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Nora Archibald Smith papers, 1878-2009

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
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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:	Smith, Nora Archibald, 1859-1934
Title:	Nora Archibald Smith papers
ID:	0356
Date [inclusive]:	1878-2009
Date [bulk]:	1889-1924
Physical Description:	2 linear feet 65 folders
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Nora Archibald Smith papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Nora Archibald Smith (1859-1934) was an early childhood educator, school administrator and writer. She was the sister of Kate Douglas Wiggin, known best for her novel *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. Both girls were born in Philadelphia to Robert Noah Smith and Helen Elizabeth (Dyer) Smith. Their father died shortly after Nora's birth and their mother then moved the family to Portland, Maine. She soon remarried and the family moved into Nora and Kate's stepfather's (Dr. Albion Bradbury) house in Hollis, Maine. It was in the farmhouse called "Quillcote" that both Nora and Kate grew up, and to which they would later retire. In 1873, while Kate attended finishing school in Andover, Massachusetts, Dr. Bradbury moved the family to California. Nora Archibald Smith graduated from Santa Barbara College, which she referred to as "an impermanent institution which never before had conferred similar honors (and never did again)" (Smith, 1925). Smith taught in the public schools of Mexico for one year, and Tucson, Arizona for two while her sister opened the first free kindergarten west of the Rocky Mountains on Silver Street in San Francisco, California. In 1880 they founded the California Kindergarten Training School together. Nora Archibald Smith then went on to become the superintendent of the free kindergarten on Silver Street and, later, to take over the running of the California Kindergarten Training School in 1889. Smith was president of the California Froebel Society, an executive member of

the committee of the International Kindergarten Association, and the vice-president (1891-1892) of the kindergarten department of the National Education Association (Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1899). Nora Archibald Smith collaborated with her sister to write or edit fifteen books. Smith also authored many serial stories and academic journal articles (Kate Douglas Smith Wiggin, 1996).

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Collection Scope and Content

The Nora Archibald Smith papers document Smith's life as an author and school administrator. The collection includes scrapbooks of her writings in publications such as Kindergarten Review, The Outlook, Primary School Popular Educator and New England Magazine. The collection contains correspondence to Kate Douglas Wiggin collected by Smith while writing her biography of Wiggin; correspondence with her publisher, Houghton, Mifflin and Company; and Smith's private correspondence. This collection also includes many newspaper clippings that inspired Smith's stories. Photographic portraits of Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith and their friends are also included.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series. The folders maintain the original order created by Nora Archibald Smith. The materials were initially organized in packets, titled by Smith. These titles were maintained as folder titles and the materials within each packet were sorted by type (correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, etc.) when suitable.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

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Access

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Nora Archibald Smith Family Papers, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Maine

Kate Douglas Wiggin collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England Libraries, Portland, Maine

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Controlled Access Headings

- Kindergarten
- American poetry -- 19th century
- American poetry -- 20th century
- Hollis (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Clippings
- Promotional materials
- Pamphlets
- Manuscripts
- Typescripts
- Photographs

- Scrapbooks
- Obituaries
- Smith, Nora Archibald, 1859-1934
- Smith, Nora Archibald, 1859-1934
- Wiggin, Kate Douglas Smith, 1856-1923

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Kindergarten Papers - Correspondence and Manuscript, 1880-1915	Box 1	Folder 001
Kindergarten Papers - Published Material, 1894-1912	Box 1	Folder 002
Kindergarten Related booklets and clippings, 1878, 1891	Box 1	Folder 003
Kindergarten Related clippings, correspondence, 1924-1933	Box 1	Folder 004
"The Old Peabody Pew" publicity, 1916	Box 1	Folder 005
Flyer for "Bee of Cactus Country", undated	Box 1	Folder 005a
Notes for Stories (news clippings), 1915	Box 1	Folder 006
Notes for Stories (Handwritten), undated	Box 1	Folder 007
Circumstance: Notes for Shaker story, 1903, undated	Box 1	Folder 008
Stories, 1906-1916	Box 1	Folder 009
Stories, 1899-1931	Box 1	Folder 010
Stories, 1901-1921	Box 1	Folder 011
Stories, 1871-1896	Box 1	Folder 012
Poetry etc. to read aloud - Clippings, undated	Box 1	Folder 013
General		
Includes Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar for 1894, inscribed "To Norah from Mark Twain"		
Poetry etc. to read aloud - correspondence, 1893-1920	Box 1	Folder 014
Poetry etc. to read aloud, 1913-1929	Box 1	Folder 015
Unpublished Poems, undated	Box 1	Folder 016
Unpublished Poems, undated	Box 1	Folder 017
Kate Wiggin Autobiography material - pamphlets and other, 1893-1920	Box 1	Folder 018
Kate Wiggin Autobiography material - Manuscript and typescript, 1895-1924	Box 1	Folder 019

Kate Wiggin Autobiography material - Correspondence, 1884-1890	Box 1	Folder 020
Kate Wiggin Autobiography material - News clippings, 1891-1893	Box 1	Folder 021
Correspondence to KDW from Nora Smith, 1920, 1922	Box 1	Folder 021a
Correspondence to N.A.S from "Kate Wiggin Autobiography" packet, 1833-1878	Box 1	Folder 022
Letters to K.D.W. - Reproduced in "Kate Douglas Wiggin as her sister knew her", 1889-1913	Box 1	Folder 023
	Box 1	Folder 024
Typed letters about Mother, 1921	Box 1	Folder 025
Correspondence and Address book, 1881-1889	Box 1	Folder 026
Rhymes, Poetry and related Correspondence, 1926-1931	Box 1	Folder 027
Clippings and Correspondence, 1886-1937	Box 1	Folder 028
Correspondence, 1889-1933	Box 1	Folder 029
Wednesday Afternoon Club: "The Music of the Century" by Mrs. George C. Riggs, 1900	Box 1	Folder 030
Lecture No. II Fairy Bread	Box 1	Folder 031
"This I saw and knew" manuscript, 1933	Box 1	Folder 032
"This I saw and knew" typescript, 1933	Box 1	Folder 033
"This I saw and knew" correspondence, 1904-1940	Box 1	Folder 034
"Verse Speaking" manuscripts and publisher correspondence, 1896-1933	Box 1	Folder 035
"The Art of Storytelling" manuscript chapter 1, undated	Box 1	Folder 036
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 1, undated	Box 1	Folder 037
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 2, undated	Box 1	Folder 038
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 3, undated	Box 1	Folder 039
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 4, undated	Box 1	Folder 040
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 5, undated	Box 1	Folder 041
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 6, undated	Box 1	Folder 042
"The Minstrel of Childhood how to be one" by Nora Archibald Smith typescript chapter 7, undated	Box 1	Folder 043
News clippings about Nora Archibald Smith and Kate Douglas Wiggin, 1910-1922	Box 2	Folder 044

News clippings about Nora Archibald Smith and Kate Douglas Wiggin, 1913-1916	Box 2	Folder 045
San Francisco Chronicle "Centenary" Celebration, 1889	Box 2	Folder 046
Artist book "Only Once" by Nora Archibald Smith, undated	Box 2	Folder 047
"Myths and Legends" scrapbook, 1905	Box 2	Folder 048
Photographs, 1901-1924	Box 2	Folder 049
Photographs, 1898-1915	Box 2	Folder 050
Photographs, 1896-2009	Box 2	Folder 051
Dis-bound scrapbook, 1893-1931	Box 3	Folder 052
Dis-bound scrapbook, 1878-1924	Box 3	Folder 053
Dis-bound scrapbook, 1889-1924	Box 3	Folder 054
Dis-bound scrapbook, 1898-1923	Box 3	Folder 055
Dis-bound scrapbook, 1900-1921	Box 3	Folder 056
Dis-bound scrapbook, 1895-1928	Box 3	Folder 057
Handwritten Poems, undated	Box 3	Folder 058
Handwritten Poems, 1903-1908	Box 3	Folder 059
Handwritten Poems, undated	Box 3	Folder 060
"The Vane of Other Days"	Box 3	Folder 060a
"Going Abroad in 1890" and "The Spirit of Christmas" by Kate Douglas Wiggin, 1915, 1930	Box 3	Folder 061
Obituary, 1934	Box 3	Folder 062
Nora Archibald Smith clippings, 1924, 1990	Box 3	Folder 063