

Finding Aid to the Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials THAX.1

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Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Colby College Special Collections
2011
5150 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, ME, 04941
(207) 859-5150
speccoll@colby.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Colby College Special Collections
Creator	Thaxter, Celia, 1835-1894
Title	Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials.
Date [inclusive]	1851-1984 and undated.
Extent	1.5 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	Celia Loughton Thaxter, 1835-1894, was an American poet and prose writer. The collection contains Thaxter's letters, poems, prose fragments, an unfinished novel, scrapbooks, and first appearances in print.

Preferred Citation note

Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

Biographical Note

Celia Loughton Thaxter, 1835-1894, was an American poet and prose writer. Born Celia Loughton in Portsmouth, N.H., she spent her childhood on White Island Lighthouse, part of Isles of Shoals, and Appledore Island. At 16 she married Levi Thaxter and had three sons, Karl, John, and Roland. The family spent winters on the mainland in Massachusetts, where Celia felt imprisoned by domestic duties in a city house. Her first poem, "Land-locked," was published in 1860 and was an immediate success. Soon she became widely published, with poems appearing in Harper's, Scribner's, and the Atlantic. With the means to spend more time at her family's resort on Appledore Island, she enjoyed visits there from prominent artists, literary figures, and musicians. However, her preferred literary subjects continued to be drawn from the natural world. She is best known today for "An Island Garden" and "Among the Isles of Shoals."

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains Thaxter's letters (1851-1894) to family, friends, various literary figures (such as William Dean Howells, Sarah Orne Jewett, John Greenleaf Whittier) and editors; manuscript poems, prose fragments, an unfinished novel "Romance," as well as scrapbooks, autograph book, and first appearances.

Arrangement note

Materials arranged in six series: Correspondence, Manuscripts, Autographs and Memorabilia, Photographs and Artwork, Published Writings and Related Items, Clippings.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Colby College Special Collections 2011

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials to be used on site during regular Special Collections hours or by appointment. Photocopying or scanning may be possible at discretion of staff for nominal fee. Materials may be protected by copyright.

Provenance and Acquisition Note

Materials acquired via gift, primarily from Rosamond Thaxter.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Letters
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Poetry
- Scrapbooks
- Watercolors (paintings)

Geographic Name(s)

- Isles of Shoals (Me. and N.H.)

Personal Name(s)

- Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920
- Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909
- Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Subject(s)

- Gardeners -- United States
- Languages and Literature
- Poets, American --19th century

Series A: Correspondence.

Collection Inventory

Series A: Correspondence. 1851-1894. 52.0 folders.

Subseries A1: Letters from Celia Thaxter.

Folder A1: to John Albee. 1870-1872. 2 ALS. Appledore, ME and Newtonville, MA. 5 p.

Folder A2: to Alville of Grantis. 1890. 1 ALS. Portsmouth, NH. 2 p.

Folder A3: to Joshua Blake. 1883-1885. 3 ALS. Winthrop, MA and Kittery Point, ME. 7 p.

Folder A4: to Mr. Chandler. 1885. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A5: to Mr. Dearborn. 1874. 1 ANS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A6: to Mary A Dodge. 1867. 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 1 p.

Folder A7: to Theodore J Eastman. 1894. 1 ALS. Portsmouth, NH. 2 p.

Folder A8: Richard W Gilder. 1889. 1 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 1 p.

Folder A9: to Mrs. Goodwin. 1870. 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 4 p.

Folder A10: to Lizzy Greene. 1879. 1 ALS. Kittery Point, ME. 1 p.

Folder A11: to Mrs. George Wallis Haven. 1880. 1 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 1 p. Accompanied by ink sketch by Celia Thaxter.

Folder A12: to Mr. Hayes. Undated. 1 ANS. Newtonville, MA. 1 p.

Subseries A1: Letters from Celia Thaxter.

Folder A13: to Mrs. Hobson. 1870. 1 ANS. Newtonville, MA. 1 p.

Folder A14: to William Dean Howells. Undated. 1 ANS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 1 p.

Folder A15: to Elizabeth Hoxie. 1857-1882 and undated. 10 ALS, 1 ANS. Newtonville, MA, Appledore, ME and Winthrop, MA. 39 p.

Folder A16: to Nannie Hoxie. Undated. 1 ALS. 4 p.

Folder A17: to Mr. Hudson. 1891. 1 ANS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A18: to Anson Jenks. 1867-1868. 2 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 7 p.

Folder A19: to Elizabeth Jenks. 1867-1869 and undated. 3 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 3 p.

Folder A20: to Mary R Jewett. 1883-1886. 3 ALS. Portsmouth, NH. 12 p.

Folder A21: to Sarah Orne Jewett. Undated. 2 ALS. 2 p.

Folder A22: to Kidder Peabody & Co. 1880. 1 ANS. Venice. 1 p.

Folder A23: to Eliza Rymes Loughton. 1861. 1 ALS (OVRSZ). Newton, MA. 4 p.

Folder A24: to Oscar Loughton. 1856. 1 ALS. Newburyport, MA. 4 p.

Folder A25: Lucy Larcom. 1863. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 7 p.

Folder A26: to Mary Lawson. 1857-1869. 4 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 16 p.

Folder A27: to Mrs. Locke. 1882. 1 ANS. Boston MA. 1 p.

Folder A28: to Thomas Neil. 1894. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 2 p.

Folder A29: to Mr. Pratt. 1886. 1 ALS. 1 p.

Subseries A1: Letters from Celia Thaxter.

Folder A30: to Mrs. Rice. 1888. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A31: to Mary Davis Stoddard. 1880. 1 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 2 p.

Folder A32: to John Thaxter. 1876-1885. 51 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH, Boston and Newtonville, MA. 133 p.

Folder A33: to Roland Thaxter. 1869. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 4 p.

Folder A34: to unidentified correspondents. 1866-1894 and undated. 10 ALS, 1 ANS. Newton, Newtonville, Boston, MA, Portsmouth, NH and Appledore, ME. 28 p.

Folder A35: to unidentified correspondent. 1886. 1 ALS. 1 p. Removed from: An Island Garden by Celia Thaxter, Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, 1894, copy 2.

Folder A36: to Jennie M Usher. 1851. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 4 p.

Folder A37: to C F Waters. 1886. 1 ALS. Boston, MA. 1 p.

Folder A38: to Mr. Weeks. 1887. 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 2 p.

Folder A39: to John Weiss. 1871-1875. 10 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH, Newtonville, MA and Montpelier, VT. 31 p. Letters dated 17 October, 28 October and 22 November 1874 have original watercolors by Celia Thaxter.

Folder A40: to Mabel Weiss. 1870-1874 7 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH and Newtonville, MA. 25 p.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (1/5). 1851-1875. 72 ALS. Appledore, ME and Newton, MA. 352 p.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (2/5). 1851-1875.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (3/5). 1851-1875.

Subseries A2: Letters to Celia Thaxter.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (4/5). 1851-1875.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (5/5). 1851-1875.

Folder A42: to Rosamund Dana Weld. 1893-1894. 3 ALS. Appledore, ME and Portsmouth, NH. 2 p.

Folder A43: to Elizabeth Whittier. 1869. 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 4 p.

Folder A44: to John Greenleaf Whittier. 1872. 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 2 p.

Folder A45: to Y C Eds [Youth's Companion editors]. 1877. 1 ALS. 1 p. Removed from: The Yule Log by Celia Thaxter, L Prang, Boston, 1889.

Subseries A2: Letters to Celia Thaxter.

From Mary Elizabeth (Mapes) Dodge. 1889 1 ALS. New York, NY. 1 p.

From James Thomas Fields. 1874. 1 ALS. Boston, MA. 2 p.

From John Greenleaf Whittier. 1876. Holograph ms. 1 p. In: Mabel Martin by John Greenleaf Whittier, Osgood, Boston, 1876.

Series B: Manuscripts. 7.0 folders.

Folder B1: European Notes. 1880. 2 p.

Folder B2: Poem in Heavenly Guest. Undated. 25 p.

Folder B3: Poems in Poems by Celia Thaxter. 1896. 20 p.

Series C: Autographs and Memorabilia.

Folder B4: Poems, miscellaneous (1/2). Undated. 13 poems.

Folder B4: Poems, miscellaneous (2/2). Undated. 15 poems.

Folder B5: Prose fragments (3). Undated. 8 p.

Folder B6: Romance. Undated. 53 p.

Series C: Autographs and Memorabilia. 4.0 folders.

Folder C1: Autographs. Undated. 3 items.

Folder C2: Autograph on silk. Undated. 1 item. "Celia Thaxter Appledore Isles of Shoals Maine" inscribed on piece of silk pasted on a card.

Folder C3: Poems in scrapbook. Undated. 1 volume, 28 p. Celia Thaxter's own scrapbook containing 70 poems by her and miscellaneous clippings related to her.

Folder C4: Scrapbook titled "Celia Thaxter 1835-1894." Undated. 1 volume (BOUND). Contains clippings, Thaxter autographs, Thaxter poem (ms)"O Happy Holy Easter Morn!", Thaxter letters, photos, postcards, watercolor sketch.

Series D: Photographs and Artwork. 3.0 folders.

Folder D1: Photographs. 1851-1886 and undated. 29 items. Photographs of Celia Thaxter and family members. Various formats: photographic prints, negatives and slides.

Folder D2: Photograph album of European trip. ca. 1880 1 volume (BOUND).

Series E: Published Writings and Related Items.

Folder D3: Print of ink sketch by Harry Fenn. 1869? 1 item. Mounted print. On verso: "Celia Thaxter before her drift-wood fire at Appledore, Isels of Shoals 1868. From an india ink sketch by Harry Fenn of Boston. (Whittier sat in an arm chair at the right of the fire place evenings when he came up to enjoy the fire)." "E L Allen 24 N Temple Place Boston" [engraver or printer?]

Series E: Published Writings and Related Items. 5.0 folders.

Folder E1: First appearances (various titles). 1875. (See First Appearances). Title list: A Memorable Murder; The Sandpiper; Single Little Bird; miscellaneous other titles.

Folder E2: List of contributions to Youth's Companion.

Folder E3: Records of payment from Scribner & Co. 1876. 1 item. Payment for "Song" (poem).

Folder E4: Sleep Sweetly, Gentle Soul. Before or during 1926. 1 p. Poem. "Dedicated to 'Uncle Oscar'." Autograph of Alice Noerr Sherburne, Star Island, 1926.

Folder E5: Stamp for publisher's binding for An Island Garden. 1904. 1 item. (See MS Folio/Art storage). An Island Garden was published by Houghton Mifflin (Boston), 1904.

Series F: Clippings. 1896-1938. 1.0 folders.
