

Table of Contents

- [Collection Summary](#)
- [Biographical Note](#)
- [Scope and Content Note](#)
- [Subject Headings](#)
- [Related Material](#)
- [Administrative Information](#)
- [Access and Use](#)
- [Encoding Information](#)
- [Arrangement](#)
- [Series List](#)
- [Container List](#)

Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Ellery, Eloise, 1874-1958

Title: Eloise Ellery Papers

Dates: 1870-1959

**Bulk
Dates:** 1923-1958

Quantity: 3.4 cubic feet (1200 items in 17 boxes)

Abstract: Correspondence, diaries, manuscripts and typescripts, newspaper clippings, travel documents, legal and financial papers, family papers, photographs, printed materials and miscellaneous items relating to the life and work of Eloise Ellery. There is also significant collection of items which belonged to Frank Ellery.

[Top](#)

Biographical Note

Born in Rochester, NY in 1874, Eloise Ellery (1874 - 1958) was the only child of Frank M. and Mary Alida Alling Ellery. Frank Ellery was a rising member of the Rochester business community. He became Secretary and later trustee of the Security Trust Company in Rochester. Miss Ellery attended the Rochester Free Academy and entered Vassar College as a freshman in 1893. A history student under the tutelage of Vassar's own Lucy Maynard Salmon, Miss Ellery graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar in 1897. That was the beginning of an association which would span her lifetime. Upon graduation from Vassar, she went to Cornell as a Babbott Fellow to do graduate work in history and political science. Fellowships from Vassar, Cornell, and the Association of Collegiate Alumnae allowed Miss Ellery to study at the Sorbonne and do research at the Bibliotheque Nationale from 1899 to 1900. Returning to Vassar in 1900 as an assistant in history, Miss Ellery long remained a vital force in the History Department as well as the College. In 1916, she became a full professor, was department chairman from 1923 to 1932 and retired in 1939 as professor emeritus of history. She served as Secretary of the Faculty from 1910 to 1923.

Miss Ellery traveled extensively -- most notable was a trip taken in 1923-1924. On leave from Vassar, she traveled around the world with her father. Stopping in Shanghai, China to visit a former student, Sophia Chen Zen, '19, Miss Ellery met with prominent leaders of Young China. A typescript written by Zen and included within the Collection records the highlights of this visit.

A vigorous scholar and experienced traveler, Miss Ellery made for a devoted teacher who demanded top quality work from every student. For many years, Miss Ellery taught Renaissance and Reformation, French Revolution and Contemporary Western Europe as a three year-long course. Writing about Ellery's teaching, Helen D. Lockwood, a student and later colleague of Miss Ellery's, wrote "E.E. drew out and expected to be expressed with thoroughness and polish the would capacity of every student whether the specially able and gifted, the sensitive, problem student or the ordinary run."

Innovative in her teaching methods and a devotee of Miss Salmon's philosophy of using primary source materials, Miss Ellery required of all her students a long paper to be done over the whole term. Out of this exercise, Lockwood wrote, "...came the profound inner change in a student's thinking, the toughness and delight of intellectual adventure...."

In a letter to Frank Ellery, Vassar's President MacCracken also spoke of Miss Ellery's teaching: "There is no one among the whole one hundred and twenty-five [faculty] who seems to have the ability to lift students up to the best that is in them and keep them steadily and enthusiastically at work as does your daughter..."

Yet devotion to her students did not end upon their graduation from Vassar. Amusing and constant, Miss Ellery took her role as correspondent seriously. She oftentimes labored over letters, keeping them informative but at the same time safe from censors. Evidence of this can be found in correspondence from Ilse Hecht '29, a former student teaching in East Germany, Sophia Chen Zen '19, teaching in China, and Irene Mott '22, the wife of a High Court judge living in Nagpur, India. She also wrote frequently to Rebecca L. Lowrie '13, a close personal friend and trustee of Vassar.

Outside of teaching, Miss Ellery served as an associate on the staff of Current History from 1921 to 1931, reporting monthly on political developments in Italy, Spain and Portugal. She also wrote many articles for the American Historical Review. Her one book was published in 1915 in a series commemorating Vassar's 50th Anniversary. Expanding her doctoral dissertation into a full-length biography, Miss Ellery published an authoritative work. Brissot de Warville, A Study in the History of the French Revolution was called by one reviewer "the only biography in existence of the Chief of the Girondin party in the French Revolution."

Upon her retirement in 1939, Miss Ellery went to Washington, D.C. for a year to study Spanish literature and to follow Congressional matters. She returned to Poughkeepsie in 1940, and remained a familiar and striking figure on campus until her death in July 1958. She was 84.

In October, 1958, as part of the College's \$25,000,000 Development Program, the Eloise Ellery Chair of History was established. The Chair memorialized "her outstanding service to the College as a teacher, scholar and benefactor."

For more biographical information see:

Barbour, Violet. "Memorandum on Professor Eloise Ellery," 1958.

Lockwood, Helen D. "Some Notes on E.E.'s Teaching," 1958

[Top](#)

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, diaries, manuscripts and typescripts, newspaper clippings, travel documents, legal and financial papers, family papers, photographs, printed materials and miscellaneous items relating to the life and work of Eloise Ellery. There is also significant collection of items which belonged to Frank Ellery.

Correspondence is the largest portion of the papers and consists primarily of letters received from her father Frank Ellery, 1891-1929; from Ilse Hecht on teaching in East Germany, 1947-1957; from Rebecca L. Lowrie,

friend and Vassar colleague, about personal and professional issues, 1936-1956; from Irene Mott, wife of a High Court Judge in India, about political situations there, Indian people, and World War II, 1924-1951; from C. Mildred Thompson, friend, colleague, and former Dean of the College, about teaching duties, an education conference in London (1944), professional and social life at the University of Georgia, and teaching in Europe, 1941-1952. There is also correspondence regarding the estate of Mary Frazer, family affairs, and other matters, 1929-1958; as well as a few family and personal letters by Ellery, 1899-1957.

Ellery's diaries include records of daily activities, 1940-1957, health records, 1953-1955, reading and quotation journal, 1919-1956, and grade books, 1926-1939. Manuscripts and printed materials include an account of Ellery's trip to China, 1923-1924, by her former student Sophia Chen Zen; her published articles, 1928-1929; and articles and clippings about Ellery and her father, Frank Ellery, 1897-1929, and his diaries for 1910-1929; and estate papers, receipts, and inventories for Abby M. Alling, Eloise Ellery, and Mary Frazer, 1929-1958.

[Top](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 9 series. Whenever possible all letters have been dated. Undated letters or fragments from a known correspondent are placed at the end of that file. All unidentified correspondence is at the end of the Correspondence series. Frank Ellery's materials have not been separated, but rather have been placed at the end of the appropriate series. [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](#).

[Top](#)

Related Material

Related Materials

- [The Helen D. Lockwood Papers contains additional correspondence between Miss Ellery and Helen Lockwood.](#)
- [Rebecca Lawrence Lowrie Papers](#)
- [The Lucy Maynard Salmon Papers contains additional correspondence between Miss Ellery and Lucy Maynard Salmon.](#)

[Top](#)

Subject Headings

Names:

- Alling, Abby M.
- Ch'en, Heng-che, 1890-1976
- Ellery, Frank
- Frazer, Mary
- Hecht, Ilse, 1907-
- Lowrie, Rebecca Lawrence, 1891-1975
- Mott, Irene
- Thompson, C. Mildred (Clara Mildred), 1881-1975

Organizations:

- University of Georgia
- Vassar College--Faculty

Subjects:

- Decedents' estates
- Education--Europe
- Education--Germany (East)
- Women college teachers
- Women--Diaries
- World War, 1939-1945

Places:

- China--Description and travel
- Europe--Description and travel
- Germany (East)--Description and travel
- India--Description and travel
- India--Politics and government

Document Types:

- Diaries
- Photographs

VCL Categories:

- Education
- Travel
- Vassar College

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

Encoded by Elizabeth Clarke, March 2007. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, June 2025.

[Top](#)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Eloise Ellery Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Original processing date unknown.

Acquisition Information

Gift of the estate of Eloise Ellery and from Helen D. Lockwood, 1958.

[Top](#)

Series List

[Series I.](#) Correspondence (Boxes 1-4)

- Personal Correspondence to Eloise Ellery
- Personal Correspondence from Eloise Ellery
- Financial and Legal Correspondence to Eloise Ellery
- Financial and Legal Correspondence from Eloise Ellery
- Correspondence about Eloise Ellery by Others
- Frank M. Ellery Correspondence
- Miscellaneous

[Series II.](#) Manuscripts and Typescripts (Box 5)

- Unpublished Material
- Published Material

[Series III.](#) Printed Materials (Boxes 5-7)

- Addresses and Announcements
- Articles Written by Eloise Ellery

- Articles Written about Eloise Ellery
- Booklets
- Newspaper Clippings

Series IV. Personal Commonplace Books (Boxes 8-15)

- Eloise Ellery's Daily Diaries
- Record Books and Notes
- Frank M. Ellery's Daily Diaries

Series V. Legal Documents (Box 16 and Folder 139, Map Case Drawer 34)

- Travel Documents
- Letter of Introduction
- Library Cards
- Estates
- Oversized

Series VI. Financial Documents (Box 17)

Series VII. The Ellery Family (Box 17)

Series VIII. Photographs (Box 17)

Series IX. Fragments (Box 17)

Container List

SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE

Personal Correspondence to Eloise Ellery

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Folder 1.1 | Ellery, Frank M., 1891-1928 (25 letters, 1 with photocopy) |
| Folder 1.2 | Ellery, Frank M., 1929 (1 poem - 2 MS, 2 photocopy) |
| Folder 1.3 | Hecht, Ilse, 1947-1952 (13 letters) |
| Folder 1.4 | Hecht, Ilse, 1953 (9 letters) |
| Folder 1.5 | Hecht, Ilse, 1954-1957 (10 letters, 1 postcard) |
| Folder 1.6 | Lowrie, Rebecca, 1936-1951 (15 letters) |
| Folder 1.7 | Lowrie, Rebecca, 1952-1953 (20 letters) |
| Folder 1.8 | Lowrie, Rebecca, 1954 (19 letters) |
| Folder 1.9 | Lowrie, Rebecca, 1955-1956, undated (10 letters) |
| Folder 1.10 | Lowrie, Rebecca I, undated (5 Christmas cards) |
| Folder 1.11 | Lowrie, Rebecca II, undated (5 Christmas cards, 1 tea mat) |
| Folder 1.12 | Mott, Irene, 1924-1939 (3 letters, 1 Typescript) |
| Folder 2.13 | Mott, Irene, 1942-1951, undated (4 letters, 1 Christmas card, with pictures) |
| Folder 2.14 | Otley, Roberta, 1939-1958 (7 letters, 1 note) |
| Folder 2.15 | Thompson, C. Mildred, 1941-1950 (13 letters, 1 postcard) |
| Folder 2.16 | Thompson, C. Mildred, 1952 (6 letters, 2 postcards, 2 c.c.) |
| Folder 2.17 | Thompson, C. Mildred, 1953-1954 (16 letters, 1 postcard) |
| Folder 2.18 | Thompson, C. Mildred, 1955 (12 letters, 2 postcards, 1 c.c.) |
| Folder 2.19 | Thompson, C. Mildred, 1956-1957, undated (15 letters, 1 postcard, fragments) |
| Folder 2.20 | "Miss A"- Benet, 1952-1957, undated (8 letters, 9 postcards) |
| Folder 2.21 | Blanding-Canda, 1946-1956, undated (12 letters, 4 cards, 3 postcards) |
| Folder 3.22 | Clifford-Elsworth, 1951-1957, undated (15 letters, 4 cards, 1 postcard) |
| Folder 3.23 | Foster-McClelland, 1939-1958, undated (9 letters, 6 cards, 6 postcards) |
| Folder 3.24 | McKnight-Rapin, 1951-1958, undated (12 letters) |
| Folder 3.25 | Reed-Zen, 1940-1957, undated (9 letters, 4 cards, 3 postcards) |
| Folder 3.26 | Other Family correspondents, 1933-1956, undated (9 letters, 3 cards, 2 photocopied telegrams, 4 announcements) |

Personal Correspondence from Eloise Ellery

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Folder 3.27 | Mother and Father, 1899 (1 letter) |
| Folder 3.28 | Frank M. Ellery, 1957 (3 letters) |
| Folder 3.29 | Others, 1903-1957 (16 letters, 2 postcards) |

Financial and Legal Correspondence to Eloise Ellery

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Folder 3.30 | Letters of receipt from Vassar College, 1933-1940 (12 letters, photocopy) |
| Folder 3.31 | Letters re: Salary and Pension, 1929-1939 (7 letters) |
| Folder 4.32 | Letters re: Frazer Estate, 1935-1944 (9 letters) |
| Folder 4.33 | Other financial and legal correspondence, 1933-1954 (5 letters) |
| Folder 4.34 | Other professional correspondence, 1939-1956, undated (10 letters) |

Financial and Legal Correspondence from Eloise Ellery

- Folder 4.35 Letters re: Frazer Estate, 1934-1944 (3 letters, 4 c.c.)
- Folder 4.36 Other professional correspondence, 1933-1954, undated (6 letters, 3 c.c.)

Correspondence about Eloise Ellery by Others

- Folder 4.37 Letters to Dr. Jane Baldwin, 1958 (4 letters)
- Folder 4.38 Letters to Helen D. Lockwood, 1958-1959 (11 letters, 1 c.c.)
- Folder 4.39 Letters by Helen D. Lockwood, 1958 (11 letters, 1 note)
- Folder 4.40 Other correspondence about Eloise Ellery by others, 1946-1958 (7 letters)

Frank M. Ellery Correspondence

- Folder 4.41 Letters to Frank Ellery by other than Eloise, 1925-1929 (5 letters - 1 with copy, 1 with photocopy)
- Folder 4.42 Letters by Frank Ellery to other than Eloise, 1897-1924 (3 letters)

Miscellaneous

- Folder 4.43 Fragments or unidentified letters, undated (1 letter, 3 cards, 3 postcards, 1 envelope)

SERIES II. MANUSCRIPTS AND TYPESCRIPTS

Unpublished Material

- Folder 5.44 Barbour, Violet. "Memorandum on Professor Eloise Ellery," 1958 (10 page TS and draft)
- Folder 5.45 Hecht, Ilse, 1940 Apr 20 (TS, 6 pages)
- Folder 5.46 VC History Department. "Memorial minute," 1958 Oct 6 (TS, 4 pages)
- Folder 5.47 Lockwood, Helen D. "Some notes on E.E.'s Teaching," 1958 Aug 28 (TS, 3 pages)
- Folder 5.48 Monnier, Mathilde. "Printemps," undated (TS, 8 pages)
- Folder 5.49 Zen, Sophia Chen. "Miss E's Trip to China," 1923-1924 (TS, 5 pages w/pics)
- Folder 5.50 Zen, Sophia Chen. "Art of Persuading an Absolute Monarch in Chinese History," [circa 1952] (TS 11 pages)
- Folder 5.51 Reading Lists, [circa 1948] (TS, 11 pages)
- Folder 5.52 Unidentified literary works, 1850-1958, undated (3 items)

Published Material

- Folder 5.53 Dunne, Finley Peter "Mr. Dooley...", 1912 Mar 13 (2 TS, 14 pages)
- Folder 5.54 "News from Vassar" notices and drafts, 1958 (2 TS, 6 pages)

SERIES III. PRINTED MATERIALS

Addresses and Announcements

- Folder 5.55 Faculty statement to President Taylor, [circa 1913-1914] (TS, 2 pages)
Folder 5.56 Trustees accept resignation of Eloise, [1939 Mar] (TS, 1 page)
Folder 5.57 Speech given by Adlai Stevenson, 1954 Jun 7 (TS, 5 pages)

Articles Written by Eloise Ellery

- Folder 6.58 Articles in *Current History*, 1928-1929 (4 articles)

Articles Written about Eloise Ellery

- Folder 6.59 Printed picture dedication, *Vassarion*, 1913 (2 pages)
Folder 6.60 "Eloise Ellery Chair," *Alumnae Magazine*, 1958 Dec (1 page)

Booklets

- Folder 6.61 Guidebook of Geneva, undated (1 item)
Folder 6.62 Newcomer, Mabel, "You are a Taxpayer," 1939 (1 item)
Folder 6.63 Thompson, C. Mildred. "Carpet-baggers in U.S. Senate" and "Freedman's Bureau in Georgia," 1914-1921 (2 items)
Folder 6.64 Miscellaneous: Goodhart's "British Constitution," M.L. King's "Our Struggle," and the 50th Anniversary Security Trust Company 1942-1956 (3 items)

Newspaper Clippings

- Folder 7.65 Articles about Eloise Ellery, 1915-1958 (10 articles)
Folder 7.66 Articles about Frank M. Ellery, 1926, undated (21 articles)
Folder 7.67 Articles from *Le Figaro*, 1952-1953 (3 articles)
Folder 7.68 Ralph McGill Columns, 1952-1953 (3 articles)
Folder 7.69 Articles related to correspondents, 1949-1954, undated (8 articles)
Folder 7.70 Editorials, 1937-1954, undated (13 articles)
Folder 7.71 News articles, 1928-1955 (3 articles)
Folder 7.72 Obituaries, 1920-1958, undated (20 articles)
Folder 7.73 Political cartoons, 1951-1953 (3 cartoons)
Folder 7.74 Book reviews, 1953-1956 (2 articles)
Folder 7.75 Weather reports, [circa 1924] (8 articles)
Folder 7.76 Electoral Voting reports, 1920-1928 (6 articles)
Folder 7.77 Miscellaneous, 1870-1954, undated (20 articles)

SERIES IV. PERSONAL COMMONPLACE BOOKS**Eloise Ellery's Daily Diaries**

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Folder 8.78 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1940 Dec 25 - 1941 Oct 4 |
| Folder 8.79 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1942 Jan 1 - Apr 1 |
| Folder 8.80 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1943 Jan 1 - Nov 24 |
| Folder 8.81 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1944 Jan 1 - Nov 29 |
| Folder 8.82 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1945 |
| Folder 8.83 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1946 |
| Folder 8.84 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1947 |
| Folder 9.85 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1948 |
| Folder 9.86 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1949 |
| Folder 9.87 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1950 |
| Folder 9.88 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1951 |
| Folder 9.89 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1952 |
| Folder 10.90 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1953 |
| Folder 10.91 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1954 |
| Folder 10.92 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1955 |
| Folder 10.93 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1956 Jan 1-Nov 1 |
| Folder 10.94 | Diary of Eloise Ellery, 1957 |

Record Books and Notes

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Folder 11.95 | Gradebook, 1926-1927 |
| Folder 11.96 | Gradebook, 1938-1939 |
| Folder 11.97 | Personal Health Record, 1953-1955 |
| Folder 11.98 | Journal of Books read and quotations, 1919-1956 |
| Folder 12.99 | Notes from reading I, undated (116 items) |
| Folder 12.100 | Notes from reading II, undated (163 items) |
| Folder 12.101 | Notes from reading III, undated (113 items) |

Frank M. Ellery's Daily Diaries

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Folder 13.102 | Diary of Frank Ellery, 1910 |
| Folder 13.103 | Diary of Frank Ellery, 1920 |
| Folder 14.104 | Diary of Frank Ellery, 1923 |
| Folder 14.105 | Diary of Frank Ellery, 1924 |
| Folder 15.106 | Diary of Frank Ellery, 1928 |
| Folder 15.107 | Diary of Frank Ellery, 1929 Jan 1 - Feb 4 |
| Folder 15.108 | Items removed from diaries of Frank Ellery, undated (13 items) |

SERIES V. LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Travel Documents

- Folder 16.109 Itinerary of world tour, 1923 Mar 27 (4 pages)
- Folder 16.110 Contract for tour, 1923 Jul 17 (7 pages)
- Folder 16.111 Mail instructions while on tour, [1923-1924] (3 items)
- Folder 16.112 Eloise Ellery's passports, 1923-1930 (3 items)
- Folder 16.113 Frank Ellery's passport, 1923 (1 item)

Letter of Introduction

- Folder 16.114 Letter from State Department, 1908 Apr 25 (1 notice w/seal)
- Folder 16.115 Letter from President H.N. MacCracken, 1939 Jun 1 (1 page)

Library Cards

- Folder 16.116 Cards from Library of Congress, Bibliotheque Nationale, 1934-1941 (3 cards)

Estates

- Folder 16.117 Alling, Abby M.: Statement of accounts, [circa 1929] (7 pages)
- Folder 16.118 Alling, Abby M.: Receipt of assets, 1929 Mar 29 (2 pages)
- Folder 16.119 Ellery, Eloise: Drafts of will, legatees, 1944-1955 (6 items)
- Folder 16.120 Ellery, Eloise: Notices to executor, 1939-1955 (2 items)
- Folder 16.121 Ellery, Eloise: Estate inventories by Helen D. Lockwood, 1958 (19 items)
- Folder 16.122 Frazer, Mary, 1934-1944 (3 items)

Oversized

- Map Case —
Drawer 34 Diploma of Mary Alida Alling from Rochester Collegiate Institute
- Map Case —
Drawer 34 Eloise Ellery Vassar College Diploma, 1897
- Map Case —
Drawer 34 Eloise Ellery Diploma Ph. D. Cornell University
- Map Case —
Drawer 34 Eloise Ellery "Medalla de Plata..." from Don Antonio Maura y Montaner
- Map Case —
Drawer 34 Frank M. Ellery two (2) certificates of admission to the New York State Bar, 1879 Jun 13, 20
- Map Case —
Drawer 34 Frank M. Ellery Broadside. Union School Number Ten, 1862 Apr 10 (photocopy)

SERIES VI. FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

- Folder 17.123 Statement of investments, 1947 (2 pages)
- Folder 17.124 Carnegie Foundation pension plan, [1930] (2 pages)
- Folder 17.125 Bills and receipts - Eloise Ellery, 1940-1958 (6 items)
- Folder 17.126 Bills and receipts - Frank Ellery, 1928 (1 item)

SERIES VII. THE ELLERY FAMILY

- Folder 17.127 Biographical data Eloise Ellery, 1943-1951 (4 pages)
- Folder 17.128 Biographical data Frank Ellery, undated (1 item)
- Folder 17.129 Family trees and drafts, undated (11 items)
- Folder 17.130 Geneology of John Sibley I, undated (20 pages)
- Folder 17.131 Geneology of John Sibley II, undated (22 pages)

SERIES VIII. PHOTOGRAPHS

- Folder 17.132 Photos of Eloise Ellery's family, including Frank Ellery, undated (14 photos)
- Folder 17.134 Photos relating to Rebecca L. Lowrie, undated (10 photos)
- Folder 17.135 Photos of C. Mildred Thompson, undated (7 photos)
- Folder 17.136 Photos of others, undated (5 photos)
- Folder 17.137 Unidentified photos, undated (9 photos)

SERIES IX. FRAGMENTS

- Folder 17.138 Miscellaneous: war rationbook, folder covers with notations in Eloise Ellery's hand, undated (7 items)

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)