

Rives, Hallie, Erminie

Hallie Erminie Rives papers

1890-1906

Title Statement

Rives, Hallie, ErminieHallie Erminie Rives papers MSS 8090

Author: Ellen Welch

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 8090

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1898

Unit Date

1890-1906

Language

English

Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet 8 folders (3 in first accession-boxed with MSS 808) and 5 in the addition in half-width legal size document box) Hallie Erminie Rives correspondence, poems about her, photographs, and printed information

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Keywords

Women authors, American

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence with some poems-Addition 1 (2017-0149)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293635

Unit Date 1892-1906

Mixed Materials [X032669600] 1 (box)

Language English

Extent 0.25 Cubic Feet5 legal size folders in a legal half-width document boxLetters to Hallie Erminie Rives with some poems

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was a purchase from Lord Durham Rare Books to the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 20 July 2017.

Preferred Citation

MSS 8090, Hallie Erminie Rives papers addition (2017-0149), Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Hallie Erminie Rives was born on May 2, 1874, in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, the daughter of Stephen Turner Rives and Mary Ragsdale. Her father was from a prominent Virginia family. She was a distant cousin of the novelist and poet Amélie Rives Troubetzkoy. An author's biography in one of her books notes that her father fought for the Confederacy during the American Civil War and spent two years in a Northern prison camp.

Rives wrote her first novel at age eight. Her first novel was published when she was eighteen. In her novels she addressed politics between the Northern and Southern United States, issues of race, and sex, causing great debate among critics. Among them was *Smoking Flax* Archived 2010-08-18 at the Wayback Machine (1897), a novel controversial even at the time, which takes a favorable position on lynching. The novel is about an African American man accused of raping and murdering a white woman who was lynched after the governor commuted his sentence to life. Many of her novels were bestsellers.[4] Other books she wrote were better received by critics than *Smoking Flax*. Her novel, *The Castaway*, is noted for being the subject of a Supreme Court copyright case, *Bobbs-Merrill v. Straus*, in which the US Supreme Court recognized the first sale doctrine, permitting purchasers of copies of books to resell them without seeking permission from the copyright holder.

She married Post Wheeler in 1906 in Tokyo. A wedding announcement noted that Wheeler initially considered Rives "rather severe on men" in her books and she considered him "none too charitable concerning the faults of women" in his book *Reflections of a Bachelor*. They met at a reception in New York and began a friendship that eventually led to marriage.[5] She accompanied him to posts across Europe, Asia and South America throughout his career in foreign service. She and her husband co-wrote *Dome of Many-Coloured Glass* in 1952 about their lives in the United States Foreign Service.

She died on August 16, 1956, in New York City, New York. Her widower died on Christmas Eve, December 23, 1956, at the Frances Convalescent Home in Neptune, New Jersey, just 4 months later. Works

The Singing Wire and Other Stories (1892) *A Fool in Spots* (1894) *Smoking Flax* (1897)[permanent dead link] *As the Hart Panteth* (1898) *A Furnace of Earth* (1900) *Hearts Courageous* (1902) *The Castaway* (1904) [8] *In the Wake of War* (1905) *Satan Sanderson* (1907), adapted to film *The Kingdom of Slender Swords* (1910) *The Valiants of Virginia* (1912) *Tales from Dickens* (1917) *The Long Lane's Turning* (1917) *The Complete Book of Etiquette* (1926) *The Magic Man* (1927) *The Golden Barrier* (1934) *The John Book* (1947) *Dome of Many Coloured Glass* (1952)

Source: "Hallie Erminie Rives" Wikipedia. Accessed 4/1/2026

Scope and Contents

Correspondence files of the best-selling novelist Hallie Erminie Rives. 170 letters dated from 1892 to 1906, all written to Rives from editors, playwrights, producers, politicians, fans and many others. Among the correspondents are the Denver Post, Washington Magazine, Times Mirror Company, Empire Theatre, Woodard & Tieran Printing Co., Daily Story Publishing Company, Buffalo Courier, Baltimore News, Boston Herald, Collier's, New York Press. One ALS from Hall Caine, English novelist and playwright (29 November 1902) and from Howard Christy.

Related Materials

MSS 8090 donation-early accession. Not in ArchivesSpace yet.

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