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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Haight, Elizabeth Hazelton, 1872-1964

Title: Elizabeth Hazelton Haight Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1894-1959

Bulk Dates: 1911-1953

Quantity: 1 cubic foot (1 box), 1 OV folder

Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, and clippings related to the life and career of American classicist and Vassar College professor Elizabeth Hazelton Haight (1872-1964).

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Biographical Note

Elizabeth Hazelton Haight (1872-1964) was born on February 11, 1872, in Auburn, New York, to parents John W. Haight and Helen Meeker Haight. She attended Vassar College in 1890 and graduated as part of the class of 1894. After graduation, she taught in New York at the Rye Seminary School in Rye (1894-1895), in Troy at the Emma Willard School (1895-1900), and in Brooklyn at the Packer Collegiate Institute (1900-1901). In 1899, she received a M.A from Vassar in absentia, and in 1902 she returned to Vassar as an instructor in Classics. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell in 1909 with a dissertation on The Sea in Greek poetry.

In the summer of 1913, she travelled with a group of students to Greece and Italy as part of a classics department trip. She returned to this region almost every other summer during her time as a professor. During World War I, Haight was chairman of the Faculty Committee on War Activities, coordinating Vassar's commitment to the war effort. She became a full professor in 1922, the same year that she published her most well-known scholarly work, *Italy Old and New*, with publisher E.P. Dutton. In 1923, she became chairman of the Classics Department and both founded and curated the Vassar Classical Museum, which included small archeological finds that she collected on her many trips to Italy and Greece. Today, most of those finds reside within the Vassar College Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center. Her extensive publication history includes titles relating to Vassar College history, studies of ancient literature and poetry, and translations of ancient texts. Haight firmly believed that women were equal to men within academia and went on to become the first female chair of the Advisory Council of the American School of Classical Studies at Rome and the second female president of the American Philological Association (the first having been Vassar Classics professor Abby Leach in 1899).

Haight retired from teaching in 1942, although she remained active in Vassar College life. In 1952, the Elizabeth Hazelton Haight Fund for Research in Classics was established by a group of Vassar alumnae, including Inez

Ryberg and Laura Voelkel Sumner. Haight died in 1964 in Beacon, NY, at the age of 91.

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Scope and Content Note

The collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, and clippings related to the life and career of American classicist and Vassar College professor Elizabeth Hazelton Haight (1872-1964). Correspondence includes letters to and from Haight with other writers and academics, such as Gilbert Highet, Helen MacInnes, Inez Scott Ryberg, and J. A. K. Thomson; Vassar College faculty and administrators; and others. Writings include drafts of several works by Haight, as well as a translation of "What Happened at Ephesus" by Xenophon of Ephesus. Photographs include a photograph album likely assembled by Haight on a trip with her sister, Helen Ives Haight (VC 1898), and several others in 1923, and a photograph album assembled by Laura Voelkel Sumner (VC 1942) in 1948.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by title. [Top](#)

Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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Related Material

Related Materials

- [American Red Cross Vassar Relief Unit Records](#)
- [Vassar College Biographical Files](#)
- Vassar College Department of Greek and Roman Studies Records

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Subject Headings

Names:

- Highet, Gilbert, 1906-1978

- Jefferis, J. D. (Jeffrey Douglas), 1906-
- Lambie, Margaret
- MacInnes, Helen, 1907-1985
- Ryberg, Inez Scott
- Thomson, J. A. K. (James Alexander Kerr), 1879-1959

Organizations:

- Vassar College. Department of Greek and Roman Studies

Subjects:

- Classical literature--Study and teaching
- Classicists
- Greece--Antiquities
- Italy--Antiquities
- World War, 1914-1918--War work--Red Cross
- World War, 1939-1945

Places:

- Egypt--Description and travel
- Greece--Description and travel
- Italy--Description and travel

Document Types:

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Reports

VCL Categories:

- Literature and Writing
- Travel
- Vassar College
- War and War Crimes

[Top](#)**Encoding Information**

Encoded by Emma Gronbeck, February 2025.

[Top](#)**Administrative Information****Preferred Citation**

Elizabeth Hazelton Haight Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Processed by Emma Gronbeck, February 2025.

Acquisition Information

A majority of the collection was transferred from the Department of Greek and Roman Studies, 2011. [M2011-033]

A folder of correspondence with John O. Patterson was the gift of the Kent School, 2012. [M2014-016]

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Container List

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Folder 1.1 | Clippings, 1940-1945 |
| Folder 1.2 | Correspondence - A-C, 1934-1951 |
| Folder 1.3 | Correspondence - D, 1943-1950 |
| Folder 1.4 | Correspondence - E.P. Dutton and Company, 1921-1949 |
| Folder 1.5 | Correspondence - Else, Gerald F., 1948-1950 |
| Folder 1.6 | Correspondence - F, 1945 |
| Folder 1.7 | Correspondence - G-H, 1941-1949 |
| Folder 1.8 | Correspondence - Highet, Gilbert, Lt. Col, 1940-1946 |
| Folder 1.9 | Correspondence - J-L, 1894-1949 |
| Folder 1.10 | Correspondence - Jefferis, J. D., 1937-1948 |
| Folder 1.11 | Correspondence - Lambie, Margaret, 1919, 1945 |
| Folder 1.12 | Correspondence - Lendrath, H., with manuscript, 1945-1946 |
| Folder 1.13 | Correspondence - M, 1940-1952 |
| Folder 1.14 | Correspondence - MacInnes, Helen (Mrs. Gilbert Highet), 1941-1946 |
| Folder 1.15 | Correspondence - N-O, 1938-1951 |
| Folder 1.16 | Correspondence - Patterson, John O., 1959-1961 |
| Folder 1.17 | Correspondence - R-S, 1941-1951 |
| Folder 1.18 | Correspondence - Ryberg, Inez, 1950 |
| Folder 1.19 | Correspondence - T-U, 1945-1951 |
| Folder 1.20 | Correspondence - Thomson, James A. K., 1947-1948 |
| Folder 1.21 | Correspondence - Thornton, Eileen (Vassar Librarian), 1945-1951 |
| Folder 1.22 | Correspondence - Vassar College, 1945-1950 |
| Folder 1.23 | Correspondence - Vassar College, Elizabeth Hazelton Haight Fund, 1951-1953 |
| Folder 1.24 | Correspondence - W-Z, 1918-1942 |
| Folder 1.25 | Correspondence - Whitmarsh, Esther, with poetry drafts, 1918-1949 |
| Folder 1.26 | Correspondence - Wright, Ernest H., 1944-1946 |
| Folder 1.27 | Correspondence - Unidentified, 1938-1948 |
| Folder 1.28 | Haight, Elizabeth H. - "Can the Philosopher Ever Be King? The Autobiography of Emperor Julian," draft, 1945 |
| Folder 1.29 | Haight, Elizabeth H. - Notes and writings, undated |

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|------------------------|--|
| Folder 1.30 | Haight, Elizabeth H. - "Roman Sketches," drafts and clippings, 1939-1944, undated |
| Folder 1.31 | Haight, Elizabeth H. - "What Happened at Ephesus" by Xenophon of Ephesus, translation draft, undated |
| Folder 1.32 | Miscellaneous - "Eduardo's" inventions, drafts, undated |
| Folder 1.33 | Notes and Reports - American Excavations in Greece, Agara and Corinth, 1911-1936 |
| Multi Collection Box 1 | Photograph - Portrait of Helen MacInnes, for Elizabeth Hazelton Haight, undated [Framed] |
| Folder 1.34 | Photograph - Pyramid of Giza, [1923?] |
| Folder 1.35 | Photograph Album - Travel to Egypt, Greece, and Italy (with enclosed letter to "Edna" from her parents), [1923?] |
| Folder 1.36 | Photograph Album - Travel to Greece and Italy, with travel account by Laura Voelkel Sumner (VC 1942), 1948 |
| Folder 1.37 | Scrapbook - Classical theater productions at Vassar, 1957 |
| Folder 1.38 | Travel Itinerary, undated |
| Folder 1.39 | Vassar College - "The Classical Journal Club of Vassar College," meeting minutes, 1935-1959 |
| Folder 1.40 | Vassar College - Reports and proposals, 1946, undated |

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