

# Guide to the Louise Imogen Guiney Papers, 1884-1979 (bulk 1884-1921)

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## Collection Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries
<b>Creator:</b>	Guiney, Louise Imogen, 1861-1920
<b>Title:</b>	Louise Imogen Guiney Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1884-1979
<b>Dates:</b>	1884-1921
<b>Quantity:</b>	1.1 cubic feet (5 boxes)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Papers consist mostly of correspondence concerning her personal and literary interests, including her original letters to Mary H. Rollins, Elkin Mathews, and others, 1887-1919; photocopies of her letters to Annie Adams Fields (Mrs. James T. Fields) and to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1884-1914; and microfilm copy of her letters in the Library of Congress and the Huntington Library. Other items include biographical and bibliographic materials; copies of Guiney's published works; microfilm copy of a dissertation on Guiney by Mary Murphy, 1939; and correspondence about Guiney between Vassar and Immaculate Heart College, 1979.

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## Biographical Note

Poet, essayist, and literary scholar, Louise Imogen Guiney (1861-1920) was born in

Roxbury, Mass., the only daughter of an Irish-born Civil War officer whose bravery and religious faith were an important influence on her life. He died when she was sixteen, and family finances dictated that she leave the convent school she had attended for four years. To support herself she worked over the next twenty years at various jobs, including serving as a postmistress and working as a cataloger at the Boston Public Library. Her first book of poems, *Songs at the Start*, was published in 1884 and during the 1890's her distinguished collections of poems and essays, *A Roadside Harp*, and *Patrins*, brought her recognition in the literary circles of Boston and New York. Her charming personality won her many friends, and her letters to them contain some of her best writing.

In 1901 Miss Guiney moved to England, where she liked "the velvety feel of the Past underfoot." Suffering from ill health, largely the result of her preference for books over food and fuel, she found herself unable to write more poetry and concentrated instead on critical and biographical studies of English Catholic writers. An anthology of Catholic poets, *Recusant Poets*, appeared posthumously in 1939. Miss Guiney died of a stroke in Gloucestershire, England, at age fifty-nine, leaving much of her work unfinished.

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## Scope and Content Note

Papers consist mostly of correspondence concerning her personal and literary interests, including her original letters to Mary H. Rollins, Elkin Mathews, and others, 1887-1919; photocopies of her letters to Annie Adams Fields (Mrs. James T. Fields) and to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1884-1914; and microfilm copy of her letters in the Library of Congress and the Huntington Library. Other items include biographical and bibliographic materials; copies of Guiney's published works; microfilm copy of a dissertation on Guiney by Mary Murphy, 1939; and correspondence about Guiney between Vassar and Immaculate Heart College, 1979.

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## Subject Headings

### Names:

- Fields, Annie Adams, 1834-1915
- Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909
- Mathews, Elkin
- Murphy, Mary
- Rollins, Mary H.

### Subjects:

- Literature--Women authors
- Women authors, American
- Women poets
- Women scholars

## VCL Categories

- Literature and Writing

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## Encoding Information

Encoded by Elizabeth Clarke, April 2007.

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## Location of Originals

Some originals are located at the Huntington Library and at the Library of Congress.

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## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

A microfilm machine is required for several parts of the collection.

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Louise Imogen Guiney Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

### Processing Information

Original processing date unknown.

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Mary H. Rollins, VC 1878, and purchase.

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## Container List

Folder 1.1	Biographical information.
Folder 1.2	Bibliography.

Folder 1.3	Issues of periodicals with contributions by Louise Guiney.
Folder 1.4	Correspondence between Vassar and Immaculate Heart College, 1979
Folder 1.5	Correspondence to Mary H. Rollins, 1899-1914? (57 letters, cards, and notes)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mrs. Baxter, 1894 (1 letter)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mrs. Carleton, 1898 (1 letter)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to F.A. Hartshorn, Esq., 1887 (1 letter)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Hopkins, 1897 (1 letter)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Elkin Mathews, 1910-19 (21 letters)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Mathews from Oliver F. Madox Hueffer, 1894
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Mathews from Alan W. Lidderdale, 1905
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Mathews from Isabella Johnson, 1915
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Mathews from Robert Shafer, 1921
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence from Mr. Shafer to Miss Guiney, 1919 (1 letter)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Mosher, 1900-1905 (3 letters)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Peirce, 1892-1893 (2 letters)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Shorter, 1918 (1 letter)
Box 1, Binder	Correspondence to Mr. Stedman, 1888 (1 letter)
Boxes 2 - 5	Copies of Guiney letters to Mrs. Fields and Miss Jewett from the James T. Fields Collection, Huntington Library, 1884-1914 (128 photocopies)
Box 3	Microfilm - Guiney letters in the Library of Congress (4 reels)

Box 3	Microfilm - A dissertation on Louise Guiney by Mary Murphy, 1939 (1 reel, copy of typewritten manuscript)
Box 3	Microfilm - Guiney letters in the Huntington Library to Dr. Ward and others, (1 reel)

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▼ Details

Abstract

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Collection Title

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