

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Fisher, William Righter (1849-1932)** **MC 2000.12**

Material: Family Papers (1874-1959)

Volume: 0.50 linear feet (1 Document Box and 1 Oversized Folder)

Donation: Gift of Robert D. Schwarz, 1968

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Righter Fisher was born on June 24, 1849 to William A. and Sarah P. Anderson Fisher in Bryn Mawr, Lower Merion County, Pennsylvania. He was educated at Hasting's Academy in Philadelphia and entered Dickinson College in 1867. After his graduation in 1870, Fisher worked as an instructor in Natural Science at Dickinson Seminary in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. In 1871, he traveled overseas to study in Germany, and studied at both the University of Heidelberg and the University of Munich until 1874. Upon his return to the United States, Fisher became Professor of Modern Languages at Dickinson, a position he held for two years. On January 4, 1876 Fisher married Mary Wager, and the couple's son, Wager, was born on May 14, 1877.

In 1877 Fisher was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar. During his distinguished law career he was a member of the Law Association of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the International Bar Association. Fisher was also a member of the Franklin Institute, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, the National Geographical Society, the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution, the American Forestry Association, and the Union League.

Fisher's frequent business trips took him to the states of Maryland, North Carolina, Florida and Minnesota, and to cities as distant as San Francisco and Oakland. It was the fledgling Washington Territory in the Great Northwest, however that piqued Mr. Fisher's interest. He had land investments in that area, and spent an extended amount of time in New Tacoma, Washington Territory from the fall of 1883 until the spring of 1884.

While Fisher was pursuing his law and land investment interests, his wife Mary devoted her time to writing poems, short stories, and other works. Some of Mrs. Fisher's stories were published, and two of her longer non-fictional pieces describing her travels in North America were published in full by *The Rural New Yorker*.

William Righter Fisher, the "last surviving graduate" of Dickinson College's Class of 1870, died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania on February 17, 1932, at the age of 82.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The William Righter Fisher Family Papers are housed in one document box, and are arranged into three basic categories: Correspondence, Writings, and Miscellaneous Materials. These papers were donated by Mr. Robert D. Schwarz in 1968.

The Correspondence section of this collection contains the letters that have been received by William Righter, Mary, and Wager Fisher. All correspondence is arranged alphabetically by recipient, and then chronologically. The majority of the letters were written to William Righter Fisher. Some of the more frequent authors included his wife Mary Wager Fisher, his son Wager, his sister Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn), Charles Francis Himes, George Gluyas Mercer. A significant portion of the letters were written to Fisher during his stay in Washington Territory in late 1883 and early 1884, informing him of family, local, and business matters.

The Writings section of this collection contains with the writings of Mary Wager Fisher and papers related to her efforts to publish. The Writings section is divided into six sub-series: Poems, Short Stories, Non-fiction, Miscellaneous (containing primarily unfinished works), Publishers' Correspondence, and Clippings (housed in a single oversized folder). Within each group, the writings are arranged alphabetically by title, while the correspondence are arranged chronologically.

The Miscellaneous Materials section of the collection consists of a variety of certificates, membership cards, tickets, and other ephemera, arranged alphabetically by family member.

The following additional materials related to the Fisher family are also housed in the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections:

- I - ThayerJ - 2007 - 1 Fisher, Wager and Ella to Fenner, Donald and Marietta, 8 letters regarding family kinships and daily life - 1959-64

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12

CORRESPONDENCE

Fisher, Mary Wager

Folder 01) Letters Received

- From Julius Schweger - Aug. 5, 1877
- From William Righter Fisher - Aug. 14, 1879
- From William Righter Fisher - Aug. 15, 1879
- From William Righter Fisher - Feb. 27, 1882
- From George Gluyas Mercer - Oct. 12, 1883
- From Lucy M. Washburn - Oct. 26, 1883
- From William A. Fisher - Dec. 31, 1883
- From H. A. Hierkell - July 26, 1883
- From George C. Bragdon - Oct. 25, 1895
- From Burt G. Wilder - Apr. 22, 1897
- From M. E. Major - Feb. 22, 1914
- From Bertha Lewis - Mar. 4, 1915
- From A. M. G. - May 18, 1915
- From Henry Bird Lord, w/ note and news clipping - May 21, 1915

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Fisher, Wager

Folder 02) Letters Received

- From Gertrude Wager - Jan. 7, 1927
- From Mrs. Frank A. Beery - Jan. 24, 1927
- From Fanny Neff Erving - Apr. 21, 1938
- From Marietta D. Fenner - June 22, 1959
- From Donald and Marietta Fenner - Aug. 12, 1959

Fisher, William Righter

Folder 03) Letters Received

- From Summerfield Emory Snively - Jan. 15, 1874
- From Charles Francis Himes - Feb. 10, 1874
- From Charles Francis Himes - Mar. 12, 1874
- From Charles Francis Himes - June 5, 1874
- From Charles Francis Himes - July 1, 1874
- From Charles Francis Himes - July 27, 1874
- From Charles Francis Himes - Aug. 17, 1874
- From James A. McHenry - Sep. 17, 1874
- From George Wilds Linn - Nov. 7, 1874
- From George Wilds Linn - c1874

Folder 04) Letters Received

- From Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker - June 17, 1875
- From Julius Schweger - July 1, 1875
- From Summerfield Emory Snively - Aug. 29, 1875
- From Horatio G. Knight - Aug. 30, 1875
- From F. W. Christern - Sep. 25, 1875
- From John Wilson, Jr. - Dec. 29, 1875
- From B. C. Wilson - Dec. 29, 1875

Folder 05) Letters Received

- From Charles G. Biggs - Jan. 8, 1876
- From William R. Woodward - Jan. 17, 1876
- From Mary A. Buckman - Jan. 21, 1876
- From Summerfield Emory Snively - Jan. 25, 1876
- From James A. McHenry - Feb. 5, 1876
- From George Wilds Linn - Feb. 19, 1876
- From F. W. Christern - Feb. 24, 1876
- From Horatio G. Knight - June 6, 1876
- From H. H. Curran - June 26, 1876

Folder 06) Letters Received

- From Julius Schweger - Aug. 4, 1877
- From Mary Wager Fisher - Sep. 8, 1879
- From Mary Wager Fisher - Aug. 15, 1880

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Fisher, William Righter (cont.)

Folder 07) Letters Received

From M. Barber - Oct. 3, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Oct. 9, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Oct. 10, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Oct. 14, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Oct. 14, 1883

Folder 08) Letters Received

From Mary Wager Fisher - Oct. 17, 1883
From George Gluyas Mercer - Oct. 19, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Oct. 21, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Oct. 22, 1883
From J. R. Bailey - Oct. 25, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Oct. 26, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Oct. 28, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Oct. 28, 1883

Folder 09) Letters Received

From Mary Wager Fisher - Nov. 1, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Nov. 1, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Nov. 4, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Nov. 4, 1883
From James S. Williams - Nov. 6, 1883
From David J. Myers, Jr. - Nov. 9, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Nov. 9, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Nov. 11, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Nov. 12, 1883

Folder 10) Letters Received

From T. H. Ogilbe - Nov. 16, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Nov. 16, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Nov. 18, 1883
From George Gluyas Mercer - Nov. 19, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Nov. 21, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Nov. 27, 1883
From William P. Schell - Nov. 27, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Nov. 29, 1883

Folder 11) Letters Received

From George Gluyas Mercer - Dec. 1, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 2, 1883
From William P. Schell - Dec. 8, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 9, 1883
From George Gluyas Mercer - Dec. 10, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 12, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 12, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher (telegram) - Dec. 13, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 15, 1883

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Fisher, William Righter (cont.)

Folder 12) Letters Received

From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 16, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Dec. 16, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 18, 1883
From William A. Fisher - Dec. 18, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 22, 1883
From George Gluyas Mercer - Dec. 26, 1883
From Wager Fisher - Dec. 26, 1883
From Mary Wager Fisher - Dec. 27, 1883
From Wilbur Fisk Spottswood - Dec. 28, 1883
From Hannah M. Cook - Dec. 29, 1883

Folder 13) Letters Received

From Oliver E. Mercer - Jan. 3, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 4, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 6, 1884
From Wager Fisher - Jan. 6, 1884
From George H. Van Zandt - Jan. 9, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 11, 1884
From Wager Fisher - Jan. 11, 1884
From William P. Schell - Jan. 11, 1884
From George Gluyas Mercer - Jan. 14, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 14, 1884
From Wager Fisher - Jan. 14, 1884

Folder 14) Letters Received

From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 17, 1884
From Saml. W. Levis - Jan. 17, 1884
From Alexander Scott - Jan. 19, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 20, 1884
From Wager Fisher - Jan. 21, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 23, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 27, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Jan. 29, 1884

Folder 15) Letters Received

From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 3, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 8, 1884
From Edward Huggins - Feb. 17, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 20, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 21, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher (telegram) - Feb. 22, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 23, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 25, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Feb. 29, 1884

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Fisher, William Righter (cont.)

Folder 16) Letters Received

From Mary Wager Fisher - Mar. 8, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Mar. 13, 1884
From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - Mar. 13, 1884
From Mary Wager Fisher - Mar. 18, 1884
From Isaac W. Anderson - Mar. 31, 1884
From J. H. Houghton - Apr. 2, 1884
From Mrs. George Wilds Linn - Apr. 28, 1884
From Mrs. George Wilds Linn - May 31, 1884

Folder 17) Letters Received

From William A. Fisher - Mar. 22, 1886
From Isaac W. Anderson - Mar. 26, 1886
From Alexander Scott - Mar. 30, 1886
From Alexander Scott - Apr. 6, 1886
From William A. Fisher - Apr. 11, 1886
From Mrs. George Wilds Linn - Apr. 23, 1886
From William A. Fisher - Apr. 24, 1886
From George Gluyas Mercer - Apr. 24, 1886
From Mrs. George Wilds Linn - Apr. 27, 1886
From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - May 7, 1886
From William A. Fisher - May 10, 1886
From George Gluyas Mercer - May 11, 1886
From Alexander Scott - June 28, 1886

Folder 18) Letters Received

From James E. Rhoads - July 31, 1891
From James E. Rhoads - Aug. 4, 1891
From Joseph G. Darlington - June 5, 1896

Folder 19) Letters Received

From Alexander Enoch - Mar. 4, 1905
From Alexander Enoch - Mar. 13, 1905
From Alexander Enoch - Aug. 5, 1905
From Alexander Enoch - Aug. 28, 1905
From Alexander Enoch - Sep. 14, 1905

Folder 20) Letters Received

From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - May 2, 1908
From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - May 8, 1908
From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - May 17, 1908
From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - Sep. 1908
From Naomi Fisher (Mrs. George Wilds Linn) - Oct. 2, 1908

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Fisher, William Righter (cont.)

Folder 21) Letters Received

From Charles F. Himes - Feb. 18, 1912
From Charles F. Himes - Aug. 29, 1912
From Charles F. Himes - Sep. 16, 1912
From Charles F. Himes - Oct. 8, 1912
From Charles F. Himes - Sep. 7, 1913
From Charles F. Himes - Dec. 26, 1913
From Charles F. Himes - May 8, 1914
From Wager Fisher - Aug. 10, 1915
From unknown - Aug. 22, 1915
From Charles F. Himes - Aug. 10, 1917

Folder 22) Letters Received

From Mary Murray Himes (Mrs. Thomas E. Vale) - Dec. 7, 1918
From Mary Murray Himes (Mrs. Thomas E. Vale) - Jan. 7, 1919
From Wager Fisher - Jan. 31, 1920
From Alf. M. Calhoun - Oct. 17

WRITINGS

Fisher, Mary Wager

Folder 23) Poems

"A Garden Walk" (3 versions)
"How the New School House Was Built"
"The Paper and Ink Beauty"
"The Pot Boilers' Hero"
"The Very Happiest Time"
Untitled

Folder 24) Short Stories

"The George Who Told a Lie"
"How Jimmy Went to the Fair"
"Little Red Riding Hood"
"A 'Natural' Boy"
"Rachel Sits for Her Portrait"
"What Happened to a Boy Who Smoked"

Folder 25) Non-fiction

"College Education"
"Far From the Madding Crowd"
"Mrs. Carlyle, From the Standpoint of Utility"
"Robinsnest," Piazza Photograph
"A Summer Vacation in the Bay of Quinte"
"What Cereal and Cheap Coffee Are Made Of"

Folder 26) Miscellaneous Writings

BOX 1 - MC 2000.12 (cont.)

WRITINGS (cont.)

Fisher, Mary Wager (cont.)

Folder 27) Publishers' Correspondence

From *The Christian Union* - Feb. 25, 1882

From Table Talk Publishing Company - Sep. 20, 1894

From *The Atlantic Monthly* - Nov. 5, 1894

From *The Rural New Yorker* - Nov. 6, 1899

From *Harper's Bazar* - Apr. 19, 1900

From *Harper's Bazar* - May 22, 1900

From St. Nicholas Editorial Rooms - Mar. 9, 1906

From *The Rural New Yorker* - Mar. 1 (no year)

MISCELLANEOUS

Fisher, Wager

Folder 28) Wedding Invitation

Fisher, William Righter

Folder 29) Biographical Material and Ephemera

OVERSIZED - OC 2000.12

WRITINGS

Fisher, Mary Wager

Folder 01) Clippings