Hannah Whitall Smith
 correspondence, 1899-1911, undated
 MC.950.164

Finding aid prepared by Mary A. Crauderueff

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
April 01, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Creator - Author
Russell, Alys Whitall Pearsall, d. 1951

Creator - Author
Smith, Hannah Whitall, 1832-1911

Creator - Author
Smith, Logan Pearsall, 1865-1946

Title
Hannah Whitall Smith correspondence

Date
1899-1911, undated

Extent
0.15 Linear feet

Language
English

Preferred Citation
Hanah Whitall Smith correspondence (MC.950.164), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911) was born in Philadelphia, Pa., the daughter of John Mickle and Mary Tatum Whitall. She married Robert Pearsall Smith in 1851. They were both devout Quakers and exponents of a fourfold gospel which included justification, sanctification, the second coming and faith healing. Around 1848, she had a mystical experience that influenced the later course of her life. Whitall Smith wrote many Christian tracts, including The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life in 1875, a work that was issued in over 100 editions and was translated into many languages. In 1886, Whitall Smith and her husband settled permanently in England. Whitall Smith’s children included Logan Pearsall Smith, who graduated from Haverford College in 1884 and became a writer and critic. He also removed to England and left the Society of Friends about 1913. Smith’s daughter, Alys, married Bertrand Russell and her daughter, Mary, married Bernard Berenson. Whitall Smith was the aunt of M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College (Bryn Mawr, Pa.) (Information from the Dictionary of Quaker Biography and other sources)

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a group of 55 letters addressed during 1899-1911 by Hannah Whitall Smith to her dear friend Kate, whom she always referred to as “sister.” In addition, there are two poems and one Christmas card. The letters are often religious in tone. Smith relates news of her family, including Logan (Pearsall Smith) and Alys (Smith Russell), especially re Russell’s health, visits from friends, references to Bertrand Russell, Quakers and Quaker Meeting, particularly in Philadelphia, as well as British Women’s Meeting, temperance, living a simple Quaker life, writing of her new book, health issues and old age.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections March 2016

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).
Acquisition
Accession # 6980

Processing Information
Processed by Mary A. Crauderueff; completed March 2016.

Related Materials

Related materials

• MC.975.03.047 Caroline Cope Yarnall Hartshorne commonplace book
• MC 1119 Whitall family papers

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

• Correspondence.

Subject(s)

• Meeting for Worship
• Quaker women
• Quakers – Family relationships
• Women and religion.
## Collection Inventory

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Letters</td>
<td>1899-1903</td>
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<td>Letters</td>
<td>1904-1911, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transcriptions of letters</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poems and Christmas cards</td>
<td>undated</td>
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