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ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER**

Guide to

**Margaret Fuller Papers
1836-1872, n.d.**

FM.MS.7

by Jane E. Ward

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Extent: 8 folders

Linear feet: 3 in.

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

PROVENANCE

Transcendental manuscript materials were first acquired by Clara Endicott Sears beginning in 1914 for her Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts. Sears became interested in the Transcendentalists after acquiring land in Harvard and restoring the Fruitlands Farmhouse.

Materials continued to be collected by the museum throughout the 20th century. In 2016, Fruitlands Museum became The Trustees' 116th reservation, and these manuscript materials were relocated to the Archives & Research Center in Sharon, Massachusetts.

In Harvard, the Fruitlands Museum site continues to display the objects that Sears collected. The museum features four separate collections of significant Shaker, Native American, Transcendentalist, and American art and artifacts. The property features a late 18th century farmhouse that was once home to the writer Louisa May Alcott and her family. Today it is a National Historic Landmark.

The materials in this collection were purchased from The Goodspeed Book Shop by Clara Endicott Sears.

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RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS

This collection is open for research. Restricted Fragile Material may only be consulted with permission of the archivist.

MARGARET FULLER (1810-1850)

Sarah Margaret Fuller Ossoli, known as Margaret Fuller, was a well-known author, lecturer, and Transcendentalist in the nineteenth century. She is often called a "bluestocking," because of her feminist beliefs and unconventional life. She was born Sarah Margaret Fuller on 23 May 1810, the first of nine children of Timothy and Margaret Fuller of Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. Her father determined to educate her according to the classical curriculum of the day, which was not typically available to women. The exacting and regimental education began at a very young age and was to take a great toll on her health. But it also gave her a broad knowledge of literature and languages. Following the completion of her formal studies, Fuller gained entrance into the intellectual circles of Cambridge and Harvard. Here she formed lasting friendships with many New England intellectuals. In 1836, Fuller was hired to teach languages at Amos Bronson Alcott's Temple School. She stayed there only a year but continued her teaching career in Providence, Rhode Island, at the Greene Street School.

In 1839, she returned to Massachusetts and began conducting Conversations for society women and others in Boston. At this time, Fuller also became an integral part of the Transcendentalist movement. From 1840 to 1842 she edited and contributed to the Transcendentalist journal, *The Dial*.

In 1845, she published her feminist work, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*. During this same time period, Horace Greeley hired her as the literary critic for the New York *Tribune*. In 1846, Fuller traveled to Europe. She continued to write for the *Tribune* as a foreign correspondent.

In 1847, she went to Rome, Italy. Here she met and, it is believed, married Marchese Giovanni Angelo Ossoli and gave birth to a son, Angelo Eugene Philip ("Angelino") Ossoli in September 1848. She and her husband took part in the 1849 Italian Revolution. When the revolution failed, the family went to Florence. Shortly thereafter, they decided to sail for the United States. Margaret Fuller, her husband, and son never reached the U.S., as they were drowned when their ship was wrecked off Fire Island, New York, on 19 July 1850.

[Sources: An earlier version of this finding aid was found within "The Guide to the Transcendentalist Manuscript Collection," and was shared with The Trustees at the time of the Fruitlands Museum acquisition. It was used for this biographical section as well as for item level information.

Also used: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Margaret-Fuller>; *The Lives of Margaret Fuller: A Biography* by John Matteson, 2012.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The Margaret Fuller Papers (1836-1872, n.d.) document her day-to-day life, family relationships, and social arrangements. There is little information on her professional life. The material is arranged in three series and chronologically within each series. All the material has been microfilmed, and most of the material is available in typescript form. An earlier version of this finding aid was found within “The Guide to the Transcendentalist Manuscript Collection,” and was shared with The Trustees at the time of the Fruitlands Museum acquisition. It was used as a resource.

Series I, Correspondence, comprises the bulk of the collection. Most of the correspondence is addressed to Elizabeth Hoar, Charles Emerson’s fiancée and a member of the Transcendentalists. These letters concern primarily Fuller's health, family, and social engagements. Letters to other correspondents also cover these topics as well as her financial situation and her life in Florence (Italy). The collection contains several incomplete letters describing Fuller's inner emotional life, thoughts on women, and her sister Ellen. A letter to John S. Dwight concerns translations that Fuller had done; this is the only letter concerning her professional work. A letter addressed to George Curtis describes her life in Florence after the Italian Revolution and mentions Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The last letter in this series was written by Margaret Fuller's mother after the death of her daughter.

See also: The Alcott Family Papers include part of an undated letter from Fuller to Harriet Martineau, which was copied by Amos Bronson Alcott. (Box 3, folder 5.)

Series II, Writings by Margaret Fuller, consists primarily of fragments from Fuller's journal, circa 1844. It includes day-to-day observations, copies of letters, and drafts of poems. The entries include information on her health, visitors, and impressions. There is mention of the hiring proposal from Horace Greeley, and her writing. The last page of her journal includes a brief listing of notes for the improvement of the second edition of her book, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*. The series ends with handwritten transcriptions (not in Fuller’s handwriting) of two of Fuller’s poems.

Series III, Book, contains a first edition copy of *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, from the Fruitlands Library, HQ1154.O8 1845 c.3.

Series IV, Images, contains two engravings of Fuller, one based on an original painting and published in 1872; the other is undated.

Folder	Item	Contents	Date
Series I. Correspondence			
3 folders			
Dates: 1836-1850			
Series I, Correspondence, is arranged chronologically.			
1	1	Letter to [Temperance] Colburn. Original unlocated; typescript only. About family and friends. Published in <i>The Letters of Margaret Fuller</i> , ed. Robert N. Hudspeth, 5 vols. to date (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983-), 1:252-53.	1836 May 8
1	2	Letter to John S. Dwight. 1 p. Original. Mentions the translations she has done. Also mentions Mr. Alcott and Mr. & Mrs. Ripley. Published in <i>Letters</i> , 1:346.	1838 Oct 9
1	3	Letter to unknown correspondent. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. About family. Published in <i>Letters</i> , 3:46.	[ca. 1842 Mar 1]
1	4	Letter to Elizabeth Hoar. 1 p. Incomplete. Original and typed transcript. About her inner life. Published in full in <i>Letters</i> , 3:46-48.	[1842 Mar 8?]
1	5	Letter to Elizabeth [Hoar]. 3 pp. Incomplete (part of mss. cut out). Original and typed transcript. Mostly about her health. Mentions Mr. Alcott at the end of this incomplete version. Published in full in <i>Letters</i> , 3:54-55.	1842 Mar 20
1	6	Letter to Elizabeth [Hoar]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. About family, friends, and her health. Published in <i>Letters</i> , 3:118-19.	1843 Jan 30
1	7	Letter to [Albert H.] Tracy. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Hoping to meet him in Buffalo so he can escort her back to Boston. Published in <i>Letters</i> , 3:139.	1843 Aug 7

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| 1 | 8 | Letter to [Albert H. Tracy]. 4 pp. Original. Sorry not to have met him; asks him to write more about his family. Regrets she did not take more interest when he came to the house in Jamaica Plain (Mass.); she was “sick and I supposed dying.”
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 3:149-50. | 1843 Sep 26 |
| 1 | 9 | Letter to [Marianne Mackintosh] Clarke. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. About family and friends.
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 3:152-53. | 1843 Oct 23 |
| 1 | 10 | Letter to [Lydia Maria] Child. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Thanks Child for her book; hopes to renew their acquaintance.
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 3:183. | 1844 Mar 13 |
| 2 | 1 | Letter to Elizabeth [Hoar]. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Making arrangements for a visit.
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 4:115. | [1845] Jun 12 |
| 2 | 2 | Letter to Elizabeth [Hoar]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. Regrets canceling the night at the theater and disappointing Lizzie.
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 4:128-29. | 1845 Jul 6 |
| 2 | 3 | Letter to Rebecca [Spring]. 2 pp. Original and typed transcript. Arrangements for a visit.
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 4:185-86. | 1846 Feb 12 |
| 2 | 4 | Letter to Elizabeth [Hoar]. 3 pp. Original and typed transcript. Has settled in Rome, asks for a letter from Lizzie.
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 4:309. | 1847 Oct 27 |
| 2 | 5 | Letter to George [William Curtis]. 4 pp. Original and typed transcript. In Florence, mentions revolution in Rome, the Brownings, and Horace Sumner, who had been at Brook Farm. [Sumner was lost on the same ship as Fuller in 1850.]
Published in <i>Letters</i> , 5:274-77. | 1849 Oct 25 |
| 2 | 6 | Letter to Elizabeth [Hoar]. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Fuller writes that she is sending a package to Hoar. Not found in vols. 1-4 of <i>Letters</i> (through 1847), which suggests a date of 1848 to 1850. | Saturday
[1848-50] |
| 2 | 7 | Letter to unknown correspondent. 4 pp. Incomplete. Original | [1848-50] |

and typed transcript. On the state and rights of women. Not found in vols. 1-4 of *Letters* (through 1847), which suggests a date of 1848 to 1850.

Letters by others:

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| 3 | 1 | Letter to [Thomas Hicks]. 1 p. Original and typed transcript. Written by Margaret Crane Fuller, mother of Margaret Fuller. Fuller thanks Hicks for returning a box of Fuller's possessions after her death, and asks his permission to make a likeness from his portrait of Fuller. | 1850 Sep 9 |
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Series II. Writings by Margaret Fuller

3 folders

Dates: ca. 1844

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| 4 | 1 | Journal Fragments. Original and typed transcript. See last page of journal fragments for "Woman – Notes for Improvement of Second Edition." | [ca. 1844] |
| 5 | 1 | Journal Fragments: photocopies of most of the last 22 pages of Fuller's journal; see pages 33-40 of typed transcript. | [ca. 1844] |
| 6 | 1 | Handwritten transcription of one of Margaret Fuller's poems. Original and photocopy. | n.d. |
| 6 | 2 | Handwritten transcription of one of Margaret Fuller's poems. On reverse is Fuller's note about the writing of the poem. 2 photocopies. | n.d. |

Series III. Book

1 folder

Date: 1845

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| 7 | 1 | Fuller, Margaret, <i>Woman in the Nineteenth Century</i> (New York: Greeley & McElrath, 1845). Softcover. | 1845 |
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Series IV. Images

1 folder

Date: 1872, n.d.

8	1	Engraving of Margaret Fuller, from the original painting by Chappel owned by Johnson, Fry & Co., Publishers, New York.	1872
8	2	Engraving of Margaret Fuller, by F. T. Stuart, Boston.	n.d.