

# 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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**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: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0220>

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## 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 <https://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](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Florence Hoadley.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## 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.

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## Preferred Citation

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

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## 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.

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## Scope and Contents

The Isabelle Graham Foster Collection encompasses 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

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 English	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 English	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 English	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 English	August 22, 1897
b. 8	"Pupils Leave High School," students leave Hillhouse as parents consider overcrowded conditions injurious to their health English	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 English	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 English	undated
b. 8	"Miss Bartlett's New Book," historical sketches of New Haven, as, New Haven Green, a church, Grove Street Cemetary, Hillhouse Avenue, John Trumbull, etc. English	undated
b. 8	"Every Day Use of English," by Professor Palmer of Harvard English	undated
b. 8	Review of <i>Barbarine</i> , a book by Alice Bently Twitchell	undated
b. 8	"Impressions of Rome," letter concerning Rome visit by Mrs. Alice Twitchell English	undated
b. 8	"Loss by Fire of '50,000'," Bowditch Furniture Company burned out on Orange Street English	undated
b. 8	"Opening of Davenport," a hotel at corner of Orange and Court Streets English	undated
b. 8	"Thomas R. Trowbridge Dead," account of death of owner of largest shipping firm in New England English	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