



2018

Finding Aid to the Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials

Celia Thaxter

Colby College Special Collections

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Recommended Citation

Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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Finding Aid to the Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials THAXTER.1

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Finding aid is written in: English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Colby College Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Colby College Special Collections
Creator:	Thaxter, Celia, 1835-1894
Title:	Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials.
ID:	THAXTER.1
Date [inclusive]:	1851-1984 and undated.
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Celia Loughton Thaxter, 1835-1894, was an American poet and prose writer. The collection contains Thaxter's letters, poems, prose fragments, an unfinished novel, scrapbooks, and first appearances in print.

Preferred Citation note

Collection of Celia Thaxter Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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Biographical Note

Celia Loughton Thaxter, 1835-1894, was an American poet and prose writer. Born Celia Loughton in Portsmouth, N.H., she spent her childhood on White Island Lighthouse, part of Isles of Shoals, and Appledore Island. At 16 she married Levi Thaxter and had three sons, Karl, John, and Roland. The family spent winters on the mainland in Massachusetts, where Celia felt imprisoned by domestic duties in a city house. Her first poem, "Land-locked," was published in 1860 and was an immediate success. Soon she became widely published, with poems appearing in Harper's, Scribner's, and the Atlantic. With the means to spend more time at her family's resort on Appledore Island, she enjoyed visits there from prominent artists, literary figures, and musicians. However, her preferred literary subjects continued to be drawn from the natural world. She is best known today for "An Island Garden" and "Among the Isles of Shoals."

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Scope and Contents note

The collection contains Thaxter's letters (1851-1894) to family, friends, various literary figures (such as William Dean Howells, Sarah Orne Jewett, John Greenleaf Whittier) and editors; manuscript poems, prose fragments, an unfinished novel "Romance," as well as scrapbooks, autograph book, and first appearances.

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Arrangement note

Materials arranged in six series: Correspondence, Manuscripts, Autographs and Memorabilia, Photographs and Artwork, Published Writings and Related Items, Clippings.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Colby College Special Collections

Conditions Governing Use

Materials to be used on site during regular Special Collections hours or by appointment.
Photocopying or scanning may be possible at discretion of staff for nominal fee. Materials may be protected by copyright.

Provenance and Acquisition Note

Materials acquired via gift, primarily from Rosamond Thaxter.

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Newspaper clippings
- Poets, American -- 19th century -- Correspondence
- Watercolors (paintings)
- Photographs
- Gardeners -- United States
- Isles of Shoals (Me. and N.H.)
- Letters
- Manuscripts
- Poetry
- Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920 (Author)
- Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892

Collection Inventory

Series A: Correspondence., 1851-1894.

Physical Description: 49.0 folders.

Subseries: Letters from Celia Thaxter.

Title/Description	Instances
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Folder A1: to John Albee., 1870-1872.	
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Physical Description: 2 ALS. Appledore, ME and
Newtonville, MA. 5 p.

Folder A2: to Alville of Grantis., 1890.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Portsmouth, NH. 2 p.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Colby Library Associates.

Folder A3: to Joshua Blake., 1883-1885.

Physical Description: 3 ALS. Winthrop, MA and Kittery Point, ME. 7 p.

Folder A4: to Mr. Chandler., 1885.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A5: to Mr. Dearborn., 1874.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A6: to Mary A Dodge., 1867.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 1 p.

Folder A7: to Theodore J Eastman., 1894.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Portsmouth, NH. 2 p.

Folder A8: Richard W Gilder., 1889.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 1 p.

Folder A9: to Mrs. Goodwin., 1870.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 4 p.

Folder A10: to Lizzy Greene., 1879.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Kittery Point, ME. 1 p.

Folder A11: to Mrs. George Wallis Haven., 1880.

Physical Description: Accompanied by ink sketch by Celia Thaxter.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 1 p.

Folder A12: to Mr. Hayes., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Newtonville, MA. 1 p.

Folder A13: to Mrs. Hobson., 1870.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Newtonville, MA. 1 p.

Folder A14: to William Dean Howells., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 1 p.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Margaret Perry.

Folder A15: to Elizabeth Hoxie., 1857-1882 and undated.

Physical Description: 10 ALS, 1 ANS. Newtonville, MA, Appledore, ME and Winthrop, MA. 39 p.

Folder A16: to Nannie Hoxie., Undated.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. 4 p.

Folder A17: to Mr. Hudson., 1891.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A18: to Anson Jenks., 1867-1868.

Physical Description: 2 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 7 p.

Folder A19: to Elizabeth Jenks., 1867-1869 and undated.

Physical Description: 3 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 3 p.

Folder A20: to Mary R Jewett., 1883-1886.

Physical Description: 3 ALS. Portsmouth, NH. 12 p.

Folder A21: to Sarah Orne Jewett., Undated.

Physical Description: 2 ALS. 2 p.

Folder A22: to Kidder Peabody & Co., 1880.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Venice. 1 p.

Folder A23: to Eliza Rymes Loughton., 1861.

Physical Description: 1 ALS (OVRSZ). Newton, MA. 4 p.

Folder A24: to Oscar Loughton., 1856.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Newburyport, MA. 4 p.

Folder A25: Lucy Larcom., 1863.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 7 p.

Folder A26: to Mary Lawson., 1857-1869.

Physical Description: 4 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 16 p.

Folder A27: to Mrs. Locke., 1882.

Physical Description: 1 ANS. Boston MA. 1 p.

Folder A28: to Thomas Neil., 1894.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 2 p.

Folder A29: to Mr. Pratt., 1886.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. 1 p.

Folder A30: to Mrs. Rice., 1888.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 1 p.

Folder A31: to Mary Davis Stoddard., 1880.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH. 2 p.

Folder A32: to John Thaxter., 1876-1885.

Physical Description: 51 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH, Boston and Newtonville, MA. 133 p.

Folder A33: to Roland Thaxter., 1869.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 4 p.

Folder A34: to unidentified correspondents., 1866-1894 and undated.

Physical Description: 10 ALS, 1 ANS. Newton, Newtonville, Boston, MA, Portsmouth, NH and Appledore, ME. 28 p.

Folder A35: to unidentified correspondent., 1886.

Physical Description: Removed from: An Island Garden by Celia Thaxter, Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, 1894, copy 2.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. 1 p.

Folder A36: to Jennie M Usher., 1851.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 4 p.

Folder A37: to C F Waters., 1886.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Boston, MA. 1 p.

Folder A38: to Mr. Weeks., 1887.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Appledore, ME. 2 p.

Folder A39: to John Weiss., 1871-1875.

Physical Description: Letters dated 17 October, 28 October and 22 November 1874 have original watercolors by Celia Thaxter.

Physical Description: 10 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH, Newtonville, MA and Montpelier, VT. 31 p.

Folder A40: to Mabel Weiss., 1870-1874

Physical Description: 7 ALS. Isles of Shoals, NH and Newtonville, MA. 25 p.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (1/5)., 1851-1875.

Physical Description: 72 ALS. Appledore, ME and Newton, MA. 352 p.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (2/5)., 1851-1875.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (3/5)., 1851-1875.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (4/5)., 1851-1875.

Folder A41: to Sarah Jennison Weiss (5/5)., 1851-1875.

Folder A42: to Rosamund Dana Weld., 1893-1894.

Physical Description: 3 ALS. Appledore, ME and Portsmouth, NH. 2 p.

Folder A43: to Elizabeth Whittier., 1869.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 4 p.

Folder A44: to John Greenleaf Whittier., 1872.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. Newtonville, MA. 2 p.

Folder A45: to Y C Eds [Youth's Companion editors]., 1877.

Physical Description: Removed from: The Yule Log by Celia Thaxter, L Prang, Boston, 1889.

Physical Description: 1 ALS. 1 p.

Subseries: Letters to Celia Thaxter.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>From Mary Elizabeth (Mapes) Dodge., 1889</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 1 ALS. New York, NY.1 p.</p> <p><u>Physical Location</u>: Filed under DODGE.</p> <p><u>Immediate Source of Acquisition</u>:</p> <p>Immediate Source of Acquisition</p> <p>Gift of Katherine Thaxter.</p>	
<p>From James Thomas Fields., 1874.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 1 ALS. Boston, MA. 2 p.</p> <p><u>Physical Location</u>: Filed under FIELDS.</p> <p><u>Immediate Source of Acquisition</u>:</p> <p>Immediate Source of Acquisition</p> <p>Gift of Katherine Thaxter.</p>	
<p>From John Greenleaf Whittier., 1876.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: In: Mabel Martin by John Greenleaf Whittier, Osgood, Boston, 1876.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: Holograph ms. 1 p.</p> <p><u>Physical Location</u>: Filed under WHITTIER.</p>	

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Series B: Manuscripts.

Physical Description: 7.0 folders.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Folder B1: European Notes., 1880.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 2 p.</p>	
<p>Folder B2: Poem in Heavenly Guest., Undated.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 25 p.</p>	
<p>Folder B3: Poems in Poems by Celia Thaxter., 1896.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 20 p.</p>	
<p>Folder B4: Poems, miscellaneous (1/2)., Undated.</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 13 poems.</p>	
<p>Folder B4: Poems, miscellaneous (2/2)., Undated.</p>	

Physical Description: 15 poems.

Folder B5: Prose fragments (3)., Undated.

Physical Description: 8 p.

Folder B6: Romance., Undated.

Physical Description: 53 p.

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Series C: Autographs and Memorabilia.

Physical Description: 4.0 folders.

Title/Description	Instances
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Folder C1: Autographs., Undated.

Physical Description: 3 items.

Folder C2: Autograph on silk., Undated.

Physical Description: "Celia Thaxter Appledore Isles of Shoals Maine" inscribed on piece of silk pasted on a card.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Folder C3: Poems in scrapbook., Undated.

Physical Description: Celia Thaxter's own scrapbook containing 70 poems by her and miscellaneous clippings related to her.

Physical Description: 1 volume, 28 p.

Folder C4: Scrapbook titled "Celia Thaxter 1835-1894.", Undated.

Physical Description: Contains clippings, Thaxter autographs, Thaxter poem (ms)"O Happy Holy Easter Morn!", Thaxter letters, photos, postcards, watercolor sketch.

Physical Description: 1 volume (BOUND).

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Series D: Photographs and Artwork.

Physical Description: 3.0 folders.

Title/Description	Instances
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Folder D1: Photographs., 1851-1886 and undated.

Physical Description: Photographs of Celia Thaxter and family members. Various formats: photographic prints, negatives and slides.

Physical Description: 29 items.

Folder D2: Photograph album of European trip., ca. 1880

Physical Description: Brown leather binding.

Physical Description: 1 volume (BOUND).

Folder D3: Print of ink sketch by Harry Fenn., 1869?

Physical Description: Mounted print. On verso: "Celia Thaxter before her drift-wood fire at Appledore, Isels of Shoals 1868. From an india ink sketch by Harry Fenn of Boston. (Whittier sat in an arm chair at the right of the fire place evenings when he came up to enjoy the fire)." "E L Allen 24 N Temple Place Boston" [engraver or printer?]

Physical Description: 1 item.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Ruth Tangier Smith, 1972.

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Series E: Published Writings and Related Items.

Physical Description: 5.0 folders.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder E1: First appearances (various titles)., 1875.	
<u>Physical Description</u> : Title list: A Memorable Murder; The Sandpiper; Single Little Bird; miscellaneous other titles.	
<u>Physical Description</u> : (See First Appearances).	
<u>Immediate Source of Acquisition</u> :	
Immediate Source of Acquisition	
The Sandpiper given by William W Hill.	
Folder E2: List of contributions to Youth's Companion.	
Folder E3: Records of payment from Scribner & Co., 1876.	
<u>Physical Description</u> : Payment for "Song" (poem).	
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item.	
Folder E4: Sleep Sweetly, Gentle Soul., Before or during 1926.	
<u>Physical Description</u> : Poem. "Dedicated to 'Uncle Oscar'."	
Autograph of Alice Noerr Sherburne, Star Island, 1926.	
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 p.	
Folder E5: Stamp for publisher's binding for An Island Garden., 1904.	
<u>Physical Description</u> : An Island Garden was published by Houghton Mifflin (Boston), 1904.	

Physical Description: 1 item. (See MS Folio/Art storage).

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Joseph W P Frost.

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Series F: Clippings., 1896-1938.

Physical Description: 1.0 folders.

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