

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Winifred Welles Papers

YCAL MSS 1628



by Janet Lopes

March 2025

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Content Description	4
Arrangement	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Writings, 1906-1942	5
Series II: Correspondence, 1917-1975	8
Series III: Personal and professional papers, 1688-1985	9
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1628

CREATOR: Welles, Winifred, 1893-1939 , author

TITLE: Winifred Welles papers

DATES: 1688-1985

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.5 linear feet (12 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Winifred Welles papers contain materials related to the author's work in poetry and fiction. It includes early drafts, manuscripts, transcripts, and correspondence with early 20th century writers including H. L. Mencken, Louise Townsend Nicholl, Lawrence Gilman, and Christopher Morley. Included in the papers is a draft of an unfinished manuscript about Emily Dickinson, completed after Welles' death by the author Laura Benét.

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

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.welles>.

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.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Gail-Marie Shearer Trust (trustee Peter Shearer), 2024.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Winifred Welles papers 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.

Preferred Citation

Winifred Welles papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Biographical / Historical

Winifred Welles (1893-1939) was an American writer known for her poetry and prose. Born in Norwich, Connecticut, she authored several books including *The Hesitant Heart*, *This Delicate Love*, and *The Lost Landscape: Some Memories of a Family and a Town in Connecticut, 1659-1906*. Welles' poetry was also published in several magazines such as *Harper's Magazine* and *The New Yorker*. She was a frequent correspondent of other 20th century writers such as H. L. Mencken, Louise Townsend Nicholl, Lawrence Gilman, Christopher Morley and Laura Benét.

Welles was working on a novel about Emily Dickinson before she died. *Come Slowly, Eden* was completed by author Laura Benét.

Welles' was married to Harold Hutchison Shearer and had one child, James Welles Shearer.

Content Description

The Winifred Welles papers contain materials related to the author's work in poetry and fiction. It includes early drafts, manuscripts, transcripts, and correspondence with early 20th century writers including H. L. Mencken, Louise Townsend Nicholl, Lawrence Gilman, and Christopher Morley. Included in the papers is a draft of an unfinished manuscript about Emily Dickinson, completed after Welles' death by the author Laura Benét.

Arrangement

Arranged into three series: I. Writings, 1906-1942. II. Correspondence, 1917-1975. III. Personal and professional papers, 1688-1985.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1906-1942

2.58 linear feet (7 boxes)

This series contains drafts, manuscripts, and typescripts of poetry and prose by Winifred Welles. It includes the manuscript for an unfinished book on Emily Dickinson, which was finished by author Laura Benét after Welles' death.

Writings are arranged alphabetically by title when possible, with uncollected writings placed at the end of the series.

b. 1, f. 1	"Across the River", typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 2	"The Color of Courage", typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 2a	"Connecticut Primitive", typescript, notes and correspondence	1939
b. 1, f. 3	"Crystal Shoes", typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 4	"Emily Afield", I, typescript and notes	undated
b. 1, f. 5	"Emily in the House", II, manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 6	"Emily Alone", III, notes	undated
b. 1, f. 6a	"Feasts, Fairies, and Punkin Moonshine"	undated
b. 1, f. 7	"Fugitive", manuscript	undated
b. 1, f. 8-12	"History of Art", manuscript 5 Folders	undated
b. 2, f. 1-6	"History of Art", manuscript 6 Folders	undated
b. 2, f. 7	"The Little Boy Who Was Sent Away by his Mother", typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 8	"The Lost Landscape", annotated typescripts and notes	undated
b. 2, f. 9-10	"The Lost Landscape", uncorrected copy 2 Folders	undated
b. 2, f. 11-13	"The Lost Landscape", early drafts 3 Folders	undated
b. 2, f. 14	"The Lost Landscape", clippings	undated
b. 3, f. 1	"Luncheon in the Old House", manuscript	undated
b. 3, f. 2	"A May Morning", unfinished typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 3	"Messenger of Peace", annotated typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 4	"Moonflower", lyrics	undated
b. 3, f. 5	"Nearly a Heroine", typescript	undated

b. 3, f. 6	"Old Things", manuscript	1915 October 19-21
b. 3, f. 7	"The Park That Spring Forgot", typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 8-12	"Plain Cicely" <i>5 Folders</i> Written by W. W. Welles at the age of 13.	circa 1906
b. 3, f. 13	"Selected poems", typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 14-15	"The Supreme Achievement", two typescripts	undated
	Short stories	
b. 4, f. 1	"The Dummy" or "Laugh All Y'Wanta", typescripts	undated
b. 4, f. 2	"From Miss Miranda's Four Post Bed", typescripts	undated
b. 4, f. 3	"The Henry Clay Slip Covers", typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 4	"A Lament for Lunatics", typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 5	"Ruthie and Mrs. Llewellyn", typescripts	undated
b. 4, f. 6	"Summer Moonlight (1909)", typescripts and correspondence	1938
b. 4, f. 7	"The Way Poets Are"	undated
b. 4, f. 8	Untitled prose	undated
b. 4, f. 9	"E. W. (1921-1924)?"	undated
	Miscellaneous writings	
b. 5, f. 1-2	Notebook of manuscript poems and laid-in pages <i>2 Folders</i>	1920-1922
b. 5, f. 3	Manuscript and correspondence for book finished by author Laura Benet	1942
b. 5, f. 4	Emily Dickinson notebook, notes, and writings	undated
b. 5, f. 5	Notes and beginning of mystery story, manuscript	undated
b. 5, f. 6	Early writings	undated
b. 5, f. 7	Various writings	undated
b. 5, f. 8	Ideas and suggestions, prose	undated
b. 5, f. 9-10	Journal of poems and laid in material <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
	Various poems	
b. 6, f. 1	"Autumnal", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 2	"Candles for Christmas", multiple typescript copies	undated

Miscellaneous writings > Various poems (continued)

b. 6, f. 3	"Clump of Grass", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 4	"To David", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 5	"This Delicate Love", various poems, typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 6	"Funeral Repast", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 7	"Mount for a Humble Poet", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 8	"The Mystic", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 9	"Settings for Jewels", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 10	"Suicide", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 11	"The Swimmer in the Fog", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 12	"These Places and Those Days", typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 13	Miscellaneous poems, partial and full annotated manuscripts and typescripts	undated
b. 6, f. 14	Correspondence and notes	undated
b. 7, f. 1	Children's verse and various writings, manuscripts and typescripts	undated
b. 7, f. 2	Ideas for children's prose	undated
b. 7, f. 3	Typescript fragment with annotations	undated
b. 7, f. 4	Correspondence course, typescript and writings	undated
b. 7, f. 5-7	Miscellaneous literary notes, small notebooks, typescripts, book titles, and clippings <i>3 Folders</i>	circa 1930-1939
b. 7, f. 8-12	Manuscripts, typescripts, notes with laid-in papers <i>5 Folders</i>	circa 1928-1939

Series II: Correspondence, 1917-1975*0.67 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Includes letters to and about Winifred Welles from her husband, Harold Hutchinson Shearer, various author friends, and publishers.

Arranged in chronological order.

b. 8, f. 1-2	Letters to Winifred Welles from husband, Harold Hutchinson Shearer <i>2 Folders</i>	1917-1919
b. 8, f. 3-4	Letters regarding Winifred Welles' work from various editors and publishers <i>2 Folders</i>	1917-1946
b. 8, f. 5	Correspondence regarding Russell estate	1940-1941
b. 8, f. 6-7	Various correspondence from literary friends <i>2 Folders</i>	1932-1939
b. 8, f. 8	Letter to Russell Welles, Winifred Welles' brother	1935 December
b. 8, f. 9	Letters about tracking down historical data for "L. L."	1936 February 26
b. 8, f. 10	Correspondence	1936-1937
b. 8, f. 11	Royalty statements	1936-1939
b. 8, f. 12	Correspondence	1937-1938
b. 8, f. 13-16	Correspondence <i>4 Folders</i>	1939
b. 9, f. 1-2	<i>Paths of Glory</i> , book and laid in correspondence from author Humphrey Cobb and others <i>2 Folders</i>	1939 December 10, 1973 February 1
b. 9, f. 3-4	Correspondence about Winifred Welles <i>2 Folders</i>	1940-1946
b. 9, f. 5	Correspondence	1948-1963
b. 9, f. 6	Letter to Philip A. Johnson from James Welles Shearer	1973 October
b. 9, f. 7	Correspondence regarding Winifred Welles	1975

Series III: Personal and professional papers, 1688-1985

1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

b. 10, f. 1	Copy of will of James C. Russell establishing trust for Winifred Welles and her issue	1926 February
b. 10, f. 2	Wills of Shearer grandparents	1928-1933
b. 10, f. 3	Contracts	1929-1939
b. 10, f. 4	Newspaper clippings	1946
b. 10, f. 5	Typescript letters and "God's Goodness Towards Martha Coit"	1688-1895
b. 10, f. 6-7	Address books with laid in materials <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 10, f. 8	<i>The Riverside Literature Series</i> , number 27	1887 May
b. 10, f. 9	Notebook	undated
b. 10, f. 10	Billfolds	undated
b. 10, f. 11	Winifred Welles photographic print, copy	undated
b. 10, f. 12	Dr. Philip Turner of Norwich, Connecticut, <i>Annals of Medical History</i>	1928
b. 10, f. 13	<i>Legends of New England</i> , signed	1834
b. 10, f. 14	Notecard	1985 October 10
b. 10, f. 15	<i>Block Island: A Hand-Book with Map</i>	1877
b. 10, f. 16	Bound notebook with laid in material	undated
b. 11, f. 1-5	Correspondence, clippings, and contracts <i>5 Folders</i>	1918-1935
b. 11, f. 6	"The Borzoi Chapbooks"	undated
b. 11, f. 7	<i>Salvo Three, This Morning Poems</i>	1921
b. 11, f. 8	<i>American Poetry Journal</i> , publication	1935 July-August
b. 11, f. 9-12	<i>Poetry</i> , magazines <i>4 Folders</i>	1933-1937
b. 11, f. 13	<i>The London Mercury</i> quarterly review	1934 April
b. 11, f. 14	"Branch Library Book News", supplement	1937 January
b. 11, f. 15	<i>Harpers Magazine</i>	1938 December
b. 12, f. 1	<i>The Yale Review</i>	1937
b. 12, f. 2	<i>The Atlantic</i>	1937 July
b. 12, f. 3-4	Recipes and laid in material <i>2 Folders</i>	undated

b. 12, f. 5

Emily Dickinson, Face to Face, page

1894

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

American fiction -- 20th Century
American literature -- Women authors
American poetry
American poetry -- 20th Century
Women -- Connecticut