

FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT LETTERS
APP. MSS #1
FINDING AID

INTRODUCTION: This collection consists of two sub-collections. The first is a group of twelve letters purchased from an OEG grant for \$100.00 December 4, 1972 from antiques dealer F. M. Hill Books. The second is made up of 51 volumes, photographs, clippings, letters, one typed manuscript, etc. donated by Ms. Susan Floyd of Sand Diego, CA in 2010.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Sub-collection A 1 Box / 12 items
Sub-collection B 1 Box / 27 items, 51 Books

HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Frances Hodgson Burnett was born November 24, 1849 in Cheetham Hill, England, outside of Manchester. At this time Manchester was a thriving textile center fueled by the success of the cotton mills. Frances was one of five children born to Edwin and Eliza Burnett. Edwin had a successful home furnishings business, providing customers with such products as chandeliers, ironwork, and brass door fittings. Tragedy struck though in 1853 when Edwin died at age 38 of a stroke. Eliza tried to keep the business going but the start of the Civil War in the United States affected cotton imports and the textile industry experienced a tremendous rate of unemployment.

Eliza moved the family to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1865 where her brother had moved and was struggling to keep a dry goods store going. He moved Eliza and the children to New Market where he had a cabin. The Burnett family had experienced quite a shift from upper middle class comfort to poverty, now often going to bed hungry.

The following years brought heartache as well as encouragement. Frances began writing stories at the age of 17. In 1867 Eliza died and Frances looked for opportunities to help provide for her family. Her first story was published in 1868 in *Godey's Lady Book*. She continued to write and more stories were published in *Harper's Atlantic*, *Scribner's Monthly*, and *Peterson's Ladies' Magazine*.

During their time in New Market the Burnett's neighbors were Dr. John and Lydia Burnett and their son Swan, whose great-grandfather was Adam Peck, the earliest settler of what would become Jefferson City. Frances and Swan spent much time together and began a relationship that led to marriage in 1873.

The next several years would prove quite eventful. A year after her marriage to the now Dr. Swan Burnett, their first son, Lionel, was born in 1874. In 1876 her first novel published, entitled That Lass O'Lowrie's. (It was actually the second written. Dolly had been serialized in 1873 but was not published in book form until 1877). Also in 1876, their second son, Vivian, was born. He would prove the inspiration for what would become perhaps Burnett's most famous work, Little Lord Fauntleroy.

In 1877 Burnett moved to Washington, D.C. Little Lord Fauntleroy was serialized in *St. Nicholas* during 1885 and would be published in 1886 in book form. In 1889 she moved to England. Tragedy struck again however, as Lionel died of influenza in 1890 during their stay in Paris. Frances and Swan had been separated for some time and in 1898 they divorced. Two years later Frances married Stephen Townshend, but in 1902 they too would separate.

Burnett continued to live in England until eventually returning to America where she built an estate in Plandome Park, Long Island in 1909. In 1911 The Secret Garden was published and would go on to become one of her most cherished works.

Her health steadily declined and on October 29, 1924 Frances Hodgson Burnett passed away at home. She had lived to see her grandchildren and continued to recapture the magic of childhood through them. While her books have often been described as having a “saccharine” quality, she left an indelible mark on children’s literature, providing a path to the “secret garden” in all of us that is often lost in adulthood.

For more information see The Romantick Lady by Vivian Burnett.

INCLUSIVE DATES: Sub-collection A 1892-1908

Sub-collection B 1877-1935

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES: Sub-collection A: Eleven of these letters were written from Frances Hodgson Burnett. Eight were written to Harry Franklin Waltman, a young artist in the Washington area. Three were written to Mrs. David Thomson. The final letter was written to Waltman by a Maud Cunard. The Burnett letters are edged in black as she was in mourning for her son Lionel who died in 1890 at age 16. Much of the correspondence deals with Burnett’s desire to have a portrait done of Lionel from a photograph. He also apparently did a portrait of Lady Maud Cunard and Burnett.

Sub-collection B: These materials belonged to a family friend of Ms. Susan Floyd’s named Emily Wilson. Ms. Floyd’s father was Mrs. Wilson’s attorney. Frances Hodgson Burnett’s sister, Edith Hodgson, first married Pleasant Fahnestock. They had two sons named Archie and Ernest. Archie’s second marriage was to Cecilia Schotte, whose daughter was Emily Wilson by her first marriage. They would frequently travel to Europe, often with Frances Hodgson Burnett. A few of the books relate to these trips. After Frances Hodgson Burnett’s death in 1924, Archie and Cecilia made their home at Plandome, Long Island in the estate built by Burnett in 1909. In 1935 the house was destroyed by fire and some of the books exhibit damage from the blaze. Many of the books are signed by Burnett or “Fluffy” and were given as gifts to family members.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Sub-collection A: Correspondence

Sub-collection B: Monographs
Photographs
Manuscripts
Clippings
Correspondence

CONTAINER LISTS:

BOX 1

FOLDER 1

1. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (April 6, 1892)
2. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (November 30, 1892)
3. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (March 13, 1893)
4. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (March 24, 1893)
5. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (May 2, 1893)
6. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (December 23, 1896)
7. Burnett to H. F. Waltman (February 12, 1897)
8. Maud Cunard to Waltman (March 7, 1897)
9. Burnett to Waltman (May 3, 1897)
10. Burnet to Mrs. David Thomson (u.d.)
11. Burnett to Mrs. David Thomson (May 23, 1908)
12. Burnett to Mrs. David Thomson (June 8, 1908)

BOX 2

FOLDER 1

1. Mrs. Hodgson Burnett's Speech Delivered by herself at a meeting of the Author's Club, London England (ud)

FOLDER 2

1. Letter to Mrs. Frank T. Hopkins from Frances Hodgson Burnett (June 12, 1923)
2. Letter to "My dear Duchiss" from Vivian Burnett (June 11, 1926)
3. Letter to Emily Wilson from Archie Fahnestock (February 25, 1934)

FOLDER 3

1. Christmas card from Mr. and Mrs. Archer Pleasant Fahnestock (ud)
2. Christmas card from Mr. and Mrs. Archer Pleasant Fahnestock (ud)
3. Christmas card from Frances Cecilia Fahnestock (ud)

FOLDER 4

1. 2 photos of Matham Hall, Burnett's estate in Kent, England (B&W, 3 ½ X 3 ½)
2. Photo of Matham Hall, Kent England (B&W, 4 ½ X 6 ½)
3. Photo of Frances Hodgson Burnett (B&W, 5X7)
4. 2 photos of Plandome House (B&W, 2 ½ X 4 ½)
5. Photo of front of house with family, unidentified (B&W, 3 ½ X 5 ½)
6. Photo of Archie Fahnestock ? with older woman (B&W, 3 X 5 ½)

FOLDER 5

1. The Children's Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett Memorial brochure
2. Clipping – "Fahnestock-Wilson Ceremony Next Week at Long Island Home"
(June 9, 1927)
3. Clipping – "Fahnestock-Wilson Wedding Solemnized in Long Island"
(June 15, 1927)
4. Clipping – "Many Priceless Art Works and Books Are Lost"
(December 30, 1935)
5. Clipping – "Relics Rescued As 'Fauntleroy' Building Burns" (December 31, 1935)
6. Clipping – "\$100,000 Fire In Noted Dwelling As Snow Storm Rages" (1935)
7. Clipping - "He Lived it Down in Death: 'Little Lord Fauntleroy Saves 4, Dies"
(July 26, 1937)
8. Clipping – "Little Lord Fauntleroy: This is the Centennial of His Creator's Birth"
(1949)
9. Clipping – "Sweet Dearest" (1949)

Inventory of Books

Poems by Bret Harte (1871)

Notes: "Jordan Archie's Fahnestock father – Pleasant A. Fahnestock – gave this book to me during our engagement in the year of 187? Edith M Fahnestock – later E. M. Jordan"

Theo by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1877)

Notes: "Copy sent to the Author from the publisher on the date of its publication Sept 29th, 1877. Washington, D.C."

"Edith Jordan 1770 Mass Ave Washington"

Miss Crespigny by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1878)

Notes: "Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett from D. Hutcheson May 25th, 1878"

"Edith M Jordan 1770 Mass Ave Washington DC"

Haworth's Vol. I by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Notes: "Dec 25 1894 With Fluffy's Love to Edith"

Louisiana, and That Lass O' Lowrie's by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1880)

Notes: "Published in London in the 10th of April 1880. Copy re'ed from Publishers May 13-1880"

"Edith M Jordan 1770 Mass Ave Washington DC 1895"

Louisiana by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1880)

Notes: "E. M. Jordan"

"Dr Burnett gave me this book when I lived in San Francisco"

"To Edith with Doctor's love Aug 22-1880"

Haworth's by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1880)

Notes: "Edith M. Jordan Plandome Park L.I. 1914"

Vignettes in Rhyme and Other Verses by Austin Dobson (1884)

Notes: Stamped "Frances Hodgson Burnett"

Editha's Burglar by Frances Hodgson (1888)

Notes: "Edith Jordan 1770 Mass Ave Washington"

"To Mrs Frances Hodgson Burnett with the compliments of the publishers Jordan Marsh Co Boston August 17th 1888"

The Humbler Poets by Slason Thompson (1890)

Notes: Stamped "Frances Hodgson Burnett"

Dolly by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1892?)

Notes: "Dec 25, 1894 Edith With Fluffy's Love"

Letters of Travel by Phillips Brooks (1893)

Notes: *Includes pasted in post cards

The One I Knew the Best of All by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1893)

Notes: "To my beloved Edith from her sister Frances Hodgson Burnett 1893"

Through One Administration by Frances Hodgson Burnett (2 copies, 1894 & 1896)

Notes: 1896 copy "Edith M Jordan 1770 Mass Ave Washington DC 1896"

Two Little Pilgrims' Progress by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1896)

Notes: "My beloved little Edith from the sister she takes care of Fluffy February 1896"

In Connection With the De Willoughby Claim by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1899)

Notes: "Edith Jordan 1900 Washington D.C."

The Making of a Marchioness by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1901)

Notes: "Yours Affectionately Frances Hodgson Burnett"

The Methods of Lady Walderhurst by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1901)

Notes: "Yours Affectionately Frances Hodgson Burnett"

In the Closed Room by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1904)

Notes: "To my very Dear from her sister Fluffy 1904"

Granny's Wonderful Chair by Frances Browne with an introduction by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled *The Story of the Lost Fairy Book* (2 copies, 1904 & 1904)

Notes: Copy 1 "My beloved sister's fairy story book – which she built her life on – It was a beautiful one – Loving sister Edith – Plandome Park, L.I. 1924"

Copy 2 "To my dearest Edith with all the love which is always been Frances Hodgson Burnett 1905"

*Fire Damaged

The Shuttle by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1907 Grosset & Dunlop)

Notes: "To Emily from her loving Mother Plandome Park August 20th 1923"

The Shuttle by Frances Hodgson Burnett (2 copies, both 1907 Frederick A. Stokes)

Notes: Copy 1 "Lizzie M. Br???? Xmas, 1907"

Copy 2 "Edith with great love Fluffy 1907"

The Dawn of a To-morrow by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1907)

Notes: "To My best beloved Edith Fluffy (alias) Frances Hodgson Burnett 1907"

The Good Wolf by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1908)

Notes: "To the dear little boy wishing a great many very happy New Years Frances Hodgson Burnett 1909"

"With much love from Frances Hodgson Burnett 1917 E.M. Jordan"

Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1911)

Notes: "Edith M Jordan Plandome Park –L.I. June – 1923"

*Includes photo of Frances Hodgson Burnett glued on inside front cover

*Fire Damaged

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1911)

Notes: "From my dear sister with love – to Edith Frances Hodgson Burnett"

His Grace of Osmonde by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1913)

Notes: "Edith M Jordan Plandome Park, L.I. 1913"

The Dawn of a To-Morrow by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1914)

Notes: N/A

Louisiana The Pretty Sister of Jose by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1914)

Notes: "Edith M Jordan Plandome Park, L.I. 1914"

Surly Tim and Other Stories by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1914)

Notes: *Fire Damaged

The Lost Prince by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1915)

Notes: "Edith M Jordan Plandome Park L.I. 1915"

The Little Hunchback Zia by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1916)

Notes: "Edith Mary Jordan Plandome Park 1916"

The Little Hunchback Zia by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1916)

Notes: "Yours sincerely Frances Hodgson Burnett 1922"

"With all love E. M. Jordan"

*Fire Damaged

The White People by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1917)

Notes: N/A

The Dawn of a To-Morrow by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1919)

Notes: "Yours Sincerely Frances Hodgson Burnett 1922"

"To Frances From Arch March 9, 1922"

"Frances C. Schotte 1922 March 9th"

*Fire Damaged

The Land of the Blue Flower by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1919)

Notes: "Yours Sincerely Frances Hodgson Burnett 1922 To my dear little friend Cecilia E. M. Jordan"

*Fire Damaged

The White People by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1920)

Notes: N/A

The Head of the House of Coombe by Frances Hodgson Burnett (2 copies, both 1922)

Notes: Copy 1 N/A

Copy 2 "To Edith with the love of a lifetime spent together from her sister Frances Hodgson Burnett June 1923"

Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1922)

Notes: "To Emily from her most loving Mother March 16th 1923"

Robin by Frances Hodgson Burnett (1922)

Notes: "To Edith with a lifetime of love from her sister Frances Hodgson Burnett June 22 1923"

The Secret Terror by Frank Hird (1926)

Notes: “Dear Emily this book is to remind you of our pleasant trip to England in 1926. You will remember the writer and his charming wife when you like. Loving Mater Plandome Park Jan 25th 1930”

So You're Going to England! by Clara E. Laughlin (1926)

Notes: “Jordan Fahnestock Plandome Park, L.I. May 5th 1926 sailing on S.S. President Harding”

The Romantick Lady by Vivian Burnett (1927)

Notes: “Dear Emily We all love this book and hope you will. Much can be learnt from it. Keep it for your children. I send you love & good wishes for both of you. Effect??- Mater Plandome Park L.I. Sept 14th 1927”

In Search of Scotland by H. V. Morton (1935)

Notes: “A&F Fahnestock from Emily Xmas 1936”

*Includes pasted in post cards and clippings

In Search of England by H. V. Morton (1936)

Notes: “A&F Fahnestock Plandome Manor LI Xmas 1936 From Emily Hopkins”

*Includes pasted in post cards

T. Tembarom by Frances Hodgson Burnett (ud)

Notes: N/A

The Methods of Lady Wanderhust by Frances Hodgson Burnett (ud)

Notes: “Edith Jordan from her dear sister Frances Hodgson Burnett”

*Printing error – many pages blank