Guide to the Ina Donna Coolbrith Collection of Letters and Papers, [ca. 1865-1928]

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Note
History --History, California --GeneralArts and Humanities --Literature --American Literature

Note
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Guide to the Ina Donna Coolbrith Collection of Letters and Papers, [ca. 1865-1928]

Collection number: BANC MSS C-H 23

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Ina Donna Coolbrith Collection of Letters and Papers,
Date (inclusive): [ca. 1865-1928]
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 23
Creator: Coolbrith, Ina Donna, 1842-1928
Extent: Number of containers: 9 boxes and 1 portfolio.
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Correspondence; manuscripts of poems, including poems set to music; some accounts; clippings, including a scrapbook of Ambrose Bierce items; programs, invitations and miscellaneous papers.
Languages Represented: English

Access
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Preferred Citation
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Title: Ina Donna Coolbrith Papers: Additions,

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 70/117 c

Biographical Sketch
Ina Donna Coolbrith was born Josephine D. Smith on March 10, 1842, near Springfield, Illinois. Her parents were Agnes Coolbrith and Don Carlos Smith, brother of Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet. After the death of her father, she went with her mother to live in St. Louis. There her mother married a newspaper man named William Pickett and shortly after the gold rush the Pickett family migrated to California. Ina supposedly entered California in the summer of 1851 on the saddle of James P. Beckwourth -the first white child to cross the Sierra Nevadas over the Beckwourth Pass. The family settled eventually in Los Angeles, and it was there she received her formal schooling. She began writing verses when she was 11 and saw them published in the local papers under the nom-de-plume, Ina.

On September 9, 1858, she married Robert B. Carsley, a partner in the Salamander Iron Works, but the marriage ended in divorce three years later on December 30, 1861. After her marital tragedy, she moved to San Francisco and took for her name her mother's maiden name, Coolbrith, combined with her nom-de-plume, Ina.

Contributing frequently to local magazines and Papers, she gained considerable recognition as a poetess. During the early years of the Overland Monthly she worked closely with Bret Harte, its editor, and Charles Warren Stoddard. Their association was so close they became known as the "Golden Gate Trinity."

Miss Coolbrith made her living not as a poetess but as a librarian. From 1874-93 she worked in the Oakland Public Library; from 1897-1906, in the library of the San Francisco Bohemian Club. Three volumes of her poems appeared, however, between 1881 and 1895: A Perfect Bay and Other Poems (1881); The Singer of the Sea (1894); and Songs from the Golden Gate (1895).

When the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was held in San Francisco in 1915, she was the president of its World Congress of Authors and Journalists. In the same year she was crowned poet laureate of California, pursuant to an act of the state legislature.

In poor health during most of the later years of her life, Miss Coolbrith died in Berkeley, California, Feb. 29, 1928.

Scope and Content
Most of the Coolbrith papers were acquired as gifts from Mrs. Finlay Cook (Miss Coolbrith's niece) and Mrs. Milton Ray. The Thomas W. Norris Collection also included a significant amount of Coolbrith material. Other items were received as gifts from Mrs. N. Beck and Hobart M. Lovett, and purchased from Ina Graham, from D. Castro and Mary L. Bennett. Some letters in the custody of the Oakland Public Library were loaned for photocopy, courtesy of Mrs. Josephine Rhodehamel. The source of all items in the collection, other than the Ray-Cook gifts, is noted.

The papers are in 9 boxes and 1 portfolio, and they cover the period 1865-1928. Most of them, however, date from the period after 1906 since Miss Coolbrith lost most of her possessions in the San Francisco fire. The papers consist mainly of correspondence but include also manuscripts of poems, clippings, and miscellaneous items. Letters to Miss Coolbrith are arranged alphabetically, and names of principal correspondents appear in the manuscripts catalog. An index to all correspondents is included with this report. Cards have also been placed in the catalog for other items of note. Photographs are filed separately in the portrait file (see Coolbrith -PORs. Portrait Collections)

N.B. There is additional Coolbrith material in Archives.

Boxes 1-6
Letters received by Ina Coolbrith
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
Key to Arrangement

**Box 6**

**Letters written by Ina Coolbrith, 1881-1927**

Additional Note
Arranged chronologically.

Included are letters (or copies thereof) to Edna R. Aiken, Thomas R. Bannerman, John Henry Boalt, Albert Brecknock, Eleanor M. Davenport, Jeanne Francoeur, Elizabeth Gerberding, Robert Norman, Mrs. Herbert Feet, the Spinners' Club, Marian Taylor, Herman Whitaker, Regina Wilson and others.

**Letters about Ina Coolbrith**

Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by the writer of the letter.


**Box 7**

**Letters re The Spinners' Book of Fiction, and the Spinners' benefit fund for Ina Coolbrith.**

Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by the writer of the letter.

Included are letters to Herman Whitaker from Isobel Osbourne Strong Field, Mary Hallock Foote, James Hopper, Miriam Michelson, Bailey Millard, William Chambers Morrow, Henry Milner Rideout, George Sterling, and Regina Wilson; and 3 letters from Whitaker to Mrs. W. S. Howard.

**Letters to Ina Peterson Cook (Mrs. Finley Cook), 1918-1930.**

Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Include letters from C. M. Colwell, Elmer E. Nichols, George Sterling, Cussie Stewart and Albert van der Naillen.

**Manuscripts of Coolbrith poems**

Additional Note
2 folders, contents arranged alphabetically by title of poem, and a scrapbook of poems published in the *Overland Monthly*, 1869-1875, and in other places.

**Copies of Coolbrith poems printed on leaflets or on cards.**

**Manuscripts of poems dedicated to or submitted to Ina Coolbrith.**

Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by author.

Include poems written by Clay M. Greene, Charles Keeler, Ormeida Keeler, Kate Kennedy, Theodore Maynard, Nathan Newmark, Herman Scheffauer, Ethel Talbot Scheffauer and Clark Ashton Smith.

Also included is a scrapbook collection of poems dedicated to Miss Coolbrith by the Literature Department of the San Jose Women's Club, 1907, with contributions from George Wharton James, Joaquin Miller, Charles Warren Stoddard, Herbert Bashford, George Sterling, Henry Meade Bland, Charles A. Keeler, Clarence Urmy and others.
Miscellaneous Items.

Additional Note
Included are the following: manuscript of a tribute to Joaquin Miller, written by Miss Coolbrith, fragmentary Coolbrith writings; manuscript of an article, Literary Merchandise, by Gertrude Atherton, sent to Senator James D. Phelan and forwarded by him to Miss Coolbrith; tribute to Miss Coolbrith given at California Writers' Club, Oct. 6, 1925, by Mary Bird Clayes; tribute to Miss Coolbrith at Industrial Exposition, San Francisco, 1925; copies of proposed amendments to the constitution of the Spinners' Coolbrith Fund and the publication of The Spinners' Book of Fiction; an unidentified letter re Ambrose Bierce; an unidentified manuscript re Charles Warren Stoddard and Samuel Clemens; bills, invoices, receipts, etc. for expenditures on Miss Coolbrith's house.

Box 8

Clippings.

Additional Note
Included are clippings of Miss Coolbrith's poems and about her, Ambrose Bierce, George Sterling, Nora May French, Alice Kingsbury Cooley, Luther Burbank, Joaquin Miller, Herman Whitaker, Edwin Markham, Gertrude Atherton, Josephine Wompner McCrackin and others; scrapbook of clippings re Ambrose Bierce.

Box 9

Christmas cards, postcards, programs, invitations, etc.

Manuscript and published copies of Coolbrith poems set to music.

Additional Note
Include songs composed by Adolph M. Foerster, Henry Bockford Pasmore, Mabel Dey Emerson, Mrs. Watkin G. Powell, Edith Haines Kuester, David Proctor, Flora Bullock, Alicia Adelaide Needham, Amy M. C. Beach (Mrs. H. H. A. Beach) and George Henschel.

Adams, Lady Agnes A.
1 letter, Sept. 3, 1925

Ahrens, Catherine & Marie
1 letter, Dec. 15, 1926

Alderson, William Atkinson, 1856-
1 letter, Dec. 4, 1913

Allen, Lyman Whitney, 1854-1930
2 letters, Jan.-Feb. 1921

Allen Clipping Service
1 card, n.d.

The American Forestry Association
1 letter, Aug. 12, 1925

Anderson, Mrs. J. F.
1 letter, Nov. 24, 1914

Anderson, Melville Best, 1851-1933
1 letter, Feb. 26, 1926

Anderson, Millie
2 postcards, 1914

Andrews, Maurice
2 letters, 1925-26

Anthony, Sister
2 letters, 1912 & 1927

Argonne School, Children of the 8th grade
1 letter, Mar. 10, 1927

Armes, William Dallam, 1860-1918
2 letters, 1913 & n.d.

Atherton, Gertrude Franklin (Horn), 1857-1948
12 letters, 1907-19

Austin, Mary (Hunter), 1868-1934
2 letters, May-June 1906
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<td>Aydelotte, Etta L.</td>
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<td>Bail, Laura P.</td>
<td>1 letter, Apr. 24, 1924</td>
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<td>Bangs, John Kendrick,</td>
<td>1 letter, Dec. 13, 1920</td>
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<td>Barr, James A[dam],</td>
<td>1 letter, 1915-1916</td>
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<td>Barry, John Daniel,</td>
<td>2 letters, Feb.-Mar. 1926</td>
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<td>Bashford, Herbert,</td>
<td>3 letters, 1920-26</td>
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<td>Bates, Dudley Conant</td>
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<td>Beach, Amy Marcy</td>
<td>3 letters, 1920-25</td>
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<td>Beals, Jessie Tarbox</td>
<td>2 letters, Nov. 1920 &amp; n.d.</td>
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<td>Bean, Joel</td>
<td>1 letter, Dec. 18, 1907</td>
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<td>Beasley, Thomas Dykes</td>
<td>2 letters, Mar.-May 1915</td>
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<td>Bender, Albert Maurice,</td>
<td>3 post cards, 1921-26</td>
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<td>Benedict, Charles E.</td>
<td>1 letter, Mar. 29, 1927. Enclosed is a letter from Clara Ainsworth to Mr. Benedict.</td>
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<td>Berkeley Pen Women</td>
<td>1 letter, Mar. 10, 1927</td>
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<td>Beverley?, Tracy</td>
<td>1 letter, Aug. 18, 1926</td>
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<td>Blanchard, Amy Ella, d.</td>
<td>Note with greeting, n.d.</td>
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<td>Bland, Henry Meade,</td>
<td>2 letters, 1911-1926</td>
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<td>Block, Louis James,</td>
<td>2 letters, June 21, 1927 &amp; n.d.</td>
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<td>Boalt, Elizabeth J.</td>
<td>8 letters, 1908-16 [one undated]</td>
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<td>Bodkin, Matthias McDonnell</td>
<td>1 letter, May 17, 1915</td>
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<td>Bond, Genevieve</td>
<td>1 post card, Dec. 22, 1919</td>
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<td>Bonner, Geraldine,</td>
<td>1 letter, June 13, 1906</td>
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<td>Borland, Margaret</td>
<td>1 letter, July 15, 1925</td>
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<td>Borle, Mrs. C. (&quot;Gussie&quot;)</td>
<td>1 letter, n.d.</td>
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<td>Briggs, Annie Frances</td>
<td>2 letters, 1896-99</td>
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<td>Brooks, Fred Emerson,</td>
<td>Note, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown, Annie Florence</td>
<td>1 letter, Jan. 13, 1917</td>
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<td>Bunnell, Kate M.</td>
<td>1 letter, May 10, 1906</td>
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2 post cards
Burbank, Luther, 1849-1926
   1 letter, Dec. 9, 1907
Busch, Eva E.
   1 letter, May 24, 1927
California Federation of Women's Clubs
   1 letter, Jan. 25, 1926
Carnegie-Prior, Winifred
   1 post card, Sept. 5, 1916
Carpenter, W. M.
   1 letter, Nov. 29, 1925
Carruth, Charles Walter, 1855-1924
   2 letters, 1911 & 1922
Channon, Vesta Westover
   1 letter, Aug. 17, 1925
Chapple, Bennet
   1 letter, Jan. 26, 1916
Chase, Amanda (Matthews), 1866-
   1 letter, n.d.
Cheney, Warren, 1858-1921
   1 letter, Apr. 6, 1911
Church, William Conant, 1836-1917
   1 letter, Oct. 13, 1915
Clark, May
   1 letter, Feb. 5, 1908
Clayes, Mary Bird
   1 letter, Feb. 13, 1927
Clemens, William Montgomery, 1860-1931
   1 letter, Feb. 13, 1921
Cole, George Watson, 1850-1939
   1 letter, Dec. 20, 1926
Cole, Laura W.
   2 letters, Jan. & July 1920
Collier, Julia
   1 letter, July 5, 1922
   3 post cards
Collins, May D.
   3 post cards, 1908-17
Connor, Torrey, 1869-
   3 letters, 1921-25 [one undated]
Cook, Ina (Peterson)
   2 post cards, 1912
Cooley, Alice Kingsbury, d. 1910
   5 letters, 1907-1909
Cooper, Alice Cecilia, 1895-
   1 letter, Sept. 8, 1926
Cowan, Robert Ernest, 1862-1942
   1 letter, Sept. 17, 1926
Cowell, Henriette
   1 post card, Dec. 1910
Crawford, Helen
   Post card, Aug. 4, 1926
Crider, Bess Mary
   Letter, Apr. 1, 1926
Cull, [John] [Augustine]
   1 post card, Dec. 16, 1912
Curry, Thomas A.
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[ca. 1865-1928]
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<td>Dec. 14, 1926</td>
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<td>Field, Salisbury</td>
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<td>Fitch, George Hamlin,</td>
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<td>Foerster, Adolph</td>
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<td>Foote, Mary Hallock</td>
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<td>Forbes, Mary E.</td>
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<td>Foote, Jeanne Robert</td>
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<td>France, Ambassador</td>
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<td>Gaines (?), Anna B.</td>
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<td>Graham, Gladys Wilmot</td>
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<td>Graham, Ina Agnes</td>
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Graham, Laura E.
   1 letter, May 25?, 1927
Grant, John T.
   1 letter, Jan. 2, 1926
Graupner, Elise Wenzelburger
   1 letter, May 24, 1912
Grierson, Francis, 1848-1927
   1 letter, Mar. 28, 1914
Guild, Caroline L.
   1 post card, Dec. 24, 1909
Guiney, Louise Imogen, 1861-1920
   1 letter, Mar. 16, 1914
Hanotaux, Gabriel, 1853-1944
   1 post card, 1918
Hardy, Iza Duffus, d. 1922
   5 letters, 1909-13
Harmon, Orrin E.
   1 letter, July 21, 1907
Harriman, Alice, 1861-1925
   1 letter, Oct. 10, 1925
Harriman, Amy
   1 letter, Oct. 3, 1919
Hart, Mary E.
   1 letter, July 8, 1913
Harte, Bret, 1836-1902
   24 letters, 1865-1870 (14, n.d.)
Harwood, Ruth, 1896-
   3 letters, 1926-27 (one undated)
Hawkins, Sir Anthony Hope, 1863-1933
   1 letter, Mar. 6, 1914
Hayden, Rita I.
   1 letter, Sept. 10, 1925
Hearst, Phoebe Apperson, 1842-1919
   1 letter, Sept. 15, 1913
Heim, Marjory
   1 letter, Apr. 28, 1927
Helker, Mrs. J. A.
   1 post card, n.d.
Hichens, Robert Smythe, 1864-1950
   1 letter, May 30, 1915
Higginson, Ella (Rhoads) 1862-1940
   1 letter, July 1, 1907
Hoffman, Carl, 1882-1946
   1 letter, Oct. 16, 1923
Hopper, James Marie, 1876-1956
   1 letter, Dec. 16, 1907
Horton, Marion L.
   1 letter, Mar. 12, 1916
Houghton (H. O.) & Co.
   3 letters, 1913-14
Houghton Mifflin Co.
   8 letters, 1914-25. Three letters signed by Ferris Greenslet, 1875-
Howard, Katherine
   1 letter, Dec. 67, 1915
Howells, Mildred, 1872-
   1 letter, Apr. 15, 1922
Howells, William Dean, 1837-1919
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2 letters, 1913 & 1919
Hudson, Millard F.
   1 letter, Jan. 18, 1898
Hyman, Eva
   1 letter, May 4, 1926
Hyne, Charles John Cutcliffe Wright, 1865-1944
   1 letter, May 28, 1915
Inskeep, Lorenzo D.
   1 letter, June 10, 1913
Irvine, William
   1 letter, Nov. 29, 1919
Irwin, Beatrice
   1 letter, June 30, 1915
James, George Wharton, 1858-1923
   1 letter, n.d.
Jenney, Charles Elmer
   1 letter, June 1, 1918
Jones, Nettie R.
   1 letter, June 27, 1906
Jordan, Modeste Hannis
   1 letter, Dec. 13, 1921
Joseph of the Angels, Sister
   1 letter, n.d. Written on back of an Easter card.
Kearfott, Robert
   1 letter, Apr. 4, 1922
Keeler, Charles Augustus, 1871-1937
   3 letters, 3 post cards, 1906-20
Keeler, Louisa Mapes (Bunnell), d. 1907
   1 letter, May 20, 1906
Keith, William, 1839-1911
   1 letter, n.d.
Kellogg, Iphigenia
   1 letter, Apr. 7, 1926
Kendall, Carlton
   1 post card, n.d.
Kennedy, Kate
   2 post cards, 1908-09
Kinross, Albert, 1870-1929
   2 letters, 1921-23
Kline, Burton, 1877-
   4 letters, 1913-21 [one undated]
Kozlay, Charles Meeker
   1 letter, Sept. 3, 1919
Kranz, Julian
   1 letter, Jan. 3, 1918
Kuhn, Leslie E.
   1 letter, June 11, 1920
Laguna, Frederica de
   2 letters, Feb.-Mar. 1923
Lahiff, James T.
   Post card, Mar. 1917
Lambert, Mary
   Greetings written on the back of printed verses, "Ego-Flight" & "To a Friend," 1915 & 1926
Laughnam, Nellie M.
   1 letter, Oct. 25, 1917
Lawrence, Mary Viola (Tingley), 1849-
Leavens, Julia Pauline
  1 letter, Feb. 27, 1914
Leavitt, Mrs. F. W.
  Letter, Oct. 4, 1921
Laczynsky, Hannah L.
  1 post card, 1913
Leeds, M. V.
  1 letter, Nov. 22, 1920
Lehmer, Derrick Norman, 1867-1938
  1 letter, Mar. 10, 1927
Lehmer, Eunice (Mitchell)
  4 letters, 1 post card, 1924-27
Lemmon, Sara Allen Plummer, 1836-
  2 post cards, 1910
Leonard, M. Annie
  1 post card, 1915
Leslie, Miriam Florence (Folline), ca. 1836-1914
  2 letters, 1911-12. Written by an amanuensis with corrections by Mrs. Leslie.
Lloyd, D. R.
  1 letter, June 26, 1923
Logan, Mary Simmerson (Cunningham) 1838-1923
  1 letter, Feb. 26, 1914
Loynaz del Castillo, Enrique
  4 letters, June-Dec. 1915
Lummis, Charles Fletcher, 1859-1928
  1 letter, Nov. 18, 1912
Lynch, Jeremiah, 1849-1917
  1 letter, July 25, 1911
M. Rosalia, Sister
  1 card, Apr. 26, 1916
Macaulay, Fannie Caldwell 1863-1941
  1 letter, Nov. 13, 1914
McClymond, Mr. & Mrs.
  2 post cards, 1909
McCoy, Mary Hester
  1 letter, Feb. 18, 1926
McCrackin, Mrs. Josephine (Womper) Clifford, 1838-1920
  Visiting card with note on reverse, n.d.
MacDonald, Wilson, 1880-
  5 letters, 1914-16
McGaw, Baldwin
  Letter, Aug. 29, 1922
McGaw, John & Son
  Letter, Nov. 2, 1926
McGroarty, John Steven, 1862-1944
  1 letter, Aug. 22, 1913
Mackintosh, Charlotte H.
  1 letter, May 7, 1920
Macmillan Co.
  1 letter, Aug. 21, 1926
Markham, Anna Catherine
  5 letters, 1921-22
Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940
  2 letters, 1914 & 1922
Marossi, Maye Kewin
  Note written on envelope, n.d.
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<td>Matthews, Brander</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Dec. 8, 1920</td>
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<td>Mavity, Nancy Barr, 1890-</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Nov. 1921</td>
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<td>Maxwell, H. M.</td>
<td>Letter</td>
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<td>Mietzner, Mrs. M. V.</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>May 1925</td>
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<td>Letter</td>
<td>July 13, 1914</td>
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<td>Telegram</td>
<td>1882</td>
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<td>Michte, Lischen, 1812-1914</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>1912-14</td>
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<td>Mitchell, Ruth Comfort, 1882-1913</td>
<td>Telegram</td>
<td>1927</td>
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<td>Monroe, Harriet, 1860-1936</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Sept. 25, 1919</td>
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<td>Monson, Joyce Shelton</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Mar. 10, 1926</td>
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<td>Moore, Charles Caldwell, 1868-1932</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>June 26, 1916</td>
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<td>Moore, Henry Staats</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>1919-27</td>
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<td>Nahl, June Connor</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>Nash, John Henry</td>
<td>Letter</td>
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