

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Laura Stedman Papers

YCAL MSS 291



by Christopher Geissler, Tom Hyry, and Beinecke Staff

2009

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 291

CREATOR: Stedman, Laura, 1881-1939

TITLE: Laura Stedman Papers

DATES: 1887-1931

BULK DATES: 1894-1926

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.43 linear feet (15 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, and personal papers which document the personal and professional life of Laura Stedman. The correspondence highlights personal and professional affiliations with Edmund Clarence Stedman (grandfather), Dr. George M. Gould (husband), and a number of writers including Martha Dickinson Bianchi, Ednah Proctor Clarke (Hayes), and Cora Miranda Baggerly Older. The papers include examples of Stedman's writing, publications, and a run of her scrapbook journals.

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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.stedman>.

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 Milton Seabury Dees, 1939.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Laura Stedman 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

Laura Stedman Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection includes materials previously identified by the call number Za Dies, having been mistakenly identified as the papers of Laura Woodworth Stedman Gould Dies. This identification reflected an erroneous spelling of the last name of Laura Stedman's second husband, the donor of the papers, Milton Seabury Dees. The collection also includes material previously separated and cataloged under Za Brower which has been reintegrated.

Most of the descriptive information used in the inventory of this finding aid was derived from folder notes and catalog cards created by previous staff members of the Beinecke library.

Related Materials

Edmund Clarence Stedman Collection, YCAL MSS 1008.

Biography

Laura Woodworth Stedman was born in 1881, the daughter of Frederick Stuart Stedman and Ellen Montague Douglas Stedman, and the granddaughter of banker, editor, and poet, Edmund Clarence Stedman. She was educated at private schools in New York City, including Arundell Academy and the Brackett School. Stedman served as literary secretary to her grandfather in the decade preceding his death in 1908 and, thereafter, as his literary executor. In 1908 Stedman contributed a bibliography to George M. Gould's *Concerning Lafcadio Hearn*. Working with Gould again, she edited a two-volume edition of her grandfather's letters, *Life and Letters of Edmund Clarence Stedman* (1910). In 1916 she published a short appreciation of Bayard Taylor in *The Mid-West Quarterly*. The following year Stedman and Gould married, taking up residence in Atlantic City, New Jersey. After Gould's death in 1922, Stedman remained in Atlantic City through 1930, in which census she is listed as a widow and an author. At the time of her death in 1939, Stedman was married to Milton Seabury Dees and resided in New York.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, writings, and personal papers that document the personal and professional life of Laura Stedman. The correspondence constitutes the larger part of the collection and highlights personal and professional affiliations with Edmund Clarence Stedman (grandfather), Dr. George M. Gould (husband), Ellen Douglas Stedman (mother), and a number of writers including Martha Dickinson Bianchi and Cora Miranda Baggerly Older. Of particular note is the correspondence group related to her work as literary agent for the writer Ednah Proctor Clarke (Hayes), which includes correspondence,

playscripts, and contractual agreements between a range of interested parties including the actress Khyva St. Albans and a number of theatrical producers. Writings include notes and a typescript for a play titled "The Conquering Flame," notes and correspondence related to the editing and publication of the letters and manuscripts of Edmund Clarence Stedman, and limited collected writings of other authors, including Mary S. Edgar. The personal papers include materials related to Stedman's education, including an early report card and school notebooks; a run of scrapbook journals containing notes, photographs, postcards, and clippings which document a range of interests; and collected visual materials including drawings attributed to Albert Bierstadt and Petrella da Bologna.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1887-1930; II. Writings, circa 1902-1928. III. Personal papers, 1888-1931.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1887-1930

The series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of Laura Stedman. The General and Personal correspondence include similar material, but the Personal correspondence is comprised of more extensive exchanges with family and friends that were previously separated out by Stedman and library staff. Professional correspondence includes correspondence related to her work as a writer, editor, and literary agent as well as voluntary efforts related to World War I.

Correspondence is organized into three subseries: General, Personal, and Professional.

General and personal correspondence are arranged alphabetically by name; professional correspondence is arranged alphabetically by subject.

General correspondence

General correspondence is comprised of incoming correspondence.

b. 1, f. 1	A	1911-1913
b. 1, f. 2	Albee, John and Helen R. Albee	1887-1917
b. 1, f. 3	Alden, Henry Mills	1911 Jun 19
b. 1, f. 4	Aldrich, Thomas Bailey	[No year] Feb 4
b. 1, f. 5	B	1905-1924, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Bacheller, Irving	1909 Apr 5
b. 1, f. 7	Bynner, Witter	1908 Aug 25
b. 1, f. 8	C	1908-1924, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Coates, Florence Earle	1907-1917
b. 1, f. 10	Cortissoz, Royal	1916-1924
b. 1, f. 11	Cushing, Harvey	1922 Jul 26
b. 1, f. 12	D	1906-1929, undated
b. 1, f. 13	Damrosch, Walter	1919 Feb 3
b. 1, f. 14	Dwight, Timothy	1900 Dec 25
b. 1, f. 15	E-F	1906-1922, undated
b. 1, f. 16	Furness, Horace Howard	1912 Jan 28-1912 Apr 12, undated
b. 1, f. 17	G	1915-1924, undated

General correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	Gates, Eleanor	1914 Feb 26-1914 Apr 2
b. 1, f. 19	Gilder, Jeannette Leonard	1909 Dec 26
b. 1, f. 20	Gould, George M. (George Milbry) Travel correspondence addressed to Ellen Douglas Stedman and "Boy Douglas" (probably a dog).	1917 Oct 5-29
b. 2, f. 21	H	1905-1923, undated
b. 2, f. 22	Holt, Henry	1923 Dec 29
b. 2, f. 23	Howe, M. A. De Wolfe (Mark Antony De Wolfe)	1923 Feb 16-Apr 5
b. 2, f. 24	Howells, Mildred	1922 Nov 12
b. 2, f. 25	Hutton, Laurence	1900 Feb 18
b. 2, f. 26	I-K	1905-1924, undated
b. 2, f. 27	Janvier, Catharine A. (Ann)	
b. 2, f. 28	Janvier, Thomas Allibone	1903 Jan 27-1907 Dec 25
b. 2, f. 29	Jenks, Tudor	1911 Mar 8
b. 2, f. 30	Johnson, Robert Underwood	1908 Oct 7-1925 Jan 27
b. 2, f. 31	L	1906-1923, undated
b. 2, f. 32	Lang, Leonora Blanche	1912 Sep 24-27
b. 2, f. 33	LeMoyne, Sarah Cowell	1905 Dec 27-1908 Jan 8
b. 2, f. 34	M-N	1901-1924, undated
b. 2, f. 35	MacKaye, Percy	1904 Nov 11-1912 Jul 6
b. 2, f. 36	MacManus, Catalina Violante Páez	1908 Jul 20-Sep 25, undated
b. 2, f. 37-38	MacManus, Seamus Includes correspondence addressed to Laura Stedman and Ellen Douglas Stedman (mother).	1907 May 19-1917 Oct 12
b. 3, f. 39	Matthews, Brander	1914 Jan 10-14
b. 3, f. 40	Moore, Victor	undated

General correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 41	Mosher, Thomas Bird	1913 Jan 30-1914 Apr 18
b. 3, f. 42	P	1911-1921, undated
b. 3, f. 43	Peabody, Josephine Preston	1901 Jan 4-May 6
b. 3, f. 44	R	1903-1922, undated
b. 3, f. 45	S	1903-1929, undated
b. 3, f. 46	Sharp, Elizabeth A. (Elizabeth Amelia)	1910 Oct 23, undated
b. 3, f. 47	Sharp, William	1905 Oct 15- 1905 Feb 5
b. 3, f. 48	Sinclair, Upton Includes correspondence addressed to Edmund Clarence Stedman and Laura Stedman	undated
b. 3, f. 49	Stokes, James Graham Phelps	1902 Jul 31-1905 Sep 3
b. 3, f. 50	Stone, Ella B.	1905 Dec 23-1919 Apr 22
b. 3, f. 51	T	1905-1928, undated
b. 3, f. 52	Tabb, John B. (John Banister)	1899 Oct 4
b. 3, f. 53	Torrence, Ridgely	1900 Sep 18-1917 Nov 27
b. 3, f. 54-55	V-Z	1899-1924, undated
b. 3, f. 56	Vanamee, Grace Davis and Franklin Purdy Crasto, Jr.	1922 Sep 16-1930 Jun, undated
b. 4, f. 57	Warren, Maude Radford	1923 Jun 11-30
b. 4, f. 58	White, Andrew Dickson	1909 Mar 29
b. 4, f. 59	Whiting, Charles Goodrich	1908 Apr 1-1910 Oct 12
b. 4, f. 60	Wilson, Edna E.	1913 Aug 22-1925 Dec 22, undated
b. 4, f. 61	Wilson, Francis	1912 Apr 18-1916 Jun 2

General correspondence (continued)

b. 4, f. 62	Winter, Elsie Leslie	1906 Nov 8-1929 Dec, undated
b. 4, f. 63	Winter, Jefferson	1908 Dec 7-1913 Dec 14, undated
b. 4, f. 64	Winter, William	1909 Dec 31-1916 Dec 29, undated
b. 4, f. 65	Woodberry, George Edward	1904 Oct 7
b. 4, f. 66	Miscellaneous notes and holiday cards	1919, undated
Personal correspondence		
Personal correspondence includes both incoming and outgoing correspondence.		
b. 5, f. 67-69	Alexeyeva, Ayenara Correspondence includes clippings and programs related to performances of Ayenara Alexeyeva and Holger Alexeyev-Mehner, single intaglio print by Jean de Paleologue (signed PAL).	1923-1929, undated
b. 5, f. 70-73	Bianchi, Martha Dickinson Incoming correspondence addressed to Edmund Clarence Stedman, Ellen Douglas Stedman, and Laura Stedman.	1905-1918, undated
Brower family		
Incoming and outgoing correspondence between Laura Stedman and George M. Gould and members of the Brower family. The bulk of the material is comprised of correspondence between Laura Stedman (Gould) and Pauline Florence Brower.		
b. 5, f. 74	Brower, Beatrice	1927-1928
b. 5, f. 75	Brower, Farrand Dodd	1922-1924, undated
b. 5, f. 76	Brower, Farrand Dodd, Jr.	1927-1929, undated
b. 5, f. 77	Brower, Pauline Florence	1907-1910
b. 6, f. 78-88	Brower, Pauline Florence	1912-1922, undated
b. 6, f. 89	Crosby, Arvia Brower Correspondence, includes clippings and photographs.	1923-1929, undated
b. 6, f. 90	Third party Miscellaneous third-party correspondence and notes related to Pauline Florence Brower and family.	1923-1927, undated
b. 6, f. 91	Corrigan, Matthew Poole	1923-1929
b. 7, f. 92-93	DeVere, Mary A.	1913-1919, undated
b. 7, f. 94	Douglas, George, Mrs. (grandmother)	1888 Feb 16

Personal correspondence (continued)

b. 7, f. 95-98	Older, Cora Miranda Baggerly (Mrs. Fremont Older)	1906-1930, undated
b. 8, f. 99-101	Redway, Jacques W. (Jacques Wardlaw)	1923-1930, undated
b. 8, f. 102	Stedman, Edmund Clarence (grandfather) Material includes third-party correspondence addressed to Edmund Clarence Stedman.	undated
b. 8, f. 103-110	Stedman, Ellen Montague (Douglas) (mother) Outgoing correspondence, documenting travel, includes postcards.	1893-1926
b. 8, f. 111	Stedman, Frederick Stuart (father) Outgoing correspondence comprised of 1 autograph letter signed.	1900 Feb 19
b. 8, f. 112	Stedman, Laura Hyde Woodworth (grandmother) 4 autograph letters signed to Mrs. E. C. Stedman.	1888
b. 8, f. 113-114	Watson, Edward Willard Correspondence includes drawings ("wiggles") and discussion of a Billy Sunday campaign (1918).	1914-1925
b. 9, f. 115-116	Watson, Edward Willard	1914-1925
b. 9, f. 117-124	Miscellaneous family and friends Miscellaneous correspondence with relatives and friends arranged by Laura Stedman according to year: 1925-1930. Though the bulk of the material falls within the given time period, the chronological arrangement is not strict and files frequently contain groupings from individual correspondents that vary from the ascribed date. Correspondents include: Helen R. Albee (Mrs. John Albee), Rebecca Baker, Marjory Bonar, Eleanor P. Clarke, Alpheus Geer, Mrs. S. A. B. Harvey, Jesse G. Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Dodge Huntington, John G. Kello, Evelyn Nichols Kerr, Marguerite Langdon Larned (Mrs. William Trowbridge Larned), Helen Marsh (Mrs. Edward C. Marsh), Harry Marshall (florist), Ada Sterling, Mathilde L. Thomas, Kathryn Davison Tulloch (Mrs. Rudolph Lang Tulloch), Rudolph Lang Tulloch, Josephine Griswold Wardlaw, Grace M. Warner, Herbert P. Whitlock.	circa 1925-1927
b. 10, f. 125-132	Miscellaneous family and friends	circa 1929-1930
	Professional correspondence	1899-1926
b. 10, f. 133	<i>Library of American Literature</i> , Edmund Clarence Stedman, ed.	1901-1926, undated
b. 10, f. 134-136	Literary agents and publishers	1909-1917, undated
	Literary representation of Ednah Proctor Clarke (Hayes) Correspondence concerning efforts to produce Ednah Proctor Clarke's play "The Chrysalis" (alternately identified as "The Judgment Seat"). Material includes playscript drafts, notes, contractual agreements, and third-party correspondence.	1914-1924

Professional correspondence > Literary representation of Ednah Proctor Clarke (Hayes) (continued)

b. 11, f. 137-142	Clarke, Ednah Proctor Mrs. Henry L. Hayes	1914-1924, undated
b. 11, f. 143-144	Saenger, Nayán	1916-1921, undated
b. 11, f. 145	St. Albans, Khyva	1916-1919, undated
b. 11, f. 146	Professional affiliations and war work	1917-1924

Series II: Writings, circa 1902-1928

Writings are arranged alphabetically by subject.

b. 12, f. 147	"The Conquering Flame" Notes and typescript for a play	undated
b. 12, f. 148-150	Miscellaneous drafts, notes, clippings, and related correspondence	circa 1902-1928, undated
b. 12, f. 151-153	Notes for an edition of E. C. Stedman letters Removed from his <i>An American Anthology</i> (1900), vols. 1-2	undated
Writings of others		
Edgar, Mary S.		
b. 12, f. 154	"The Conspiracy of Spring"	1920
b. 12, f. 155	"The Cryptomeria Tree"	1924
b. 12, f. 156	Loti, Pierre, "India" from <i>L'Inde (sans les Anglais)</i> Unidentified translation of excerpts from text	undated

Series III: Personal papers, 1888-1931

Series III is arranged alphabetically by subject

b. 12, f. 157	Report card	1890
	Scrapbooks 27 note-books, containing copies in her handwriting of various poems, together with postcards, photographs, and newspaper clippings.	
b. 13, f. 158-168	10 volumes	1923 Jan-1927 Mar 25
b. 14, f. 169-179	11 volumes	circa 1927-1929
b. 15, f. 180-185	6 volumes	circa 1930-1931, undated
b. 15, f. 186	Loose clippings found with scrapbooks.	undated
	Student notebooks	
b. 16, f. 187	English (3 vols.)	circa 1894-1896
b. 16, f. 188	History (1 vol.)	1894-1897
	Visual materials	undated
b. 16, f. 189	Bierstadt, Albert (attributed), watercolor drawings (butterfly)	undated
b. 16, f. 190	Copy prints	undated
	Petrella da Bologna, Vittorio (attributed), 5 charcoal drawings Stored in: Oversize Petrella da Bologna, Vittorio, 5 charcoal drawings	undated
b. 16, f. 191	Printed Ephemera Also stored in: Oversize, Printed ephemera	1908-1919, undated
b. 16, f. 192	Miscellaneous papers	1888-1908, undated
b. 17, f. 199-200	Photographs of Zona Gale Two photographic portraits of Zona Gale inscribed to Laura Stedman	circa 1902

Series IV: Oversize

b. 17, f. 193-197	Petrella da Bologna, Vittorio, 5 charcoal drawings	undated
b. 17, f. 198	Printed ephemera	1902, 1919

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 literature -- 20th Century

Names

Bianchi, Martha Dickinson, 1866-1943
Clarke, Ednah Proctor
Gould, George M. (George Milbry), 1848-1922
Older, Cora Miranda Baggerly, 1875-1968
Stedman, Edmund Clarence, 1833-1908
Stedman, Laura, 1881-1939