1, f. 19	Gosse, Edmund	1900, 1916
b. 1, f. 20	Grieg, Edvard	1896 February 11
b. 1, f. 21	Guthrie, James	1903, 1905
b. 1, f. 22	Harris, Frank	1904 April 25
b. 1, f. 23	Helleu, Paul	undated

b. 1, f. 24	Henschel, George	1902, 1917
b. 1, f. 25	Henschel, Lillian B.	no year September 26
b. 1, f. 26	James, Alice H[owe Gibbons?]	1910 August 10
b. 1, f. 27-33	James, Henry	1903-1912
b. 2, f. 34-35	James, Henry	1913-1915
b. 2, f. 36	James, William	1910
b. 2, f. 37	John, Augustus	no year April 20
b. 2, f. 38	La Farge, John	1906 August 15
b. 2, f. 39	Lascelles, Frank C.	1898 April 30
b. 2, f. 40	Lavery, John	1904 May 3
b. 2, f. 41	Lee, Vernon	1917, undated
b. 2, f. 42	Louise Margaret, Princess, Duchess of Connaught	undated
b. 2, f. 43	Lubbock, Percy	1920, 1923
b. 2, f. 44	Lutyens, Edwin L.	1915 [July?] 30
b. 2, f. 45	<a href="#">Mancini, Antonio</a>	1902-1903, undated
b. 2, f. 46	Melba, Nellie	undated
b. 2, f. 47	Meynell, Alice	undated
b. 2, f. 48	Meynell, Wilfrid	undated
b. 2, f. 49-50	<a href="#">Monet, Claude</a>	1900-1913, undated
b. 2, f. 51-54	<a href="#">Moore, George</a>	1896-1932, undated
b. 2, f. 55	Orpen, William, Sir	undated
b. 2, f. 56	Parsons, Alfred	1898-1917, undated
b. 2, f. 57	Poynter, Edward J[ohn]	1903-1906
b. 2, f. 58	Richmond, W. B.	undated
b. 2, f. 59	Ricketts, C[harles]	undated
b. 2, f. 60	Ridley, Matthew White, Sir	1899-1900, undated
b. 2, f. 61	Rodd, Rennell	undated

b. 2, f. 62	Rodin, Auguste	1903-1915, undated
b. 2, f. 63	Rothenstein, William	1904, undated
b. 2, f. 64-66	<a href="#">Sargent, John Singer</a>	1901-1918, undated
b. 3, f. 67	Shannon, C. L.	1899 April 26
b. 3, f. 68-69	Smyth, Ethel	1912, undated
b. 3, f. 70	Steer, Philip Wilson	1917-1931, undated
b. 3, f. 71	Swann, John M.	1900-1902
b. 3, f. 72	Swynnerton, Annie	1914-1916, undated
b. 3, f. 73	Swynnerton, Joseph W.	1906 May 18
b. 3, f. 74	Symons, Will C.	no year November 13
b. 3, f. 75	Thornycroft, William Hamo, Sir	undated
b. 3, f. 76	Tonks, Henry	1912-1936
b. 3, f. 77	Warner, Joseph D.	1906 July 19
b. 3, f. 78	Wharton, Edith	1915 December
b. 3, f. 79-81	Others	1897-1935, undated
b. 3, f. 82	"Book catalogue: Vol I"	circa 1916-1917
b. 3, f. 83	Clipping	undated
b. 3, f. 84	List of guests	1915 May 15
b. 3, f. 85	Photographs	1915, undated
b. 3, f. 86	Writings	1904, undated

**Series II: Letters to Elizabeth Williamson, 1923–1940***0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series II. consists of letters to Elizabeth Williamson. The series features approximately 275 pieces of correspondence, including both autograph letters and postcards, signed, from Elizabeth's great aunt, the composer and suffragist Ethel Smyth. There are also letters from Maurice Baring, Ariana Wormeley Curtis, George Moore, Henry Tonks, and Virginia Woolf.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 4, f. 87	Baring, Maurice	1926–1934
b. 4, f. 88	Curtis, Ariana Wormeley	no year October 24
b. 4, f. 89	Moore, George	1927 August 27
b. 4, f. 90-101	Smyth, Ethel	1925–1932
b. 5, f. 102-112	Smyth, Ethel	1932–1935
b. 6, f. 113-123	Smyth, Ethel	1935-1939, undated
b. 6, f. 124	Tonks, Henry	1923–1933
b. 6, f. 125	Woolf, Virginia	1931-1940, undated
b. 6, f. 126	Others	1932-1938, undated



**Series III: Letters to Phyllis Williamson, 1898–1936***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Series III. consists of letters to Phyllis Williamson. Larger files can be found for George Moore and Henry Tonks. Other correspondents include George Henschel, Joseph M. Hone, and Alfred Sutro.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 7, f. 127	Bloomfield, Reginald	1920 March 30
b. 7, f. 128	Clarke, Margaret E.	1919 December 10
b. 7, f. 129	Dunedin, [A. Graham Murray (Andrew Graham Murray), Viscount,?]	1915 November 9
b. 7, f. 130	French, John, Viscount	1916 May 20
b. 7, f. 131	[Hamilton, Ian?]	1922 November 17
b. 7, f. 132	Henschel, George	1900 April 4
b. 7, f. 133	Hone, Joseph [M. (Joseph Maunsell)?]	1935-1936
b. 7, f. 134	James, C. W.	undated
b. 7, f. 135	Mallock, W. H.	1921 March 9
b. 7, f. 136-140	Moore, George	1898-1930, undated
b. 7, f. 141	Morgan, Charles	1933 March 13
b. 7, f. 142	Ross, Robert	1918 October 2
b. 7, f. 143	Sutro, Alfred	1922 [November?] 13
b. 7, f. 144	Swynnerton, Annie	no year October 3
b. 7, f. 145-147	Tonks, Henry	1929-1936
b. 7, f. 148	Tweed, John	1918 May 26
b. 7, f. 149	Wood, Evelyn	1914, undated
b. 7, f. 150	Others	1915-1916, 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

Composers -- England -- Correspondence  
Country life -- Great Britain

### Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Social life and customs -- 20th  
Century

### Occupations

Composers -- England -- 20th Century

### Names

Baring, Maurice, 1874-1945  
Beerbohm, Max, Sir, 1872-1956  
Fauré, Gabriel, 1845-1924  
Gosse, Edmund, 1849-1928  
Grieg, Edvard, 1843-1907  
Henschel, George, 1850-1934  
Hunter, Mary Smyth, 1856-1933  
James, Henry, 1843-1916  
James, William, 1842-1910  
Monet, Claude, 1840-1926  
Moore, George, 1852-1933  
Rodin, Auguste, 1840-1917  
Sargent, John Singer, 1856-1925  
Smyth, Ethel, 1858-1944  
Tonks, Henry, 1862-1937  
Wharton, Edith, 1862-1937  
Woolf, Virginia, 1882-1941