

# Guide to the Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven Records

MS 1268



compiled by Bruce P. Stark

June 1983

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	8

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1268

**CREATOR:** Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven

**TITLE:** Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven records

**DATES:** 1907-1944

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, records and printed material of Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven. Correspondents include local officers of Alliance Française, officials of the national Fédération de l'Alliance Française aux États-Unis, and potential lecturers.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1268>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1268>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

Gift of Elizabeth Lyman, 1982.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven Records. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven was a chapter of a national organization, Fédération de l'Alliance Française aux États-Unis, whose goal was to promote French-American relations.

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## Scope and Contents

The Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven, founded in 1904, was an organization whose goal it was to promote French-American relations. The Records consist of two boxes of correspondence, brochures, programs, bills and receipts, minutes of meetings, and other official records that document the life of the organization from 1904 to the mid-1930s. Folders 1-19 contain correspondence, arranged chronologically, and folders 20-38 contain other papers arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. The records were donated to Yale University by Mrs. Elizabeth Lyman in December 1982.

The Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven was a chapter of a national organization, Fédération de l'Alliance Française aux États-Unis. Much of the correspondence is routine in nature and most of the letters were written by officers of the national Fédération, by possible speakers for the Alliance Française, and officials of war relief agencies to the secretaries of the New Haven Alliance, John I. H. Downes, Katharine W. Carmalt, Grace Brooks, and A. Eleanor Barnum. Major correspondents include officials of the national Federation, George Lamouret, Louis Delamare, Felix Weil, Abigail B Hagarty, Roger Sherman, and T. Tileston Wells; presidents of the local chapter, Robert L. Sanderson, George C. Clarke, and George Henry Nettleton; and lecturers such as Frances Wilson Huard, Paul Leyssac, Jean Gauthier, and P. Van den Ven. Mr. Van den Ven, for example, discussed "La Situation Actuelle en Belgique occupée" at the January 29, 1917 meeting of Alliance Française.

Much of the correspondence during and after World War I concerns French and Belgian war relief. The local Alliance Française chapter channelled and coordinated the relief work for the "Secours National" of France, the Fatherless Children of France, American Committee for Training in Suitable Trades the Maimed Soldiers of France, the Committee for Men Blinded in Battle, and the Commission for Relief in Belgium.

Following the correspondence are found nineteen folders of alphabetically arranged papers from bank statements and bills and receipts to printed material and stationery. Folder 30 contains copies of the 1904 constitution of Alliance Française; folder 31 copies of L'Echo de la Fédération, the official newsletter of the national Fédération; folder 32 contains membership lists; and folders 33-34 have reports of meetings, lists of members, plus annual secretary and treasurer's reports.

Over eighty percent of Alliance members were female and membership in the organization was largely confined to prestigious New Haven and Yale families. The Alliance Française seemed most vital and active

in the World War I era, when France and Belgium were suffering under the onslaughts of the German war machine.

## Collection Contents

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	1904-1909	
b. 1, f. 2	1910-1913	
b. 1, f. 3	1914 English	
b. 1, f. 4	1915 English	
b. 1, f. 5	1916 Jan-Aug	
b. 1, f. 6	1916 Sep-Dec	
b. 1, f. 7	1917 English	
b. 1, f. 8	1918 English	
b. 1, f. 9	1919 English	
b. 1, f. 10	1920 English	
b. 1, f. 11	1921 Jan-Mar	
b. 1, f. 12	1921 Apr-Dec	
b. 1, f. 13	1922 English	
b. 1, f. 14	1923 English	
b. 1, f. 15	1930-1931	
b. 1, f. 16	1932 English	
b. 1, f. 17	1933-1934	
b. 1, f. 18	1935-1937	
b. 1, f. 19	n.d.	
b. 1, f. 20 - 22	Bank statements	1913-1919
b. 2, f. 23 - 26	Bills and receipts	1907-1919, undated
b. 2, f. 27 - 28	Cancelled checks	1908-1919

b. 2, f. 29	Checkbooks	1908-1917
b. 2, f. 30	Constitution	1904
b. 2, f. 31	L'Echo de la Fédération	1921-1923
b. 2, f. 32	Membership lists	1917-1935, undated
b. 2, f. 33 - 34	Minutes and reports	1904-1933
b. 2, f. 35	Newspaper clippings	1922, undated
b. 2, f. 36 - 37	Printed material	1920-1944, undated
b. 2, f. 38	Stationery	undated

## **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**

World War, 1914-1918 -- Hospitals, charities,  
etc.

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.)

### **Names**

Barnum, A. Eleanor  
Carmalt, Katharine W.  
Clarke, George C.  
Delamarre, Louis, 1903-  
Downes, John I. H.  
Nettleton, George Henry, 1831-1896  
Sanderson, Robert Louis, 1851-

### **Corporate Bodies**

Alliance Française Groupe de New Haven  
Federation of French Alliances in the United  
States and Canada