Finding Aid for the Sarah Bixby Smith correspondence, 1871-1935

Processed by Chris Marino in the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT), with assistance from Megan Hahn Fraser, July 2011; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Sarah Bixby Smith correspondence
Date (inclusive): 1871-1935
Collection number: 223
Creator: Bixby Smith, Sarah, 1871-1935.
Extent: 2 boxes (1.0 linear ft.)
Abstract: Sarah Hathaway Bixby Smith (1871-1935) was a writer and activist. Her works include: A Little Girl of Old California (ca.1920), My Sage-brush Garden (1924), Adobe Days (1925), Pasear; a second book of California verse (1926), Wind Upon my Face (1930), Milestones in Los Angeles: being a brief narrative of Los Angeles through five decades (ca. 1933) and The Bending Tree (1933). She was significantly involved in women's groups such as the Friday Morning Club and the American Association of University Women. The collection consists primarily of correspondence and also includes announcements, invitations, photographs, and family keepsakes.
Language: Finding aid is written in English.
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.
Restrictions on Access
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of the Smith Family.
Processing Note
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Sarah Bixby Smith correspondence (Collection 223). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4230382
Biography
Sarah Hathaway Bixby Smith was born to Lewellyn Bixby and Mary Hathaway Bixby in August 1871, in San Justo Ranch near San Juan Bautista, California. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College in 1894 and was an advocate for women's independence and higher education. She was married twice, first to Arthur Maxson Smith in 1896, and then in 1916 to Paul Jordan Smith, whom she later divorced. From both marriages combined she had five children: Maxson, Bradford, Rodger, Janet, and Lewellyn. Her works include: A Little Girl of Old California (ca.1920), My Sage-brush Garden (1924), Adobe Days (1925), Pasear; a second book of California verse (1926), Wind Upon my Face (1930), Milestones in Los Angeles: being a brief narrative of Los Angeles through five decades (ca. 1933) and The Bending Tree (1933). She was the vice president of the America Association of University Women, as well as the president of the Friday Morning Club. She was also a trustee of Scripps College and a member of the Claremont School Board. In the early 1930s she was a delegate to the Pacific Relations Conference in Shanghai. She died in 1935 at the age of 64. At the time of her death she was in the process of writing another book on the history of southern California.
Scope and Content
Collection consists primarily of correspondence in the form of letters, telegrams, and postcards related to writer Sarah Bixby Smith and her family. The collection also includes announcements, invitations, photographs, and family keepsakes.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Subjects
Bixby Smith, Sarah, 1871-1935--Correspondence.
Women authors, American--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms of Material
Correspondence.
- Smith, Sarah Bixby. Milestones in Los Angeles: being a brief narrative of Los Angeles through five decades. 1933.

Box 1, Folder 1
**Correspondence between Lewellyn Bixby and Mary Hathaway 1871-1878.**
Scope and Content Note
Majority of correspondence is between Lewellyn and Mary Bixby. There are a couple of letters from Lewellyn and Mary to other friends and family.

Box 1, Folder 2
**Correspondence from Lewellyn Bixby to Sarah Bixby Smith 1876-1894.**

Box 1, Folder 3
**Correspondence from Sarah Bixby Smith to Lewellyn Bixby 1880-1892.**
Scope and Content Note
Includes receipts from boarding school, report cards and general correspondence between Sarah and her father Lewellyn.

Box 1, Folder 4
**Correspondence from Sarah Bixby Smith to Lewellyn Bixby 1893.**
Scope and Content Note
General correspondence between Sarah and her father Lewellyn.

Box 1, Folder 5
**Lewellyn Bixby's Estate 1897-1925.**
Scope and Content Note
Contains legal documents concerning Sarah's father's estate.

Box 1, Folder 6
**Correspondence from friends and family concerning the death of Sarah's mother and father 1882-1896.**

Box 1, Folder 7
**Correspondence from Martha Hathaway to Sarah Bixby Smith 1882-1928.**
Scope and Content Note
This folder includes two letters from Martha Hathaway to Sarah's first husband Arthur Smith.

Box 1, Folder 8
**Correspondence from Sarah Bixby Smith to Martha Hathaway 1923-1924.**
Scope and Content Note
Majority of correspondence is from Sarah to her aunt Martha, when she was visiting London.

Box 1, Folder 9
**Correspondence from Maxson, Bradford, and Lewellyn to their Mother Sarah Bixby Smith 1905-1935.**
Scope and Content Note
Includes a letter written from Maxson to his sister Janet.

Box 1, Folder 10
**Correspondence from family to Lewellyn, Bradford, Roger and Maxson Smith 1902-1912.**
Scope and Content Note
Majority of letters are from Arthur Maxson Smith Sr. to his sons Lewellyn, Bradford, Roger, and Maxson.
## Container List

| Box 2, Folder 1 | **Invitations and Announcements 1896-1935.**  
| Scope and Content Note  
Mostly consists of the wedding announcements of Sarah's children, plus her own to Paul Smith. |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | **Correspondence from family/friends to Sarah Bixby Smith 1881-1894.**  
| Arrangement  
Arranged chronologically. |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | **Correspondence from family/friends to Sarah Bixby Smith 1900-1924.**  
| Arrangement  
Arranged chronologically. |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | **Correspondence from family/friends to Sarah Bixby Smith 1925-1935.**  
| Arrangement  
Arranged chronologically. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | **Correspondence from Paul Smith to Sarah Bixby Smith ca. 1934.** |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | **Adobe Days Finances 1932.**  
| Scope and Content Note  
Two reports outlining the number of books published and sold per month during 1932. |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | **Press Clippings ca. 1930-1935.**  
| Scope and Content Note  
Press relating to the American Association of University Women, Sarah's published poetry, and her death. |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | **Photographs and keepsakes undated.**  
| Scope and Content Note  
Photographs of Sarah, her first husband Arthur, and their children; also a family tree of Sarah's paternal relatives, the Bixbys. |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | **Autograph Book undated.**  
| Scope and Content Note  
An autograph book signed by Sarah's family and friends. |