

Guide to the Alice Brown Papers

YCAL MSS 550



by H. Dean

2012.1.10

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 550

CREATOR: Brown, Alice, 1857-1948

TITLE: Alice Brown papers

DATES: 1890-1948

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.3 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Alice Brown Papers consist of drafts, correspondence, and printed material documenting the work of American poet, novelist, and dramatist, Alice Brown. The papers, which provide evidence of Brown's writing career and literary circle, are a window into the creative life of a New England woman writer at the turn of the twentieth century. Brown's correspondence with author Esther Willard Bates is of particular interest. Dating over a ten year period (1938-1948) the letters consist of Brown's correspondence to Bates and contain her reflections on literature, mutual friends, and general observations on her writing and life.

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

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.brown>.

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 Alice Brown, 1949. Other material came to the library in small quantities from various sources as indicated on individual folders.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Alice Brown 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

Alice Brown Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization, at or around the time of acquisition. Further description was carried out in 2011-2012.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call numbers: Za Brown, Uncat Za File 62, and Za B812+1.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Alice Brown (1857-1948)

Alice Brown, American poet, novelist, and dramatist, was born in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, on December 5, 1857 to Levi Brown and Elizabeth Lucas. She attended Robinson Seminary in Exeter from which she graduated in 1876. After teaching for a brief period in New Hampshire, Brown moved to Boston in 1880 where she taught and worked for the *Christian Register* and the *Youth's Companion* (which she joined in 1885), before leaving teaching to write full time.

During her writing career Brown published novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. Her novels include *Stratford-by-the-Sea* (1884), *Fools of Nature* (1887), *King's End* (1901), *Margaret Warrener* (1901), *The Day of His Youth* (1897), and *Kingdom in the Sky* (1932). Many of Brown's short stories and verse were published in magazines, however, some of her short stories were collected in *Meadow-Grass: Tales of New England Life* (1895), *Tiverton Tales* (1899), *High Noon* (1904), *The County Road* (1906) and *Country Neighbors* (1910). Brown's poetry collections include *The Road to Castaly* (1896) and *Ellen Prior* (1923). Brown also authored biographies of *Mercy Otis Warren* (1896) and *Louise Guiney* (1921). In 1913 Brown won the Winthrop Ames prize for her play *Children of Earth: A Play of New England*, which Ames produced at the Booth Theater on Broadway and at the Schubert Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut in 1915.

Brown worked collaboratively with other authors, such as Louise Imogen Guiney and Harriet Prescott Spofford, with whom she coauthored *Three Heroines of New England Romance*. Brown and Guiney also jointly published a biographical study of *Robert Louis Stevenson* (1895). In 1907 Brown was one of twelve authors who contributed to *The Whole Family: A Novel by Twelve Authors*, which first appeared as a serial

in *Harper's Bazaar*. In addition to these collaborations Brown was also involved with the Boston Authors Club (she served as president from 1920 to 1922).

Brown died in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 21, 1948.

Scope and Contents

The Alice Brown Papers consist of writings, correspondence, and printed material documenting the work of American poet, novelist, and dramatist, Alice Brown. The papers, which provide evidence of Brown's writing career and literary circle, are a window into the creative life of a New England woman writer at the turn of the twentieth century.

Brown's manuscripts provide insight into her creative process. In some cases Brown's writing projects can be traced from her initial handwritten drafts to the final published version (some of her drafts, and even printed versions, contain corrections). The Writings series largely consists of Brown's verse and short stories published in magazines such as *Harper's Bazaar* and *Woman's Home Companion*. A selection of Brown's other works, such as *Children of Earth: A Play of New England*, are also included in the Writings series. The Printed Material series includes publications by Brown as well as articles and promotional material about Brown. As the papers illustrate, Brown reflected on the literature she was reading, as can be found in her notes and jottings in blank pages of *The Flying Teuton*.

Brown's correspondence can be found in both the Writings and Correspondence series and reflects her personal and professional relationships. Brown's correspondence with author Esther Willard Bates is of particular interest. Dating over a ten year period (1938-1948) the letters consist of Brown's correspondence to Bates and contain her reflections on literature, mutual friends, and general observations on her writing and life.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Writings, 1890-1945. II. Correspondence, 1938-1948. III. Printed Material, 1896-1945.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1890-1945

2.09 linear feet (5 boxes)

The series consists of drafts and printed versions of a number of Brown's writings, including poetry, short stories, and plays. The series also includes some correspondence, largely reflecting Brown's professional relationships.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 1, f. 1	"Adoration of the Dying," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1, f. 2	"Adventure," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1926 June
b. 1, f. 3	"The Advisory Board," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1, f. 4	"Age and His Beating Heart," typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 5	"Alien Stairs," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1, f. 6	"And Yet a Miracle," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 1, f. 7-8	"Angie," typescripts	undated
b. 1, f. 9	"Anonymous Benefactions," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1919 August
b. 1, f. 10	"As the Law Directs," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1923 March
b. 1, f. 11	"Autumnal Days," holograph and proofs	December 7
b. 1, f. 12	"Before the Flood," typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 13	"The Begging Bowl," holograph	undated
b. 1, f. 14	"Biography at Large," printed version, <i>The Writer</i>	1932 January
b. 1, f. 15	"The Body Speaks," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 16	"The Captives," typescript and printed version, <i>McCall's Magazine</i>	1920 May
b. 1, f. 17-19	<i>Charles Lamb: A Play</i> , holograph and typescripts	undated
b. 2, f. 20-22	<i>Children of Earth: A Play of New England</i> , typescripts	undated
b. 2, f. 23-24	"Commander Bear," holograph and typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 25	"The Common Cup," typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 26	"Creation," typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 27	"Dear Gaffer Death," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 28	"Death," typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 29	"The Defeated," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 30	"The Dialect Story," typescript	undated

b. 2, f. 31	"A Discord Stilled," printed version, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i>	1916 December 13
b. 2, f. 32	"Don't Be Too Sorry," holograph	undated
b. 2, f. 33	"The Dream," typescripts, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 34	"The Ears of the Deaf," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1923 January
b. 2, f. 35	"Earth to Earth," typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 36	"Elisabeth," holograph	undated
b. 2, f. 37	"The Evening and the Morning," printed version	undated
b. 2, f. 38	"Exiled To Earth," typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 39	"Faith," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 40	"Florida Lee," typescript and printed version, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i>	1912 December
b. 3, f. 41	<i>The Flying Teuton</i> , printed version, dummy with only the title page and the first page of text, largely consists of blank pages on which Brown recorded a reading list	1918-1945
b. 3, f. 42	Foreward to the poetry of Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spoffard, typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 43	"Forfeits," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 3, f. 44	"The Garden of the Birds," typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 45	"The Girl in the Tree," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1924 August
b. 3, f. 46	"Golden Manitou," typescript and printed version, <i>Women's Home Companion</i>	1913 September
b. 3, f. 47	"The Golden Wedding," printed version, <i>Women's Home Companion</i>	1908 September
b. 3, f. 48-49	"The Grass-Green Maid," typescript, printed version, and correspondence	circa 1905
b. 3, f. 50	"Hayfields and the Walls of Troy," typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 51	"Heart of Stone," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 52	"Heavens and Earth," typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 53	"The House with the Tower," <i>Harper's</i>	1914 May
b. 3, f. 54	"The Hurrying Man," typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 55	"Ice Carts of the Mind," typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 56-57	"The Imagination of Man," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 58	"In March," holograph	undated
b. 3, f. 59	"In October," holograph and page proof	1945 October 16
b. 3, f. 60	"Invitation," holograph	undated
b. 3, f. 61	"A Judgement from Above," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1921 June

b. 3, f. 62	"The Kingdom of the Child," typescript	undated
b. 3, f. 63	"Leaf Lineage from the Sun," holograph	undated
b. 3, f. 64	"A Lion in the Way," printed version, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i>	1900 June
b. 3, f. 65	"The Little Elm," typescript and printed version, <i>Ladies Home Journal</i>	1921 August
b. 3, f. 66-68	"Little Windows into the World," typescripts and printed version	undated
b. 4, f. 69	"The Littlest Bell," printed version, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i>	1916 December 11
b. 4, f. 70	"Long Love and Memory," typescripts	undated
b. 4, f. 71	"Louise Imogen Guiney," typescript	1920
b. 4, f. 72	"Love," typescripts	undated
b. 4, f. 73	"The Maid and Her Body," holograph and typescripts	undated
b. 4, f. 74	"A Man and His Mind," typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 75	"The Man and His Rose-Garden," printed version, corrected, <i>Harper's</i>	1906 December
b. 4, f. 76	"The Man Who Wanted to Be Safe," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1907
b. 4, f. 77	"The Man Who Was Obstinate," printed version	1906 December
b. 4, f. 78	"A March Wind," typescript	1931 February 17
b. 4, f. 79	"The Medicine Man," printed version	undated
b. 4, f. 80	"A Mind-Cure," typescripts and published version, <i>Harper's</i>	1914 August
b. 4, f. 81	"A Minister of Grace," printed version	undated
b. 4, f. 82	"Mnemosyne," typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 83	"The Mother," typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 84	"The Mother and Her Son," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 4, f. 85	"The Mourning Veil," printed version	undated
b. 4, f. 86	"My Lady's Ring," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 4, f. 87	"Next Year's Garden," typescript and printed version, <i>Good Housekeeping</i>	undated
b. 4, f. 88	"Nicholas Woodman," typescript and printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1916 October
b. 4, f. 89	"Night and World War," holograph	undated
b. 4, f. 90	"Northern Lights," typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 91	"The Offering," typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 92	"Old Age," printed version	undated
b. 4, f. 93	"An Old Debt," typescript and printed version, <i>Woman's Home Companion</i>	1917 November

b. 4, f. 94	"Old Lemuel's Journey," printed version, corrected	undated
b. 4, f. 95-96	"Pluto's Baggage," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 4, f. 97	"The Poet Who Lost His Pen," typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 98	"The Prince's Ball," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1916 February
b. 4, f. 99	"Psyche," printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1919 July
b. 4, f. 100	"The Rescue," holograph	circa 1930
b. 5, f. 101	"Saint Valina Speaks," holograph	undated
b. 5, f. 102	"The Rose Tree," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 103	"Sainthood," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 104	"Seven Seas," holograph	undated
b. 5, f. 105	"The Shadow," typescripts	undated
b. 5, f. 106	"Shelley's Birthday," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 107	"Shooting Stars," printed version, <i>Woman's Home Companion</i>	1920 November
b. 5, f. 108	"A Sinner Saved," printed version, <i>Harper's Bazaar</i>	1916 December
b. 5, f. 109	Sonnets, untitled, typescript and holograph	undated
b. 5, f. 110	"The Sower," printed version, <i>Outlook</i>	1907 May 25
b. 5, f. 111	"The Spinners," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 112	"The Spring of the Year," typescript and printed version, <i>Delineator</i>	1913 April
b. 5, f. 113	"The Creature Named I," typescript and printed version	undated
b. 5, f. 114	"Three Bachelor Birds," printed version	undated
b. 5, f. 115	"Three Men," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 116	"Thrush Song," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 117	"Time's Revenges," printed version, <i>Pictorial Review</i>	1916 April
b. 5, f. 118	"Timothy Cole," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 119	"To a Painted Bride," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 120	"A Tomb Unsealed," printed version	1914 May
b. 5, f. 121	"The Traveling Larkspur," typescript and printed version, <i>Woman's Home Companion</i>	1913 April
b. 5, f. 122	"The Unknown Beloved," printed version	undated
b. 5, f. 123	"An Unowned Legacy," typescript and printed version, <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1899 December
b. 5, f. 124	Untitled short story	undated

b. 5, f. 125	"Vestigia," holograph and typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 126	"The Vision," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 127	"The Visitant," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 128	"Wedding-Gifts," typescript and printed version, <i>Harper's</i>	1915 November
b. 5, f. 129	"The Window and the Tree," typescript, corrected	undated
b. 5, f. 130	"The Witch Wife," typescript	undated
b. 5, f. 131	"The Woman Whom God Loved," printed version, corrected, <i>Outlook</i>	1906
b. 5, f. 132	Various untitled manuscripts, holograph and typescript and correspondence	1890-1912, undated
b. 5, f. 133	Notes on books read by Brown, typescript	undated

Series II: Correspondence, 1938-1948

10 Folders

The series is largely comprised of Brown's outgoing letters to author Esther Willard Bates.

Arranged chronologically.

b. 5, f. 134-140	Bates, Esther Willard	1938-1948, undated
b. 5, f. 141-143	Various correspondents	1940, undated

Series III: Printed Material, 1896-1945*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

The series contains newspaper clippings, publicity, and theatre programs by and about Brown.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 6, f. 144	<i>Alice Brown</i> (New York: MacMillan Company) and "Books by Alice Brown" (Houghton, Mifflin and Company)	1923-1927
b. 6, f. 145	"Children of Earth," theatre programs	1915
b. 6, f. 146-148	Clippings and page proofs	1896-1945

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 -- 19th century
American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 19th century -- Archives
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Women authors, American

Names

Bates, Esther Willard, 1884-
Brown, Alice, 1857-1948