Overview of the Collection

Title: Samuel L. Clemens-Frances N. Winzer Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1907-1910

Collection Number: mssHM 48450-48492; mssFAC 1023

Creator: Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910.

Extent: approximately 50 pieces in 1 box

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection contains forty pieces of correspondence from American author Samuel Langhorne Clemens (also known as Mark Twain) to teenager Frances Nunnally Wizner (1891-1981), dating from 1907 to 1910.

Language: English.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Samuel L. Clemens-Frances N. Winzer Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Material Transferred
Additional photographs are in the Photographic Collections of the Rare Book Department; they include formal portraits and photographs taken on shipboard.

Access
RESTRICTED. Items available with curatorial approval. Requires extended retrieval and delivery time.
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Historical Note
In June 1907, American author Samuel Clemens travelled to England to receive an honorary degree from Oxford University. One of his shipmates for the Atlantic crossing was Frances Nunnally (later Wizner) (1891-1981), the daughter of J. H. Nunnally, an Atlanta candy manufacturer. The teenaged school girl and the 71-year-old writer became acquainted and, discovering they were staying in the same London hotel, Clemens escorted the young girl, whom he called Francesca, on visits and social calls. Back in the United States, their friendship continued, and Nunnally became part of Clemens’s group of young women, nicknamed the “Angelfish,” whom Clemens treated as honorary grandchildren. Two years after the friendship began, Frances asked Clemens to speak at her graduation. He agreed and, in June 1909, left his Redding, Connecticut, home and journeyed to Catonsville, Maryland, to be the commencement speaker at St. Timothy’s school for young women. His address included this advice (much quoted in the contemporary press) to the young ladies: "Don’t smoke, drink, or marry -- that is, to excess." While in Maryland, Clemens for the first time suffered the chest pains of the heart ailment that would result in his death less than a year later on April 21, 1910, at the age of 74. The affectionate correspondence between Clemens and his young friend continued until shortly before his death.

Scope and Content
This collection contains forty pieces of correspondence from American author Samuel Langhorne Clemens (also known as Mark Twain) to teenager Frances Nunnally Wizner (1891-1981), dating from 1907 to 1910.

Collection includes several interesting items including: photographs of Samuel Clemens and Frances N. Winzer (HM 48476, HM 48492); manuscript by Clemens entitled "The Aquarium" (FAC 1023); letter of 1908, Dec. 9 where Clemens discusses a John Milton celebration he regrets having declined; he mentions in particular the teasing of William Dean Howells he will miss by not attending the event (HM 48477); letter of 1909, July 15, discusses Clemens’ thoughts about his recently-diagnosed heart condition (HM 48486); clippings from Atlanta newspapers about Clemens and Winzer, 1910, Apr.
22 (HM 48491).
• Samuel Langhorne Clemens Collection

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in the following 2 series:
Series I. Correspondence
Series II. Photographs and miscellaneous materials

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910 -- Archives.
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910 -- Photographs.
Winzer, Frances Nunnally, approximately 1892-1982 -- Photographs.
Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920.
Milton, John, 1608-1674.
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910 -- Archives.
Authors, American -- Archives.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th century.

Contributors
Winzer, Frances Nunnally, approximately 1892-1982, correspondent.

Collection
Access Information
RESTRICTED. Items available with curatorial approval. Requires extended retrieval and delivery time.

Correspondence.
Arrangement
Items arranged chronologically.

HM 48450. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. [1907 July 7].


HM 48453. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1907 September 25


HM 48457.  Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1907 November 27.


HM 48466.  Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1908 March 14-16.


HM 48471. Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1908 June 6


   A.L.S. 4 p. Redding, Connecticut. With envelope. Accompanied by three postcards of Clemens and his home in Redding, with autograph notes on each, and two snapshots of Clemens with Winzer, [September 1908].


HM 48481.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 March 28.**  

HM 48482.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 April 29.**  

HM 48483.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 May 18.**  

HM 48484.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 June 7.**  

HM 48485.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 June 18.**  

HM 48486.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 July 15.**  

HM 48487.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 August 27.**  

HM 48488.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 September 27.**  

HM 48489.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 December 14.**  

HM 48490.  **Samuel Langhorne Clemens letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1909 December**  
A.N.S. on postcard. [Hamilton], Bermuda.

HM 48491.  **Walter Hyams and Co. letter to Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. 1910 April 22.**  
L. 1 p. (typewritten) Atlanta, Georgia. With envelope and ten clippings.

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**Photographs and miscellaneous materials.**

FAC 1023.  **The Aquarium [photocopy]. 1908**  
Photocopy (A.M.S.S.) 12 p. Redding, Connecticut. Photocopy of rules and regulations for a club formed by Clemens ("Curator" or "Admiral of the Aquarium") and several schoolgirl friends ("Members of the Aquarium."). Also contains a signature on a page from a calendar.
HM 48492. Photograph of Samuel Langhorne Clemens and Frances (Nunnally) Winzer. [1909 June 10]

Snapshot 3 1/4 x 5 1/2" [Catonsville, Maryland] Photograph of Clemens and Winzer taken at Winzer's graduation from St. Timothy's school, when Clemens addressed the graduating class. Also: a photograph of Winzer and three other graduates.

Ephemera

5 items. Two envelopes addressed to Winzer by Clemens, December 22, 1908, and April 8, 1909, both postmarked Redding, Connecticut; an envelope addressed to Walter Hyams and Co.; and a clipping on Clemens' death, with envelope.