Guide to the Norman Foerster Papers, 1918-1940

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Guide to the Norman Foerster Papers, 1918-1940

Collection number: M0173

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Norman Foerster Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1918-1940
Collection number: Special Collections M0173
Creator: Foerster, Norman, 1887-
Extent: 3 linear ft.
Repository: Stanford University Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.
Language: English.

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Provenance
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[Identification of item] Norman Foerster Papers, M0173, Dept. of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Biographical Note
FOERSTER, NORMAN, 1887-present
Scope and Content
Letters and manuscripts, 1918-1940, pertaining to New Humanism movement of the 1920’s. New Humanism is a philosophical and critical movement that flourished in the U.S. under the leadership of Irving Babbitt and Paul E. More, whose 1929-1930 articles and correspondence with Foerster comprise the bulk of the collection. Foerster and T.S. Eliot were members of the movement which stressed the human ethical elements of existence, as distinguished from the supernatural or animal elements. Collection includes prepublication drafts, clippings, research notes, and correspondence; a total of 1,000 items in 5 boxes.

Box 1, Folder 1

CORRESPONDENCE
   Physical Description: T.L.S. (open letter)
2. 1918, Oct. 3, Karl Young to G. R. Elliot on curriculum for Ph.D.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
3. 1918, Nov. 8, William W. Lawrence to G.R. Elliott, curriculum for Ph.D.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
4. 1918, Nov. 11, Percy Boyton to N. Foerster, on Ph.D. requirements.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
5. 1918, Nov. 20, Karl Young to N.F. on Ph.D. program.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
6. 1918, Nov. 26, W.G. Howard to N.F. on the Ph.D.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
7. 1918, Dec. 2, H.M. Jones to N.F. on the Ph.D.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
8. 1918, Dec. 31, J.W. Cunliffe to N.F. on the Ph.D.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
9. 1919, Feb. 15, Byron J. Rees to N.F. on the Ph.D.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,
10. 1919, Feb 21, C.L. Maxey to N.F. on the Ph.D.
    Physical Description: T.L.S.,
11. 1919, Feb. 28, E.P. Dargan to N.F. on the Ph.D.
    Physical Description: A.L.S.,
12. 1919, Mar 1, W.B. Cairns to N.F. on the Ph.D.
    Physical Description: T.L.S.,
13. 1919, April 5, John M. Manly to N.F. on the Ph.D.
    Physical Description: T.L.S.,
    Note
    N.F.’s note: typical of the leadership of the time, I agree, but...
14. 1919, April 19,G.R. Elliot to N.F., criticism of N.F.’s concept of humanism as reasoned but superficial.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

15. 1919, May 17,G.R. Elliot to N.F., completeness and control.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

**Box 1, Folder 2**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 1928, Sept. 22,N.F. to P.H. Frye, invitation to write in humanistic manifesto (Humanism and America).
   Physical Description: T.L.,

2. 1928, Oct. 6,P.H. Frye to N.F., prevented from contributing by health.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

3. 1929, Jan. 4,N. F. to L.A.J. Mercier, needs date of article.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

5. 1929, Jan. 15,N.F. to L.A.J. Mercier, on the symposium.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

6. 1929, Jan. 29,N.F. to P.H. Frye, states that Frye need not commit himself.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

7. 1929, Feb. 4,P.H. Frye, to N.F., will attempt contribution.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

8. 1929, Feb. 11,L.A.J. Mercier to N.F., on the symposium’s bibliography.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

9. 1929, Feb 12,N.F. to P.H. Frye, agrees on suggested subject--education.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

    Physical Description: T.L.,

    Physical Description: A.L.S.,

    Physical Description: A.L.S.,

    Physical Description: T.L.,

    Physical Description: T.L.,

15. 1929, Sept. 7,P.H. Frye to N.F. on his progress.
    Physical Description: A.L.S.,
16. 1929, Oct. 26, N.F. to P.H. Frye, last chance
     Physical Description: T.L.,

17. 1929, Oct 31, N.F. to P.H. Frye, possible divergence in views.
     Physical Description: T.L.,

18. 1929, Nov. 7, P.H. Frye to N.F., essay remains half-done.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

19. 1929, Dec 2, N.F. to P.H. Frye, suggests putting sophist essay in Forum or
     Bookman when completed.
     Physical Description: T.L.,

Box 1, Folder 3

CORRESPONDENCE

1. 1930, Jan. 5, Austin Warren to N.F., relays Babbitt’s criticism.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

2. 1930, Jan. 15, Henry S. Canby to N.F., seeking a position.
     Physical Description: T.L.S.,

3. 1930, Jan 23, Odell Shepard to N.F., comment on speeches before the M.L.A.
     Physical Description: T.L.S.,

4. 1930, Feb. 22, Austin Warren to N.F., on Humanism and America, which had been
     published.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

5. 1930, March 3, N.F. to Austin Warren.
     Physical Description: T.L.,

6. 1930, March 5, Austin Warren to N.F., hopeless to save M.L.A. for humanism.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

7. 1930, March 7, the undersigned--32 in number--to the Literary Editor, group of
     antihumanists asking for mention of a single contemporary work of art produced or
     approved by an American Humanist.
     Physical Description: T.L.,

8. 1930, March 28, Harry H. Clark to N.F., suggestions for head of N.F.’s department.
     Physical Description: T.L.S.,

     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

10. 1930, April 22, Austin Warren to W.F., wants advice.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

11. 1930, April 28, Austin Warren to N.F., congratulations on appointment as director of
     Iowa’s School of Letters.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,

12. 1930, May 3, Nowell Smith to N.F., advocates peaceful pursuasion.
     Physical Description: A.L.S.,
13. 1930, May 3, N.F. to Odell Shepard, congratulations on essay in Bookman.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

14. 1930, June 9, N.F. to L.A.J. Mercier, congratulations on essay in COMMONWEAL.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

16. 1930, June 12, Austin Warren to N.F., has been taken in by the Bookman.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

17. 1930, June 16, N.F. to Austin Warren.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

18. 1930, June 17, N.F. to Odell Shepard, on [UNK] the M.L.A.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

19. 1930, June 18, Austin Warren to N.F.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

20. 1930, Oct 16, Odell Shepard to N.F., appointment in M.L.A.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

21. 1930, election day, T.L., N.F. to Odell Shepard, renews offer for Shepard to teach at Chapel Hill.

22. 1930, Nov. 8, W.T. Couch to Hazlitt, [UNK] about The Nation’s policy towards humanism, especially with reference to review of N.F.’s Toward Standards.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

23. 1930, Nov. 8, W.T. Couch to N.F. about letter to Hazlitt which had been enclosed (item 22 in this folder).
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

24. 1930, Nov. 9, Odell Shepard to NF, a no to summer teaching.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

25. 1930, Nov. 10, Henry Hazlett to W.T. Couch useless to talk about what level an action is on--natural, human, etc.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

26. 1930, Nov. 13, W.T. Couch to Hazlitt, man being above nature simply means he can control it to some extent; humanitarianism is nonsense without free will; John Stuart Mills ideas on the natural.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

27. 1930, Nov. 13, W.T. Couch to NF, on controversy with Hazlitt.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

28. 1931, Jan. 11, NF to T.L. Couch, comments on Hazlitt versus Couch letters (items 22, 25 & 26).
   Physical Description: T.L.,
29. 1931, April 1, Bush to NF, Middle Ages based on unhumanistic doctrine of excess; no room in humanism for the whole of humanity.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

30. 1931, April 12, NF to Bush, [UNK] including everything mean nothing.
   Physical Description: T.L.,

Box 1, Folder 4

CORRESPONDENCE
1. 1934, Feb. 26, B. (?) Christian Richard to NF, includes clipping.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

2. 1938, Feb. 17, Theodore Spencer to NF on Ph.D programs at Harvard, includes reprint.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

3. 1940, Oct. 4, Merrits Y. Hughes to NF.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

4. 1940, Nov. 7, Percy W. Long to NF on M.L.A.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

5. 1941, Sept. 14, Dora D. Babbitt to NF, concerning Irving Babbitt.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

6. 1941, Nov. 18, Dora D. Babbitt to NF, criticism of NF’s biographical sketch of Irving Babbitt.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

7. 1941, Nov. 23, Dora D. Babbitt to NF, same as above.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

8. 1944, March 15, Abraham Flexner to NF.
   Physical Description: T.L.S.,

9. 1945, June 28, George B. Abbe to NF, tells of book (his) on and against anti-Semitism.
   Physical Description: A.L.S.,

10. 1948, Jan. 3, Jay B. Hubbell to NF, about some meeting (in Detroit?).
    Physical Description: T.L.S.,

11. 1948, April 4, Lionel Trilling (?)
    Physical Description: A.L.S.,

12. 1951, Aug. 5, G.R. Elliot to NF, the weather and criticism of his humanism is now considered old-fashioned.
    Physical Description: T.L.S.,

13. 1954, Jan. 6, Glenn S. Weight to NF, wants clippings, encloses copy of letter (NF to Weight) dated about March 27, 1947, which comments on post-W.W. II trends.
    Physical Description: T.L.S.,
14. 1966, Aug. 11, NF to Charles H. Foster on the past (some documents concerning humanis)

Physical Description: A.L.S.,

Box 1, Folder 5

Correspondence between NF and the following: Gorha B. Munson (of Doubleday, Doran & Co.), John Farrar and Stanley W. Rinehart (of Farrar and Rinehart).

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence begins with T.L.S., Nov. 25, 1928, from Munson to NF, ends with T.L., May 22, 1930, from NF to Rinehart. Also includes:

1. 1929, Jan. 21, Memorandum of agreement with Doubleday, Doran and Co., Ibc.
3. 1929, Dec. 9, T.L. from NF to Farrar, G.R. Elliot to Robert Shafer about the Spring artic
4. 1930, April 5, Robert Shafer to NF, suggestion on how profits from Humanism and America should be divided.

Physical Description: T.L.S.,

NOTES, CLIPS, REPRINTS

Box 1, Folder 6
Notes, clippings and reprints 1907-1918. This selection from early humanist literature includes articles by Irving Babbitt, Frank Mather and Paul E. More which appeared in the Nation, The Sewanee Review, and The English Journal.

Box 1, Folder 7
Notes, clippings and reprints 1919-20, articles from a considerable no. of different publications (many by Babbitt). Emphatic criticism of Romanticism: Notes from the Psychology of Social Reconstruction by G.T.W. Patrick. Information on Ph.D. requirements. Essay by NF, A New Humanism.

Box 1, Folder 8
Notes, clippings and reprints (1921-26). Articles from the Saturday Review of Literature, The New York Times Book Review and a variety of others all with some connection (perhaps indirectly) to humanism. No articles by NF possible except one, a typed essay whose authorship is not given.

Box 1, Folder 9
Notes, clippings, and reprints 1928. Includes several book reviews of Munson’s Destinations and More’s The Demon of the Absolute. Numerous articles pertaining to humanism—including one by Babbitt and More’s, Modern Currents in American Literature, with typed comment (probably NF’s).

Box 1, Folder 10
Notes, clippings and reprints, Feb.-Dec., 1929. Articles and clippings pertaining to humanism. The variegation of the array of literary magazines shows great influence in this year. The Forum, The Saturday Review, The New York Times Book Review The Hound and Horn, America, Commonwealth, The Foxboro Reporter, The Carolina Magazine, Harper’s, The Bookman, Creative Reading, The World, and several newspapers are represented. This folder is basically a collection of short items which are pro-humanist. Also included is the program of the 46th meeting of the M.L.A. A few short items (appearing in the publications) are authored by NF. For example, the article of Oct., 1929, about Dr. Charles Francis Potter concerning New Religion.

Clippings and reprints, Jan.-March 1930. Short items about humanism supplied by news clipping service (located at 96 Warren St., New York City) and generally taken from newspapers. More controversial items (pro or anti-humanist) are here selected by NF from literary magazines. No author or publication dominates this selection.

Clippings and reprints April-June 1930. Articles by C. Hartley Grattan, Upton Sinclair, Alan Reynolds Thompson, and Allen Tate; some clippings and reprints from Saturday Review, New Republic, Virginia Quarterly--articles treat Humanism.


REVIEWS

Articles, 1930, Principally on Irving Babbitt and Paul Elmer More: Saturday Review (Walter Lippmann); The New Freeman; Sewanee Review (Percy H. Houston).

Reviews 1930-1 (Articles and reprints) of Humanism in America edited by NF. The Folder contains chiefly commentary on the book from the clerical point of view—writings of Babbitt, More and G.R. Elliot considered most extensively: Articles from the Commonwealth; America; Catholic News; and The Notre Dame Scholastic.

Reviews of The Critique of Humanism, Ed. by C. Hartley Grattan—most reviews make mention of NF and his relation to Humanism. Includes clippings from: N.Y. Times, Sewanee Review, The Hound and Horn; included also is book jacket from same.

Misc. clippings re: Humanism, most of which mention NF’s name in relation to same. Also includes clipping of letter to editor of the Saturday Review from NF discussing absolute and relative truth and misquotations by this magazine; also several clippings concerning I. Babbit’s typed copy of pp. 464-77 of The Nineteenth Century—Oct. 1931 by P.S. Richards.


Humanism in American Criticism, a bibliography by Arthur Berthold 1932: includes introductory quotations by NF and Irving; table of contents bibliographical listing of 42 works related to Humanism.


Misc. pieces, July 1948—1966, RE: NF and Humanism: Robert M. Hutchins; W.T. Stage; Lawrence Bridges, Dec. 31, 1948; J.B. Rhine; Ledwig Lewisohn; Book reviews; the CEA critic RE: Babbit; Great Books; Convention Program; Times Literary Supplement RE: Julian Huxley and scientific humanism; Notes on Frost and Willa Cather and Foerster’s life; other notes 1966, in NF’s hand RE: Babbit and More; Typed copy of reading list for English 189, 1966.

CORRESPONDENCE MISC.
Folders 1, 2, 3, Letters from various American scholars commenting on the preface by Norman Foerster to Literary Scholarship: Its Functions and Prospects, compiled by several members of the University of Iowa faculty. Letters are listed alphabetically by sender.
Box 4, Folder 1
b. From G. Chinard, MS returned with letter-- 13 Oct., 1940.
c. From George Coffman, 10 Oct. 1940.
d. From R.S. Crane, no date. MS returned with letter.
e. From N.W. Dewitt, 7 Oct., 1940.

Box 4, Folder 2
a. From R.C. Flickinger, 14 Oct., 1940.
b. From (?) Funker--no letter, MS only--with comments in margin.
c. From Percy W. Long; no letter, MS only--with comments in margin and on last page.
d. From G.A. Harper, no letter, MS only--with comments in margin and on last page.
e. From E. Joliat, 14 Oct., 1940.

Box 4, Folder 3
a. From George Sherburn, 4 Oct., 1940, Ms returned with comments.
b. From Horatio Smith, 9 Oct., 1940, MS returned.
c. From J.S.P. Tatlock, 5 Oct., 1940, MS returned with comments in pencil.
d. From K. Young, 11 Oct., 1940, MS returned with comments.
e. From John G. Walz, 16 Oct., 1940.
f. From Curt Zimansky (?), no date.
g. From J.H., no date, penciled in longhand.

Box 4, Folder 4
Fragments; undated pieces; notes and personal items, lists of outgoing (?) correspondence of NF to Aswell, Elliott (incoming) Shafer, Huston, Munson, Collins Knickerbocker, Mather, T.S. Eliot, Spring, More, Bandler, Gass Thompson, Clark, Shepard, Wanan, Gair, Merirer.

Box 4, Folder 5
Fragments, undated pieces Theater as Religion, article by Maxwell Anderson; undated letter from Christopher Hollis written examination for English Ph.D; Religious Perspectives of College Teaching, by Hoxie Fairchild; Archibald Macleish; Cards with notes on old Aristotle; The Unity of Europe, by F.M. Eachran; notes on view of scholarship; notes on Babbit.

Box 5, Folder 1
Correspondence:
Irving Babbitt to NF 22 Aug 1911; 1 Apr 1912; 25 Aug 1919; 16 Nov 1919; 30 Jul 1924; 8 Mar 1925; 12 Apr 1926; 7 Jul 1929; 16 Jun 1930; 15 Jun 1932)

Physical Description: (10 letters; 11 letters: Paul E. More to NF 22 May 1913; 26 June 1913; 3 Jul 1913; 25 Jan 1921; 9 Aug 1922; 27 Feb 1924; 1 Dec 1925; 11 Jul 1933; 18 Nov 1933)

Physical Description: (10 Letters: Dora Babbitt to NF 9 May 1933; 13 Jul 1933; 5 Dec 1941; 5 Jan 1942)

Physical Description: (4 letters: Telegram from Esther Babbitt Howe to NF, 15 Jul 1933.

Babitt and More to Foerster
#Paul E. More, June 26, 1913, comments on Foerster’s article for the Nation, I feel the review should be more psychological--less literary.
#Irving Babbitt, June 16, 1930, Things are looking pretty black for humanists.
#Irving Babbitt, July 30, 1924, Foerster’s Nature in American Literature had good reviews but none say anything about author’s humanistic thesis.

Note
5-3 TS to NF 12 June 1929 missing 9/74

Box 5, Folder 2
Correspondence:
Paul E. More to NF 21 Jun 1928; 7 Dec 1928; 23 Jan 1929; 4 Feb 1929; 28 Feb 1929; 8 Mar 1929; 11 May 1929; 5 Jul 1929; 6 Sep 1929; 12 Oct 1929; 17 Oct 1929)

Physical Description: (11 letters:

Physical Description: (8 letters:

Short biography of I.B.: Written by Irving Babbitt in response to questions put by Norman Foerster. Received by N.F. August 28, 1929.

Correspondence: NF to Dora Babbitt 8 May 1943; 18 Aug 1943)

Physical Description: (2 letters:

Dora Babbitt to NF 18 May 1943)

Physical Description: (1 letter:

#NF to Mrs. Dora Babbitt, Aug 18, 1943; speaks of publishing the Babbitt--More letters.

#Paul E. More to NF, Feb 4, 1929.

Scope and Content Note

More convinced than ever that omission of the old humanist is best thing for the manifesto.

#More to NF, March 8, 1929.

#NF’s work on the book, it is like driving pigs to market.

#More to NF, July 5, 1929.

Scope and Content Note

Even with Babbitt in, he wants out.

#More to NF, Jan 23, 1929.

Scope and Content Note

If Babbitt and Mather go in, he will.

#Received by NF Aug 28, 1929--

Scope and Content Note

a four page autobiography of Babbitt written in response to questions put forward by NF. Special emphasis on development of humanistic conviction (who and what influenced). Does not like being called new humanist. Humanism: very old way of looking at life.

Box 5, Folder 3

Correspondence:

T.S. Eliot to NF 5 [UNK] 1928; 14 Aug 1928; 18 Feb 1929; 22 April 1929; 29 April 1929; 13 Aug 1929; 14 April 1930

Physical Description: (7 letters:

Note

see [UNK] to Eliot

T.S. Eliot to Farrar & Rinehart ( n.d.).

Physical Description: 1 letter:

NF to T.S. Eliot ( 5 Feb 1929; 1 Mar 1929; 9 Apr 1929; 17 Apr 1929; 13 May 1929; 12 Jun 1929; 29 Aug 1929; 31 Aug 1929).

Physical Description: 8 letters:
Gorham B. Munson to NF (4 Sep 1928; 16 Dec 1928; 25 Feb 1929; 16 Mar 1929; 6 Jul 1929; 16 Jul 1929; 31 Aug 1929; 4 Sept 1929; 19 Sept 1929; 1 Oct 1929; 28 Nov 1929; 3 Dec 1929; 24 May 1930; 5 Jul 1930; 14 Aug 1930)

Physical Description: 15 letters:


Physical Description: 8 letters:

F.J. Mather to NF (27 Oct 1926; 20 Jan 1929; 22 Jul 1929; 13 Sept. 1929; 22 Nov 1929; 29 Nov 1929; 21 Feb 1930).

Physical Description: 8 letters:

NF to F. J. Mather (16 Jan 1929; 16 Sep 1929; 30 Aug 1929).

Physical Description: 3 letters:

#T.S. Eliot to NF, April 22, 1929.
Scope and Content Note
Agrees that Grench and Germans should be kept out of NF's symposium on humanism--should keep issue limited to Babbitt's brand. Tells of fear of religious hierarchy which is not only civilized--may write on danger of religion without humanism.

#T.S. Eliot to NF, Aug 13, 1929.
Scope and Content Note
Refers to his own contribution to the symposium as a jumble of themes which ought to be analysed into a book.

#NF to T.S. Eliot, Aug 31, 1929.
Scope and Content Note
NF quotes G.R. Eliot, that G.R. agrees with about 51 percent of T.S. Eliot's essay but this is about average agreement expected among contributors.

#NF to Gorham B. Munson, Aug 17, 1928.
Scope and Content Note
Suggest Munson contribute to symposium--since he is nonacademic with pungent style--something as counter-irritant to Menckenism.

#NF to Munson, Nov 30, 1929.
Scope and Content Note
Refers to T.S. Eliot as greenish-blue (as opposed to true blue humanist) but says that his skit is harmless.

#Munson to NF, Sept 4, 1929.
Scope and Content Note
Munson sends Foerster his contribution--though may be too long (9,000 words) he had laid himself out to break the grip upon our literature of the popular romantic critics.

#Munson to NF, Dec 3, 1929.
Scope and Content Note
Suggestions for jacket and advertising. Must have dramatic appeal.

#Munson to NF, May 24, 1930. Controversy over Humanism and America has made him lose all respect for the opposition.
#Munson to NF, Aug 14, 1930. Speaks of his book to be published in September.
Box 5, Folder 4

#F.J. Mather to NF, Jan 20, 1929. If Babbitt contributes, so will Mather and More.
#F.J. Mather to NF, Nov 22, 1929. Finds it necessary to add extra paragraph to contribution, to make it clear the implications of view that the modernistic aesthetic has permanency.

Correspondence:

W.S. Knickerbocker to NF (29 Oct 1929; 9 Dec 1929; 6 Jan 1930; 20 Jan 1930; 26 Feb 1930; 5 Mar 1930; 10 Mar 1930; 11 Apr 1930; 2 May 1930; 30 Sep 1930).

Physical Description: 10 letters:

NF to W.S. Knickerbocker (14 Sep 1929; 3 Mar 1930; 30 Apr 1930).

Physical Description: 3 letters:

E.C. Aswell to NF (28 Jun 1928; 5 Apr 1929; 8 Apr 1929; 6 Jun 1929; 12 Jun 1929; 3 Sep 1929; 3 Sep (1929?); 12 Sep 1929; 23 Sep 1929).

Physical Description: 9 letters:

NF to E.C. Aswell (27 Mar 1929; 19 Apr 1929; 19 May 1929; 8 Jun 1929; 6 Sep 1929; 16 Sep 1929; 25 Sep 1929).

Physical Description: 8 letters:

S. Collins to NF (24 Nov 1929; 11 Dec 1929; 6 Jan 1930; 19 Feb 1930; 8 Mar 1930).

Physical Description: 5 letters:

S. Collins to G.R. Elliott (N.D.)

Physical Description: 1 letter, page #2;

NF to S. Collins (29 Nov 1929; 30 Nov 1929; 16 Dec 1929; 27 Dec 1929; 9 Jan 1930.

Physical Description: 5 letters:

#William S. Knickerbocker (ed. of The Sewanee Review) to NF, March 5, 1930. Great danger in Babbitt's type of humanism: that it diverts reflection from literature to the maintenance of a philosophical system mostly exhibited negatively through fierce onslaughts on the unrecognizable. Man is educable animal (over and above being trainable).

#W.S. Knickerbocker to NF, Mar 10, 1930.

Scope and Content Note

Doubts wisdom of NF's relentless pursuit of logic and destructions. Repeats refusal to expose publicly his def. of humanism. W.S.K. calls himself creative humanist as distinguished from restrictive humanist (Babbitt...).

#NF to Knickerbocker, Dec 14, 1929.

Scope and Content Note

Ever since came under spell of Babbitt in 1910, conscious task to work free of the formalism of a disciple. Purpose should be clarification of standards rather than history of humanism.

#NF to Edward C. Aswell (ass. ed. of The Forum) March 27 1929, solicitation for contribution to the symposium.

#NF to Aswell, Sept 25, 1929.

Scope and Content Note

Reply to Aswell's withdrawal as contributor.
Seward Collins to NF (ed. The Bookman) Nov 24, 1929 Has decided best way for Bookman to advance the humanist cause is not by becoming a party organ but having predominantly humanist tone yet maintain sizable audience because of the other material run. Tells of a Knickerbocker letter (confidential) telling him that Babbitt, More and NF are not such sound scholars as he thinks.

# Collins to NF, Dec 11, 1929, wants to goad nonhumanists into open hostility (over the symposium), thus bringing about a re-alignment.
# NF to Collins, Nov 29, 1929, difficulty of humanists to fill the space of the Bookman.
# Aswell to NF, April 5, 1929, Forum not yet ready to publish type of article that NF had enclosed.
# Aswell to NF, Sept 23, 1929, reveals that will be unable to contribute to symposium after all.

Correspondence:

S.B. Gass to NF (9 Apr 1929; 25 Aug 1929; 30 Nov. 1929)
Physical Description: 3 letters:

Physical Description: 4 letters:

NF to R. Shafer (31 Aug 1929).
Physical Description: 1 letter:

S.R. Gair to NF (5 Sep 1929).
Physical Description: 1 letter:

NF to S.R. Gair (29 Aug 1929; 10 Sep 1929)
Physical Description: 2 letters:

P.H. Houston to NF (10 Nov 1923; 29 Nov 1923; 5 Jan 1924; 22 May 1927; 11 Jun 1928; 11 Jul 1928; 12 Aug 1928; 19 Sep 1928; 20 Jan 1929; 28 Jan 1929; 1 Feb 1929; 22 Feb 1929; 26 Feb 1929; 9 Mar 1929; 28 Mar 1929; 16 Jul 1929; 23 Sep 1929; 26 Oct 1929).
Physical Description: 18 letters:

P.H. Houston to Irving Babbitt (7 Jul 1927)
Physical Description: extract, copy in NF's hand

G.R. Elliott to NF (23 Feb 1929)
Physical Description: 1 letter:

R. Shafer to NF (7 Mar 1929)
Physical Description: 1 letter:

NF to P.H. Houston (18 Nov 1923; 11 May 1927; 26 Jun 1928; 14 Jul 1928; 20 Aug 1928; 7 Jan 1929; 9 Feb 1929; 15 Feb 1929; 1 Mar 1929; 12 Mar 1929; 16 Mar 1929; 20 Apr 1929; 19 Sep 1929; 14 Oct 1929; 16 Aug 1930)
Physical Description: 15 letters:

G.R. Elliott to NF (ca. 1927(?)): 11 Nov 1927; 5 Jan 1928; 7 Sep 1928; 24 Sep 1928; 21 Dec 1928; 24 Dec 1928; 19 Feb 1929; 24 Mar 1929; 11 Apr 1929; 29 Jan 1929; 8 May 1929; 15 Jul 1929; 27 Aug 1929; 9 Sep 1929; 10 Sept 1929; 14 Sep 1929; 6 Oct 1929; 13 Oct 1929; 29 Oct 1929; 3 Nov 1929; 25 Nov 1929; 2 Dec 1929; 3 Dec 1929 (telegram); 4 Dec 1929; 23 Feb 1930; 8 Jun 1929; 25 Sep 1929; 19 Aug 1930; 11 Mar 1931; 22 Apr 1931).
Physical Description: 31 letters:
G.R. Elliott to S. Collins (11 Dec 1929)

Physical Description: 1 letter:


Physical Description: 22 letters:

#Sidney R. Gair, Sep 5 1929, complains of the harshness of Babbitt & More.
#NF to G.R. Elliott, Oct 20, 1927, speculations on which of the two should be editor.
#NF to G.R. Elliott, Sep 17, 1929, comments on contributions to H. & A., defeat is its difficult style.
#NF to G.R. Elliott, Sep 19, 1929, comments on Lippmann's humanism.

Scope and Content Note

#Recommendation of G.R. Elliott by NF for position in English dept. (Chapel Hill?).

#NF to Elliott, Apr 25, 1931, mainly because of high salary Elliott cannot secure position at Chapel Hill (?).
#G.R. Elliott to NF, Nov 11, 1927, Elliott refuses to edit symposium.
#Elliott to NF May 8, 1929, dispute between Babbitt & More on morality from grace or incarnation.
#Elliott to NF, Aug 27, 1929, on T.S. Elliot's contribution--agrees with 51 percent--would improve upon by saying what means by humanism is balance.
#Elliott to NF, Nov 25, 1929, suggests bibliography of critical works in symposium--would desarm reviewers.
#Elliott to NF, Dec 4, 1929, extremely critical of Spring's essay (Again G.R. Elliott very fearful of what reviewers will do to essay.
#Shafer to Elliott, March 7, 1929 (letter in wrong section?)
#Percy H. Houston to NF, Nov 10, 1923 (Univ. of Cal. Southern Branch, L.A.) seems to originate idea of the symposium.
#P.H. Houston to NF, March 9, 1929 (Occidental College) thing for Humanists to fear.
#Houston NF, Oct 26, 1929, Houston can't contribute (first effort had been severely criticised.)
#Sherlock B. Gass, Apr 19, 1929, two minds should think same thought even for some other formula.

Note

(Note: Gass sends 2 essays for NF to choose from for symposium).

#NF to Houston, May 11, 1927, development of idea of symposium.

Correspondence:


Physical Description: 33 letters:


Physical Description: 21 letters:
#N.F. to R. Shafer, March 28, 1924; remarks that Shafer only one objecting to inclusion of Babbitt & More.
#NF to R. Shafer, Nov 2, 1929; More has developed religious bent more than his humanism.
#Shafer to NF, June 28, 1928; symposium best if chiefly gave examples of what new humanism practically means in contact with current ideas of their literary expression.
#Shafer to NF, Aug 25, 1929; answers questionnaire about what & who made him a humanist. (Questions not actually given.)
#Shafer to NF, Sep 16, 1929; criticism of T. S. Eliot and B. Bandler's papers.
#Shafer to NF, Nov 29, 1929; reports of Collins' extreme criticism of Spring's article.
#Shafer to NF, Dec 6, 1929; agrees with Collins that Spring's article would be deleted. Spring is humanitarian rather than humanist, but doesn't know the difference.

Box 5, Folder 7

Correspondence:
S. P. Chase to NF 10 Oct 1928; 17 Dec 1928; 1 Jul 1929; 8 Jul 1929; 3 Sep 1929; 23 Sep 1929; 26 Sep 1929; 29 Sep 1929; 2 Oct 1929; 21 Oct 1929; 28 Nov 1929; 5 Jan 1930; 8 Jan 1930).
Physical Description: (13 letters:
NF to S. P. Chase 6 Aug 1928; 10 Aug 1928; 17 Oct 1928; 26 Dec 1928; 5 Sep 1929; 24 Sep 1929; 7 Dec 1929; 1 Jan 1930).
Physical Description: (8 letters:
G. R. Elliott to NF copy of GRE to SPC 15 Oct 1928).
Physical Description: (1 letter:
R. L. Brown to NF 26 Nov 1929)
Physical Description: (1 letter:
B. Bandler to NF 18 Mar 1929; 4 Apr 1929 30 Apr 1929; 27 Aug 1929; 3 Sep 1929; 18 Sep 1929; 9 23 Sep 1929; 3 Oct 1929; 5 Oct 1929 (telegram); 15 Nov 1929).
Physical Description: (10 letters:
NF to B. Bandler 29 Mar 1929; 10 Apr 1929; 24 May 1929; 29 Aug 1929; 20 Sep 1929; 14 Oct 1929; 29 Apr 1930).
Physical Description: (7 letters:
J. Farrar to B. Bandler 25 Apr 1930)
Physical Description: (1 letter:
Physical Description: (3 letters:
NF to L. T. More 28 Mar 1929, 4 Nov 1929, 10 Jan 1944).
Physical Description: (3 letters:
Physical Description: (16 letters:

Physical Description: (12 letters):

NF to Collector of Internal Revenue Apr 1929).

Physical Description: (1 letter):

NF to J. Farrar 6 Jan 1930).

Physical Description: (1 letter):

A.R. Thompson to NF 17 Nov 1928; 9 Dec 1928; 24 Jan 1929; 8 Jul 1929; 2 Sep 1929; 29 Sep 1929; 29 Jan 1930; 12 Jan 1931.)

Physical Description: (8 letters):


Physical Description: (4 letters):

#NF to S.P. Chase, Sept 24, 1929; comments on More's article which did not take T.S. Eliot seriously--he is a fellow contributor.

# NF to Louis More, Jan 10, 1944; on relationship between religion and humanism.

#Sam Spring to NF, August 17, 1928; will be glad to contribute. Tells what is doing to advance humanism in field of motion pictures and gives other views.

#Sam Spring to Dorothy Foerster, Sept 18, 1928; trying to get her diamonds for cheap.

#Spring to NF, Feb 6, 1929; legal particulars of [UNK] Carolina--laws upon royalties, copyrighted books...

#Spring to NF, Oct 8, 1929; implies that they were once roommates.

#Spring to NF, Oct 9, 1929; outline of attitude on which will write book (developing out of contribution to H & A).

#Spring to NF, Nov 6, 1929; new book will set up new philosophic attitude of Prevision--attempt to establish pragmatic, non-absolute, humanist standard of outlook.

#Spring to NF, Dec 31, 1929; not bitter for being ejected from H & A.

#NF to Spring, Oct 5, 1929; really impressed with Spring's contribution, just reviewed, wants to place it at beginning of book.

#NF to Spring, Dec 18, 1929; breaks the news that [UNK] his article will not be in H & A.; tells him it is not because Sam is Jewish.

# NF to Spring, May 3, 1930; will accept dictatorship of U. of Iowa School of letters at $9000/year.

#Bernard Bandler II to NF, April 4, 1929; will contribute article on humanism and psychology--criticized psychologists for not giving definition of the normal.

#NF to Bandler, Sept 20, 1929; disappointed in article for H & A, please rewrite.

#NF to Bandler, Oct 14, 1929; new effort acceptable.

#Alan K. Thompson to NF, Nov 17, 1928; asks NF if he can contribute.

Correspondence: Clark & Warren

#Austin Warren to NF, April 24, 1929; from A.W.

Physical Description: total of 3 letters

#H.H. Clark to NF, Dec 13, 1926 (1st of series)

Note

Note: in this series, NF to Clark are interspersed.

#Clark to NF, Oct 5, 1928; thanking for opportunity to write in H & A.

#NF to Clark, Nov 26, 1928; needs someone to write [UNK] on psychology in H & A--essential worth in Aristotle
#Clark, Nov 26, 1928, comments on NF's article on Freneau.
#Clark to NF, April 8, 1929, gives first lead to possibility of Sidney K. Gair (a nonacademic), for article in H & A.
#Clark to NF, Aug 15, 1930, comment on NF's The Literary Historians, where exposed the fallacies of the doctrine of historic relativity.
#NF to Clark, Aug 24, 1930, last of series.

Miscellaneous loose items
(all in large folder):

#cards with quotes from Aristotle
#W.B. Cairns to NF, March 1, 1919.
Karl Young to G.R. Elliott, Oct 3, 1918,--NF's campaign for a more humanistic study of the humanities.

Physical Description: total of 11 letters

Box 5, Folder 8

These letters were not listed on main holding sheet, but were found in an unmarked folder in the middle of the collection.

A. Warren to NF 24 Apr 1929, 16th Sunday after Trinity [no year]; 7 Dec 1929

Physical Description: (3 letters:


Physical Description: (37 letters: