

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

Finding aid prepared by Mary A. Crauderueff

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

March 2016

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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

Hannah 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
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Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence.

Subject(s)

- Meeting for Worship
- Quaker women
- Quakers – Family relationships
- Women and religion.

Collection Inventory

Letters 1899-1903

Letters 1904-1911, undated

Transcriptions of letters undated

Poems and Christmas cards undated