



ArchivesSpace

Elizabeth Oakes Smith collection, 1842-2007

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
cmiller10@une.edu
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Smith, Elizabeth Oakes Prince, 1806-1893
Title:	Elizabeth Oakes Smith collection
ID:	0331
Date [inclusive]:	1842-2007
Physical Description:	6 folders
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Oakes Smith collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Elizabeth Oakes Smith was born in North Yarmouth Maine on August 12, 1806, to Sophia Blanchard and David Prince. Fearing for her future, her mother stopped Smith's educational pursuits and married her to Seba Smith, a graduate of Bowdoin, twice her age. The two would have six children together, four of which would live to adulthood. Smith's connection to the literary world first came through her husband who owned the first daily paper in Portland, the Portland Courier, in which she was often published. Publishing several works on her own she wrote with the pseudonym Ernest Heifenstein, but once established a "feminist" in 1848, declared the death of this other name. Smith attended the Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York in that year and published *Woman and Her Needs* in 1851. Her reputation became widely known because of her abolitionist support, her views on marriage, and her novel, *Newsboy* (1854) that brought attention to homeless children in New York. Although there is no proof that her marriage was unhappy, much of her feminist success came from her liberal beliefs on marriage. Wanting independence from her husband, Oakes Smith took legal action to have her children's surnames changed to Oakesmith. Moving to Long Island in 1860, she and her husband experienced financial hardship. Seba Smith died 6 years later. Smith continued to publish in *Beadles Monthly* and *Home Journal*. She died on November 15, 1893 in Hollywood, North Carolina.

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Collection Scope and Content

The collection contains original copies of Smith's first stories "The Western Captive," "The Christian Sisters," and "Gems and Reptiles," published in 1842 and poems published in an 1852 edition of Graham's Magazine. Biographical information is available in photocopied newspaper articles and a web site printout. Also in the collection are two photographic reprints of Smith, one as a young woman and also in her later years. Among the material is a piece of correspondence dated 1866, to a Maine attorney, recommending Smith as a lecturer, either for compensation or for no cost as "she could not fail of satisfying everybody with you."

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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.

Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Papers of Elizabeth Oakes Prince Smith, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Elizabeth Oakes Prince Smith papers, New York Public Library, New York, New York

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Controlled Access Headings

- Women's rights
- Portland (Me.)
- Clippings
- Photographs
- Reproductions
- Manuscripts
- Correspondence
- Smith, Elizabeth Oakes Prince, 1806-1893
- Smith, Elizabeth Oakes Prince, 1806-1893

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Newspaper articles, 20th century	Box 21	Folder 001
Elizabeth Oakes Smith website printout--created by Timothy Sherman, 2006	Box 21	Folder 002

Photographs (2)--reprints	Box 21	Folder 003
Poems (2) by E.O. Smith published in Graham's Magazine, 1852	Box 21	Folder 004
Novel and short story: "Western Captive" and "Gems and Reptiles"--manuscripts with copies, 1842	Box 21	Folder 005
Letter requesting E.O. Smith to lecture in Boston, 1866	Box 21	Folder 006
