

# Guide to the James Robinson Smith Papers

MS 1634



compiled by Matthew T. MacLean

November 1997

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1634

**CREATOR:** Smith, Robinson, 1876-1954

**TITLE:** James Robinson Smith papers

**DATES:** 1888-1964

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence and subject files primarily documenting the personal life of James Robinson Smith. Several of the subject files document his scholarship, personal beliefs, and work with the Red Cross and food rationing.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1634>

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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.1634>.

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 Lucinda Smith King, 1992.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

James Robinson Smith Papers (MS 1634). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

James Robinson Smith was born in Hartford, Connecticut on December 27, 1876. He graduated from Yale College in 1898 and did graduate work at Yale and Harvard, receiving his M.A. from Yale in 1904. After graduating, he traveled, worked at a variety of jobs, and engaged in literary pursuits. A writer and scholar, he translated *Don Quixote* and *The Earliest Lives of Dante*, did scholarly work on Homer's *Iliad* and the Bible, and published lists of famous men and great quotations. He also wrote poetry. In World War I, Smith worked on and wrote pamphlets about food rationing in European nations, particularly Belgium. After the war he worked in Europe with the American Red Cross. He spent most of the remainder of his life in Nice, France, writing and working at the English-American Library. In 1905 Smith married Martha Butler, who died in 1910. Their daughter, Lucinda, was born in 1909. Smith died in Nice on June 12, 1954.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence and subject files primarily documenting the personal life of James Robinson Smith. Several of the subject files document his scholarship, personal beliefs, and work with the Red Cross and food rationing.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1888-1964. II. Subject Files, 1898-1954.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1888-1964

The series is arranged in two sections: James Robinson Smith and Lucinda Smith. The James Robinson Smith correspondence comprises non-family and family, incoming and outgoing letters, arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent. The Lucinda Smith correspondence comprises incoming letters from family members and one folder of letters of condolences she received upon her father's death.

Smith, James Robinson

Non-family

Incoming

b. 1, f. 1	Chilton, Carroll Brent	1923-1924, 1930-1933, undated
b. 1, f. 2	Cook, Albert S.	1912, 1918-1924, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Crane, William	1922, 1925, undated
b. 1, f. 4	de Selincourt, Basil	1918, 1923-1931, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Fahnstock, Wallace	1912-1913, 1922- 1924, 1934, 1940, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Goodwin, Harriet	1896, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Gregg, Margaret	1914, 1923-1934, 1946, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Hapgood, Melvin and Mary	1897-1899
b. 1, f. 9	Hattersly, Isabelle	1912
b. 1, f. 10	Hooker, E. B.	1895
b. 1, f. 11	Means, Stuart	1913, 1919-1925, undated
b. 1, f. 12	Montgomery, Francis	Undated
b. 1, f. 13	Moon, Dabney	1922-1925
b. 1, f. 14	Osgood, Charles	1923, 1950
b. 1, f. 15	Phelps, William Lyon	1912, 1922,-1924, 1932, undated
b. 1, f. 16	Prentiss, Janet	Undated

## Smith, James Robinson &gt; Non-family &gt; Incoming (continued)

b. 1, f. 17 - 20	Robinson, Charles M.	1893-1898, undated
b. 1, f. 21 - 22	Sedgwick, Alice	1912, 1920-1926, undated
b. 1, f. 23	Smith, Nancy	1920-1926, 1951, 1960, undated
b. 1, f. 24 - 25	Stanton, Stephen B.	1890-1893, 1895-1898, undated
b. 2, f. 26	Torrey, Charles C.	1950, undated
b. 2, f. 27	Wilson, Ellen	1895-1898
Outgoing		
b. 2, f. 28	Chilton, Carroll Brent	1924, 1938
b. 2, f. 29	Cook, Albert S.	1922-1924
b. 2, f. 30	Crane, William	1922
b. 2, f. 31	De Selincourt, Basil	1910, 1933, undated
b. 2, f. 32	Fahnestock, Wallace	1925
b. 2, f. 33	Giles, May	1900
b. 2, f. 34	Gregg, Margaret	1924
b. 2, f. 35	Howley, Roswell	1931, 1933
b. 2, f. 36	Imbria, Robert	1923, 1924, undated
b. 2, f. 37	Moody, Harriet	1919-1929, undated
b. 2, f. 38	Moon, Dabney	1925
b. 2, f. 39	Phelps, William Lyon	1912, 1924-1926, 1939, undated
b. 2, f. 40	Prentiss, Janet	1924, 1925, undated
b. 2, f. 41	Sartorio, Rev.	1948, undated
b. 2, f. 42	Smith, Nancy	1923-1940
b. 2, f. 43	Spalding, Alexandrine	1923, 1924, 1931, undated

## Smith, James Robinson &gt; Non-family &gt; Outgoing (continued)

b. 2, f. 44	Stanton, Stephen B.	1925, 1931-1939, 1944, 1949-1964, undated
Family		
Incoming		
b. 3, f. 45	General	1897
b. 3, f. 46	Butler, Grandmama [Florence]	1913, 1922-1924
b. 3, f. 47	Hapgood, Dorothy	1923, undated
b. 3, f. 48	Smith, Annie	1913, undated
b. 3, f. 49	Smith, Douglas	1913, 1932
b. 3, f. 50	Smith, Goodwin	1922-1925, 1932, 1937
b. 3, f. 51	Smith, Helen Tracy	1915, undated
b. 3, f. 52	Smith, James A. [father]	1888-1898
b. 3, f. 53	Smith, Lucinda	1933, 1945, undated
b. 3, f. 54	Smith, Mary Ann [aunt]	1898
b. 3, f. 55	Smith, Mary Morgan [grandmother]	Undated
b. 3, f. 56	Smith, Max	1924-1925, undated
b. 3, f. 57	Taylor, Bertha	1912-1913, 1925, undated
b. 3, f. 58	Tracy, Mary	1923-1924
Outgoing		
b. 3, f. 59	General	1911, 1912
b. 3, f. 60	Aunt Ella [Ayres]	1913
b. 3, f. 61 - 66	Butler, Grandmama [Florence]	1911-1933, undated
b. 3, f. 67	Hapgood, Dorothy [and Lucinda Smith]	1947, 1952
b. 3, f. 68	Hapgood, Mary	1925-1928, 1944-1949
b. 3, f. 69	Pease, Alice	1924-1925, 1931
b. 3, f. 70	Sister [letters addressed to "Dear Sister"]	1942-1945

## Smith, James Robinson &gt; Family &gt; Outgoing (continued)

b. 3, f. 71	Smith, Douglas Tracy	1911-1917, 1930-1934
b. 3, f. 72	Smith, Goodwin	1924-1937, 1946- 1952, undated
	Smith, Lucinda [daughter]	
b. 4, f. 73 - 80	1917-1934, undated	1917-1934, undated
b. 5, f. 81 - 86	1935-1953, undated	1935-1953, undated
b. 5, f. 87	Taylor, Bertha	1916, 1923, 1925
	Lucinda Smith	
b. 5, f. 88 - 90	Family [Ayres, Taylor, Hapgood, Butler]	1927-1947, undated
b. 5, f. 91	Condolences [re: death of James Robinson Smith]	1954-1955, 1960



**Series II: Subject Files, 1898-1954**

The files contain correspondence, publications, and miscellaneous items relating to the professional occupations and personal interests of James Robinson Smith. The series is arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

b. 6, f. 1	ABC's of living [practical rules for life]	1917-1919
b. 6, f. 2	Addresses	Undated
b. 6, f. 3	Beautiful buildings [lists of photographs of]	Undated
b. 6, f. 4 - 7	Belgium [involvement with Commission for Relief in Belgium, 1917-1919]	1914-1919, 1925, 1954, undated
b. 6, f. 8	Beliefs [correspondence with philosophical content]	1924, 1939, 1946, 1951, undated
b. 6, f. 9	Children's Bible	1923, undated
b. 6, f. 10	Children's library	1922, undated
b. 6, f. 11	Don Quixote	1910-1932
b. 6, f. 12	Education [letter regarding education in Europe]	1921?
b. 6, f. 13	Famous men [correspondence and his published list of famous men]	1898, 1939-1942, undated
b. 6, f. 14	Famous quotations	1924, undated
b. 6, f. 15	Father [typical letter to Lucinda]	1938, undated
b. 6, f. 16	Finances	1925, 1942, 1953, undated
b. 6, f. 17	Florida	1943-1945
b. 6, f. 18	France	Undated
b. 6, f. 19	Hartford	Undated
b. 6, f. 20	Homeopathy [rules for healthy living]	1944, undated
b. 6, f. 21	Homeric studies [sources of <i>Iliad</i> ]	1923-1926, 1930, 1937
b. 6, f. 22	Hoover, Herbert [correspondence, description]	1928, 1952, undated
b. 6, f. 23	Italian renaissance	Undated
b. 6, f. 24	Italy trip	1922
b. 6, f. 25	Latvia, Finland, Russia [Red Cross work]	1919-1920
b. 6, f. 26	Lay reader [church-related materials]	1924-1925, 1948-1949, 1954, undated

b. 6, f. 27	Library systems	1951, undated
b. 7, f. 28	Newspapers [articles about James Robinson Smith]	1931, 1940–1941, undated
b. 7, f. 29	Nice library	1924, 1938, undated
b. 7, f. 30	Paintings	1938, undated
b. 7, f. 31	Peace [international affairs, interwar period]	1931, undated
b. 7, f. 32	Percenter [rules for gambling]	1937-1941, 1944, 1948
b. 7, f. 33	Permit (residence)	1951
b. 7, f. 34	Phi Beta Kappa	1898
b. 7, f. 35	<i>Pioneers of Science</i> [letter about book by that title]	1947
b. 7, f. 36	Poetry selections [from others' poetry]	1913, 1934, undated
b. 7, f. 37	Poultry	1911, undated
b. 7, f. 38	Prayer	1932, undated
b. 7, f. 39	Publishers	1898, 1923, undated
b. 7, f. 40	Scotland Yard	1919, 1927, 1929-1930, 1938
b. 7, f. 41	Sons of the American Revolution	1898
b. 7, f. 42	Spain [pamphlets, correspondence]	1914, 1926, undated
b. 7, f. 43	Spanish mystics	1926
b. 7, f. 44	Stamps	1924-1925, 1931
b. 7, f. 45	Street girls [social and charitable activities on behalf of]	1917, 1931, undated
b. 7, f. 46	Synoptic problem [New Testament scholarship]	1911–1912, 1921, 1923, 1945, undated
	Wars	
b. 7, f. 47	Pre-WWI	1912-1913, undated
b. 7, f. 48	WWI	1914-1918
b. 7, f. 49	Pre-WWII	1938

Wars (continued)

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b. 7, f. 50	WWII	1939-1940, 1942
b. 7, f. 51	Yale [correspondence, class-related material]	1897-1898, 1923, 1953

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## **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.

### **Names**

Smith, Robinson, 1876-1954

### **Corporate Body**

Yale College (1887- ). Class of 1898