

# **Guide to the Anna Catherine Bahlmann Papers Relating to Edith Wharton**

**YCAL MSS 361**



by Michael L. Forstrom

February 23, 2010

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 361

**CREATOR:** Bahlmann, Anna Catherine, 1849-1916

**TITLE:** Anna Catherine Bahlmann papers relating to Edith Wharton

**DATES:** 1874–1917

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.05 linear feet (9 boxes) + 1 broadside

**LANGUAGE:** Chiefly in English; some materials in French and German.

**SUMMARY:** The papers feature correspondence and personal effects relating to author Edith Wharton, including over 130 letters to Bahlmann from Wharton, dating from Bahlmann's employment to the Wharton family in 1874, as Edith's German language tutor, to 1915. The letters document a significant, long-standing relationship and shed light on Wharton's personal and literary affairs. In addition to the Wharton correspondence, there are single and small groups of letters between Bahlmann and family members, friends, and acquaintances, including William Morton Fullerton and Henry James, and a small number of third-party letters. Bahlmann's personal effects include legal and financial documents, notebooks, and writings, as well as material relating to Wharton. Other materials relating most directly to Wharton include clippings, documents on her work during the war, photographs, and postcards. Photographs consist of studio portraits of people and images of Wharton's residences. There are photographs of Wharton, Bahlmann family members, and friends, including Mary Cadwalader Jones. Wharton residences include "Reef Point" in Bar Harbour, Maine and the estate ("The Mount") in Lenox, Massachusetts.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bahlmann>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bahlmann>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Christie's, 2009.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Restricted Fragile papers in Box 9 may be consulted only with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Anna Catherine Bahlmann Papers Relating to Edith Wharton is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Anna Catherine Bahlmann Papers Relating to Edith Wharton. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Associated Materials

See also Edith Wharton Collection (YCAL MSS 42).

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## Anna Catherine Bahlmann (1849-1916) & Edith Wharton (1862-1937)

Anna Catherine Bahlmann was employed as Edith Wharton's German language tutor in 1874 and later served as her governess, secretary, and literary assistant.

Edith Wharton was a major American literary figure in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and, though she is best known as a novelist and short-story writer, she also wrote poetry and non-fictional works on interior and landscape design. Wharton was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, awarded in 1921 for her novel *The Age of Innocence* (1920). In addition to critical and bibliographic scholarship on Wharton, summary information is available in the standard print and online resources.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers feature correspondence and personal papers relating chiefly to author Edith Wharton, including over 130 letters to Bahlmann from Wharton, dating from her employment with the Wharton family in 1874, as Edith's German language tutor, to 1915. The letters document a significant, long-standing relationship and shed light on Wharton's personal and literary affairs. In addition to the Wharton correspondence, there are single and small groups of letters between Bahlmann and family members, friends, and acquaintances, including William Morton Fullerton and Henry James, and a small number of third-party letters. Bahlmann's personal papers include legal and financial documents, notebooks, and writings, as well as material relating to Edith Wharton. Other materials relating directly to Wharton

include clippings, documents on her efforts during the war, a pressed lily, photographs, postcards, and a small sachet. Photographs consist of studio portraits of people and images of Wharton's residences. There are photographs of Wharton, dating from 1900 to 1905, family, and friends, including Mary Cadwalader Jones and Pauline Robinson. Wharton residences include "Reef Point" in Bar Harbour, Maine, 884 Park Avenue in New York, and the estate ("The Mount") in Lenox, Massachusetts.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1874-1917. II. Personal Papers, 1875-1916.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1874-1917

0.84' (3 boxes)

Series I, Correspondence, contains letters to and from Anna Bahlmann and between others. General Correspondence includes single and small groups of letters between Bahlmann and family members, friends, and acquaintances, such as William Morton Fullerton and Henry James, and features over 130 letters to Bahlmann from Edith Wharton.

Bahlmann was employed as Wharton's tutor in 1874, when Edith was only 12, and later served as her secretary and literary assistant. Wharton's letters, which date from 1874 to 1915, spanning over four decades, document her reading and education, literary work and acquaintances, travels, and impressions on such topics as art, architecture, and landscape design. The letters document an important, long-standing relationship and shed light on Wharton's personal and literary affairs. The correspondence, unpublished in 2010, contains a significant number of early or youthful letters, filling a gap in Wharton's published correspondence.

Third-party correspondence, arranged alphabetically by correspondent, consists chiefly of condolence letters to Bahlmann's niece, Mrs. Charles Parker (Anna Louise Bahlmann Parker), including several letters from Wharton.

In addition to the correspondence in Series I, several autograph postcards, from Wharton and others, have been preserved in the postcard albums in Series II. Personal Papers. Cross references are provided where appropriate in the box and folder list below.

Correspondence is chiefly in English, with some letters in French and German. Many letters are accompanied by transcriptions.

Organized into two subseries: General Correspondence and Third Party Correspondence.

#### General Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Abbott, [Myra]	1882 June 26
b. 1, f. 2	Bahlmann, William F.	1897-1915, undated
b. 1, f. 3	[Banas?], A. S. de	1880-1881
b. 1, f. 4	Breitsprecher, Anna	1902, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Collez, B.	1916 March 26
b. 1, f. 6	Duchon, Henri	1915 February
b. 1, f. 7	Fullerton, [William?] Morton	1914 March 29
b. 1, f. 8	Hase, Albertina	1902-1903
b. 1, f. 9	James, Henry	1905 August 14
b. 1, f. 10	Jones, M[ary] C[adwalader]	1916 April 4
b. 1, f. 11	[Parker, Anna?]	undated
b. 1, f. 12	Parker, Charles	[1905?]

## General Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 13	Parker, Mrs. Charles	1905, 1916
b. 1, f. 14	Parker, William B[ahlmann]	1913, undated
b. 1, f. 15-16	Robinson, Pauline	1903-1910
b. 1, f. 17	<a href="#">"Rodier"</a>	1915
b. 1, f. 18	Rutherford, Lewis	1876, 1879
b. 1, f. 19	[Rutherford, Margaret?]	undated
b. 1, f. 20	Rutherford, Winthrop	1875, undated
b. 1, f. 21	Stuyvesant, Mary R.	1874-1879, undated
b. 1, f. 22	Van Rensselaer, Louisa	1915 August 19
b. 2, f. 23-37	<a href="#">Wharton, Edith</a> See also: Series II. Personal Papers, Postcard albums, Boxes 5-6, folders 67-209 Includes vendor inventory	1874-1915, undated
b. 3, f. 38-39	Wharton, Edith (transcriptions)	1874-1917, undated
b. 3, f. 40	Christmas cards	undated
b. 3, f. 41	Unidentified	1884-1915, undated
Third Party Correspondence		
b. 3, f. 42	Fuller, Henry B. to W. L.. Moody (copy)	[1902 March 27]
b. 3, f. 43	Jones, Mary Cadwalader to Mrs. Charles Parker	1916 April
b. 3, f. 44	Masten & Nichols to Mrs. Charles S. Parker Includes copy of Anna Bahlmann's will	1916 April 25
b. 3, f. 45	Parker, Florence to "Laura"	undated
b. 3, f. 46	Robinson, Pauline to Mrs. Charles Parker	1916
b. 3, f. 47	<a href="#">Wharton, Edith to Mrs. Charles Parker</a>	1916-1917

**Series II: Personal Papers, 1875-1916***1.46' (4 boxes)*

Series II, Personal Papers, contains Anna Bahlmann's personal papers, some of which relate to Edith Wharton.

Materials relating directly to Wharton include clippings, documents on her efforts during the war, a pressed lily, photographs, postcards, and a small sachet. Photographs consist of studio portraits of people, mostly women, and images of Wharton's residences. There are photographs of Wharton, dating from 1900 to 1905, family, and friends, including Mary Cadwalader Jones and Pauline Robinson. Wharton residences include "Reef Point" in Bar Harbour, Maine, 884 Park Avenue in New York, and the estate ("The Mount") in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Postcards, some dating from a trip Wharton and Bahlmann took to North Africa in 1914, have been removed from two albums and the order preserved. The albums have been digitized, and images of the albums and individual postcards, front and back, can be found online through Beinecke's Digital Library. Several postcards are inscribed by Wharton and others.

Anna Bahlmann's papers include legal and financial documents, notebooks, and writings.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

b. 4, f. 47a	Inventory of Anna Catherine Bahlmann's personal effects	undated
b. 4, f. 48	Boards [from photo album?]	undated
b. 4, f. 49	Clippings Also stored in: Oversize, Broadside cabinets, folder 278	1898-1914, undated
b. 4, f. 50-51	<a href="#">Edith Wharton's war work</a>	1915-1916
b. 4, f. 52	Handwriting sample and analysis	1884-1894
b. 4, f. 53	Last will and testament and codicil	1910-1916
b. 4, f. 54-55	<a href="#">Ledgers</a>	1898-1916
b. 5, f. 56	Lily and leaf	1885, undated
b. 5, f. 57	<a href="#">List [of contributions?]</a>	undated
b. 5, f. 58	<a href="#">Manuscript fragments</a>	undated
b. 5, f. 59-61	Notebooks	1886, undated
b. 5, f. 62	Obituary notice from <i>Kansas City Star</i>	1916 April
b. 5, f. 63	Passport	1914 December
b. 5, f. 64-66	<a href="#">Photographs</a> Also stored in Oversize, Box 8, folders 279-289 Includes photographs by Arnold Genthe and others	1876-1905
b. 5, f. 67-116	<a href="#">Postcard albums</a> Includes photographs and correspondence	1909-1910, undated
b. 6, f. 117-209a	<a href="#">Postcard albums</a>	1904-19[12?], undated



b. 7, f. 210-260	<a href="#">Postcards albums</a>	undated
b. 7, f. 261	<a href="#">Postcards (loose)</a>	undated
b. 7, f. 262	Printed ephemera	1876-1913, undated
b. 7, f. 263	Receipts	1916 April 18
b. 7, f. 264	<a href="#">Sachet</a>	1875
b. 7, f. 265-268	Writings by Anna Bahlmann Includes typescript drafts for "A Belated Remedy," "Counsins," and "The Edith Wharton Relief Work"	undated
b. 7, f. 269-277	Writings by others	1905-1907, undated

**Oversize, 1900-1914**

1.34' (1 box)

b. 278 (Broadside)	Clippings (In Series II)	1902-1914, undated
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 279-289	<a href="#">Photographs (In Series II)</a>	1900, undated

**Restricted Fragile Papers, 1900-1914***0.42' (1 box)*

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 9, f. 290-292      Clippings from correspondence (In Series I)

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b. 9, f. 293-294      Postcard albums (In Series II)

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

American literature -- 20th Century  
Authors, American

### **Geographic Names**

Bar Harbor (Me.)  
Lenox (Mass.)

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints  
Studio portraits

### **Occupations**

Authors

### **Names**

Bahlmann, Anna Catherine, 1849-1916  
Fullerton, William Morton, 1865-1952  
James, Henry, 1843-1916  
Jones, Mary Cadwalader  
Wharton, Edith, 1862-1937

### **Contributors**

Bahlmann, Anna Catherine, 1849-1916  
Wharton, Edith, 1862-1937