Florence Fetz Mansfield Papers, 1924-1955
Collection Mss. 2005:4

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Summary

Title: Florence Fetz Mansfield Papers, 1924-1955

Collection Number: MSS. 2005:4

Creator: Florence Fetz Mansfield.

Extent: 0.66 cubic feet (2 archival boxes).

Administrative Information


Processed by: Jessica Kross.

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.

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Scope and Contents Note

This collection comprises correspondence, photographs and a scrapbook associated with the American actress Minnie Maddern Fiske (1865-1932) and collected by her niece Florence Mansfield Fetz. The correspondence, both from Mrs. Fiske and her husband Harrison Grey Fiske (1861-1942) was to Florence Mansfield. Most of it is from the mid 1920s. Photographs are of the Fiskes, Florence Mansfield, and Mrs. Fiske’s first husband Legrand White. The scrapbook is devoted to Mrs. Fiske’s professional career and contains playbills, articles announcing the opening of her plays, clippings, and reviews of her performances.

Minnie Maddern Fiske was born in New Orleans on December 19, 1865 and began acting as a child. She was one of the leading stage actors of the late nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth centuries and is
credited with bringing the work of Henrik Ibsen to American attention. She also performed Shakespeare, Restoration comedy, and works she or she and her husband wrote. Much of her time seems to have been spent on the road performing, without her husband. Childless, she concerned herself with her extended family as this correspondence with her niece, Florence Mansfield, demonstrates. She was also an animal rights advocate, serving as Honorary Chairman of the Human Trapping Committee, American Humane Association, Albany, NY. She died in New York on February 15, 1932 at the age of 66.

Container List

These materials belonged to, related to, or concerned the American actress Minnie Maddern Fiske and were collected by her niece, Florence Mansfield Fetz. Box 1 includes photographs, some taken at the Fiske’s summer house, Camp Veery, on Big Moose Lake in New York’s Adirondack mountains; letters; and postcards. Legrand White, Minnie Maddern Fiske’s first husband, is included among the photographs. There are also a number of letters from Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield. The undated letters to Florence Mansfield seem to be from the mid 1920s. Box 1 is arranged in reverse chronological order. Many of the letters were written on the road as Mrs. Fiske toured.

The scrapbook in Box 2 contains newspaper clippings and obituaries of both Minnie Maddern Fiske and her husband, Harrison Grey Fiske. Folder 3 in Box 2 includes lavish praise by Brooks Atkinson, the noted theater critic.

Box   Folder

1 1 Photographs, Florence Mansfield, Harrison Grey Fiske, MMF; Harrison Grey Fiske, Legrand White.
2 Correspondence (5 leaves) re: Archie Binns’ biography of Minnie Maddern Fiske, 1955
3 News clipping re: Glenmore Hotel fire, 1955
4 TLS, 1 p., Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 1 Mar., 1932
5 Postcard, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Jul. 1930
6 TLS, 1 p., Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, [Dec. 1929]
7 Postcard, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Aug. 1929
8 TLS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 6 May, 1929
9 ALS, 3 p., MMF to Florence Mansfield, 10 Apr., [1927?]
10 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Apr. 1927
11 TLS with envelope and Christmas card, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 4 Jan., 1927
12 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 1927?
13 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Dec., 1926
14 Postcard, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Dec., 1926
15 TLS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 4 Aug., 1926
16 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 19 Mar., [1926]. On Humane Trapping Committee letterhead.
17 Envelope pieces, 1926 and undated
18 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 1925
19 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 11 Apr., 1926
20 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 12 Feb., 1926
21 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 10 Feb., 1926
22 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 28 Jan., 1926
23 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 24 Jan., 1926
24 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 13 Dec., 1925
25 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 9 Oct., 1925
26 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 26 Sep., 1925
27 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 17 Sep., 1925
28 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Sep. 1925
29 ALS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 23 Aug., 1925
30 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield [22 Aug., 1925]
31 TLS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 4 Aug., 1925. Includes schedule in the West.
32 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 15 Jul., 1925
33 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, [July 1925]
34 TLS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 28 Jun., 1925
35 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 8 Jun., 1925
36 Postcard, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 6 Apr., 1925
37 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, Jan. 1925
38 TLS, HGF to Florence Mansfield, 24 Nov., 1924
39 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 26 May, 19[2?]?
40 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, 23 April [ca. 192?]
41 Typed schedule of appearances, 10 Apr-20 June, 192?
42 TLS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, n.d.
43 TLS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, n.d.
44 Signed postcard, MMF to Florence Mansfield, n.d.
45 ALS, MMF to Florence Mansfield, n.d.
46 ALS, MMF to “Liddy,” n.d.
47 Christmas card, MMF to “Liddy,” n.d.

Box   Folder

2   1 Harrison Grey Fiske (1861-1942), photograph, n.d.
2    Scrapbook page, Big Moose Lake, New York, n.d.
3    Scrapbook page with clippings about Mrs. Fiske and typescript excerpt from
4    Scrapbook