



Sabina E. Wells papers, 1886-1942
SCHS 1139.00
Containers 11/543-544A and 42-220

Creator: Wells, Sabina E.

Description: 1.25 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Charleston, S.C. artist, designer, and Newcomb potter.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of correspondence, artwork, diaries, writings, and other items.

Correspondence with family and friends in Charleston (S.C.), New York, North Carolina, and elsewhere concerns family matters, Wells' drawings, art pottery designs, woodware, and other matters. Correspondents include her mother Mrs. Edward L. Wells, brothers Julien Wells and Edward L. Wells, Jr., artist Elliott Daingerfield, and Citadel president C.P. Summerall. There is additional correspondence regarding pottery, book illustrations, and design work with D.F. Hayne & Son, Chesapeake Pottery (Maryland), the Nickell Magazine, Scribner's Magazine, the Century Co., and the magazine Sport in Dixie; correspondence (1901-1902) with the B.F. Johnson Publishing Co. (Va.) regarding the "Verses from the Cotton Boll," a booklet of verse by Henry Timrod illustrated by Wells and published for the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition; and letters of reference from Ellsworth Woodward, director of the Art Dept. at Newcomb College (New Orleans, La.).

Artwork includes studies and finished pictures of landscapes, animals, flowers, people, and other subjects executed in watercolor, oils, ink wash, pencil, pastels, and charcoal, as well as sketches and finished designs for pottery, ceramics, book covers, and book illustrations. Included is an illustrated book by Wells, "Funny Facts," which contains humorous verses about animals.

Writings include a poem of tribute to Wells; articles or lectures on commercial pottery; poems by Wells, Harriet Joor, and others; a short story; and a fragment of a play. Four diaries cover the time period of February 1898 to November 1899.

Other items include the Wells' birth certificate, passport, and will; newspaper clippings; photographs and negatives of pottery by Wells; printed material, including copies of the newspaper "The Harlequin" and catalogs of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1905); and notes on designs.

Preferred Citation: Wells, Sabina Elliott, 1876-1943. Sabina E. Wells papers, 1886-1942. (1139.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Some material added 2005 from Anna Wells Rutledge Papers.

Search terms:

Daingerfield, Elliott, 1859-1932.
Wells, Sabina Elliott, 1876-1943.
Newcomb pottery.
Pottery -- 20th century -- United States.
Women -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Correspondence.
Charleston (S.C.) -- History.
South Carolina -- History.
Diaries.
Drawings.
Letters (correspondence)
Paintings.
Pamphlets.
Photographs.
Poems.
Subject Artists.
Book designers.
Poets.
Potters.
Joor, Harriet.

Container listing:**11/543-544A and 42-220 Wells, Sabina E. 1876-1943****Papers and Art Work, 1895-1942 ca. 600 items**

Charleston artist, designer, and Newcomb potter. Personal items include will and diary (1898-1899). Poetry by Wells, Harriett Joor, and Lillie R. H. Smith. Correspondence, mainly on art pottery designs, with family and friends in Charleston, New York, NC, La. Correspondents include mother, brothers (Julien Wells, Edward L. Wells, Jr.), director of the Newcomb College Art Dept., Ellsworth Woodward, artist Elliott Dangerfield, Citadel Pres. C.P. Summerall. Correspondence regarding pottery, book illustrations and design work with DF Hayne & Son, Chesapeake Pottery, Maryland, the Nikell Magazine, Scribner's Magazine, the Century Co., the magazine Sport in Dixie. Correspondence with the B.F. Johnson Publishing Co., Va., regarding the Cotton Boll, pamphlet for the S.C. Interstate and West Indian Exposition. Also, correspondence regarding Wells's Country House Woodware Co., catalogues of the La. Purchase Exposition in St. Louis (1905), and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition (College for Women, 1909, Columbia S.C.), Wells' note on art pottery design and production, commercial pottery and the Carolina Art Assoc. Artwork includes studies and finished pictures of landscapes, animals, people and plant life executed in watercolors, oil, ink wash, pencil, pastel and charcoal. Sketches and finished designs for pottery, ceramics, book covers, and book illustrations. Poetry and accompanying illustrations, woodcut prints, and original drawings and proofs for the Cotton Boll pamphlet. Also, title page of Svend and His Brethren by William Morris printed by the Palmetto Press, Aiken, S.C. (1901).