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Ann S. Stephens collection, 1835-1980

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
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URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Stephens, Ann S. (Ann Sophia), 1810-1886
Title:	Ann S. Stephens collection
ID:	0319
Date [inclusive]:	1835-1980
Physical Description:	.25 linear feet 21 folders
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Ann S. Stephens collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Ann Stephens, one of the most widely read 19th-century American writers, was born in Humphreysville, Connecticut. In 1831 she and Edward Stephens married and moved to Portland, Maine. Three years later they began publishing Portland Magazine. He was the publisher and she, the editor/writer. Ann Stephens published her first book, *The Portland Sketch Book*, in 1836, a collection of local writers' work and in 1837 the Stephens moved to New York City where Ann Stephens began her long career as a magazine writer and editor. She was associated with *Ladies Companion*, *Graham's Magazine*, and *Peterson's Magazine*. Stephens started her own magazine in 1856, *Mrs. Stephens' Illustrated New Monthly* and two years later it merged with *Peterson's*. Stephens wrote mostly historical and romantic melodramas that first appeared in serial form in the above magazines and other popular women's publications. Many of the stories were then published in book form that Stephens' numerous avid readers quickly purchased. Stephens met Edgar Allan Poe, editor of *Graham's Magazine*, when she was on the periodical's staff in 1841 and 1842. Poe later mentioned her and her work in "The Literati of New York City," a series published in *Godey's Lady's Book* in 1846. Stephens was the author of the first dime novel *Beadle & Adams Company* published when the company reissued her 1839 serial, *Malaeska: The Indian Wife of the White Hunter* (1860) in book form. It is reported to have sold over 300,000 copies. Stephens, like Elizabeth Oakes Smith, became one of the writers in the publisher's stable. In addition to her novels and

short stories, Stephens also wrote verse and literary reviews. One of her poems, "The Cable" was set to the music of "The Star Spangled Banner." Stephens used the pseudonym Jonathan Slick when she wrote a series of sketches focusing on an imaginary Yankee's experience in New York City. Edward Stephens published them under the title *High Life in New York*, which is an edited version of the piece "A Series of Letters to Mr. Zephariah Slick, Justice of the Peace, and Deacon of the Church over to Weathersfield, in the State of Connecticut" (1843), by Jonathan Slick, Esq., of Weathersfield, Connecticut.

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Collection Scope and Content

The majority of the collection material consists of Stephens' published works in periodicals of her time, including an 1859 open letter to Victor Hugo. Also included are one manuscript poem, a bibliography of her published pieces in *The Ladies Companion*, 1838-1839, and a piece combining biographical information and literary criticism of Ann Stephens written in 1880.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Ann S. Stephens papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, New York, New York

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Controlled Access Headings

- Domestic fiction
- Portland (Me.)
- Manuscripts
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Book jackets
- Mrs. Stephens' illustrated new monthly
- Stephens, Ann S. (Ann Sophia), 1810-1886
- Stephens, Ann S. (Ann Sophia), 1810-1886

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
"In the Middle Distance" [manuscript], 1846 May 8	

	Box 22	Folder 001
"David Hunt, A Story of Western Life" Leisure Hour Library, 1884 April 19	Box 22	Folder 002
"An Old Man's Sacrifice" and "The Rector's Daughter" Leisure Hour Library v.II no.138, 1887 May 14	Box 22	Folder 003
"Rock Ruin, or, The Daughter of the Island" (Arm Chair Library), 1893 April 29	Box 22	Folder 004
"Mrs. Stephen's Illustrated New Monthly" (contains "Lost Jewels" by Stephens) No. X, Vol II., 1857 April	Box 22	Folder 005
"Ann Stephens and the Beadle Dime Novel", 1980	Box 22	Folder 006
Copy of encyclopedia biography, undated	Box 22	Folder 007
Report on Grand Union Meeting Bangor, 1860 January 11	Box 22	Folder 008
Bibliography of Ladies Companion articles, undated	Box 22	Folder 009
Display copy photos, undated	Box 22	Folder 010
Engraved portrait of Ann Stephens, undated	Box 22	Folder 011
Dust jacket from John Day reprint of Malaeska, 1929	Box 22	Folder 012
"The Soldier's Orphans," chapters 22-24, 1866	Box 22	Folder 013
"The Broken Troth-Plight," chapter 1, 1863	Box 22	Folder 014
"Marie Antoinette's Talisman," chapters 17-19, 1869	Box 22	Folder 015
"Maid of Honor," chapters 2-3; 12-13, 1864	Box 22	Folder 016
"The Bride of the Prairie," chapters 1, 9, 1868	Box 22	Folder 017
"The Violated Vow" published in newspaper "Aurora of the Valley" (photocopy, original in OVS periodicals), 1859 March 26	Box 22	Folder 018
"The Daughter" published in "The Rural Repository" in installments (photocopy, original in OVS periodicals), 1836, 1837	Box 22	Folder 019
ALS to Mr. Walker, 1847 May 29	Box 22	Folder 020
"The Dangerous Frolic" Portland Magazine , August 1, 1835	Box 22	Folder 021
Portland Magazine article in The Argus, 1835	Box 22	Folder 022