

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Elizabeth Garver Jordan
Papers, 1891-1947**

**Valerie Wingfield
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Revised July 2000**

Summary

Main Entry: Jordan, Elizabeth Garver, 1867-1947

Title: Elizabeth Garver Jordan papers, 1891-1945

Size: 1.4 linear ft. (3 boxes)

Source: Gift of Harriet B. Prescott, 1952.

Restrictions: None

Description: Elizabeth Garver Jordan (1867-1947) was an author, journalist, suffragist, and editor of *Harper's Bazar*. The collection consists of correspondence from prominent literary figures and women's suffrage supporters as well as a typescript draft of *The Sturdy Oak* (1917), a suffrage novel by fourteen American authors, edited by Elizabeth Jordan. Among the many notable correspondents are: Susan B. Anthony, Gertrude Atherton, John Kendrick Bangs, Alice Brown, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Samuel L. Clemens, Margaret Deland, Julia Ward Howe, Henry James, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Effie Shannon, Anna Howard Shaw, Otis Skinner, Henry Van Dyke, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and Mary E. Wilkins Freeman.

Related material in the New York Public Library: The Century Company Records contain Elizabeth Jordan letters 1905-1913. (Box 52). *The Sturdy Oak: a composite novel of American politics*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1917 is available in the General Research Division, Classmark: NBO (Sturdy Oak).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elizabeth Garver Jordan, journalist and suffragist, was born on May 9, 1865 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the elder of two daughters of William Frank Jordan and Margaretta Garver. Shortly after graduating from St. Mary's High School, Jordan entered business school to learn shorthand. She secured her first job editing the women's page of *Peck's Sun*, owned and operated by George W. Peck. She held her next position as secretary to the Milwaukee superintendent of schools while concurrently reporting for *The St. Paul Globe* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

In 1890, Jordan moved to New York City and joined the staff of *The World*. Her first major interview was with Caroline Scott Harrison, wife of President Benjamin Harrison. This interview was considered a major scoop because Mrs. Harrison rarely gave interviews. Impressed with her performance, *The World* sent Jordan to the mountain regions of Virginia and Tennessee to write an account of the inhabitants. The result was a series of sympathetic articles. Besides these accomplishments, Jordan was well known for her column *True Stories of the News* that chronicled everyday life in the city. She also covered the Lizzie Borden murder trial and in that same year wrote a series of articles on tenement conditions in New York City, published under the title *The Submerged Tenth* (1893).

While in her thirties, Jordan was chosen to be the editor of *Harper's Bazar* (1900-1913). After William Randolph Hearst acquired the magazine in 1913, Jordan remained with its former publisher, Harper and Brothers as literary advisor. In this capacity she was credited with accepting Sinclair Lewis' first novel *Our Mr. Wrenn* (1914) for publication. She was also responsible for bringing the work of women novelists to the public, including the works of Zona Gale and Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

Jordan campaigned for the women's suffrage movement as a speaker, writer and editor of *The Sturdy Oak*, a composite novel by fourteen American writers who supported women's rights. She solicited the authors and contributors who included Fannie Hurst, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Mary Heaton Vorse, Alice Duer Miller, Ethel Watts Mumford, and William Allen White. The novel was published by Henry Holt & Co. (1917) and later sold to *Collier's Weekly* for serial publication (1917).

Jordan eventually left Harper and Brothers to work as an editorial director for Goldwyn Pictures. She held this position briefly. During her entire life Jordan remained very active and continued to write novels. Her memoir *Three Rousing Cheers* (1938), outlined her rich and varied life. Jordan died on February 24, 1947 in her home at 36 Gramercy Park in New York City. Never married, she was survived by her only immediate relative, Mrs. Edward Beyer. Jordan was buried in Florence, Massachusetts, her favorite summer retreat.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers, 1891-1945, contain correspondence and a typescript draft of the novel *The Sturdy Oak*. The correspondence is mainly from authors and writers and from individuals who supported women's suffrage. There are a few carbon replies from Jordan. Henry James (1843-1916), American author and playwright, was a prominent correspondent who maintained a long friendship with Jordan. James's letters, 1904-1909, relate mainly to his American lecture tour and his contribution to *Harper's Bazar*.

Other prominent correspondents include Susan B. Anthony, Gertrude Atherton, Mary Hunter Austin, Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon, Alice Brown, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Dorothy Canfield Fischer, Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), Margaret Deland, William Dean Howells, Jack London, Anna H. Shaw, Otis Skinner, Henry Van Dyke and Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The Sturdy Oak is a typescript draft edited by Jordan. This draft does not contain chapter 13 by Mary Hunter Austin; there are two copies or versions of most of the chapters.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. General Correspondence, Boxes 1-3

This series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The bulk of the letters, 1891-1945, are to Elizabeth Garver Jordan from authors, writers, acquaintances, and suffragists. There are a few carbon replies. There are also a few literary typescripts, and photographs of individuals. Correspondents most heavily represented include Gertrude Atherton, Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon, Alice Brown, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Margaret Deland, William Dean Howells, Julia Ward Howe, Henry James, Kate Douglas Wiggin (Riggs), Margaret E. Sangster, Effie Shannon, Anna Howard Shaw, Henry Van Dyke, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, and Edith Wyatt. Other correspondents in this series include Susan B. Anthony, John Kendrick Bangs, Samuel L. Clemens, Fannie Hurst, Otis Skinner, and Henry Van Dyke.

Series II. *The Sturdy Oak*, Box 3

This series contains typescript drafts of the various chapters *The Sturdy Oak: a composite novel of American politics* submitted to Jordan by the authors. Only chapter thirteen by Mary Hunter Austin is missing. Included also are two folders of correspondence about the book, including letters from the contributors, most notably William Allen White.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX	FOLDER	
		General Correspondence
1	1	A – Anthony
	2-5	Atherton, Gertrude 1908-1916;n.d.
	6	Austin, Mary Hunter
	7	Bacon, Deborah
	8	Bacon, Josephine Dodge Daskam
	9	Bangs – Brisbane
	10-17	Brown, Alice 1904-1916; n.d.
	18	Burnett, Frances Hodgson 1903-1914
	19	1915
	20	1916
	21	1917
	22	1921-1925
	23-24	n.d.
	25	Photograph and print of Burnett
2	1	C
	2	D – Davis
	3	Deland, Margaret 1901-1938
	4	n.d.
	5	Duneka, Frederick A.
	6	F
	7	G
	8	H – Howe
	9	Howells, Mildred
	10	Howells, William Dean 1900-1904
	11	1906
	12	1907-1914; n.d.
	13	Hurst, Fannie
	14	James, Henry 1904-1905
	15	1906
	16	1907
	17	1908-1909
	18	Joline – Jordan
	19	K
	20	London, Jack
	21	M – P
	22	R
	23	Sangster, Margaret E.
	24	Sedgwick – Shannon
	25-26	Shaw, Anna H. 1914-1918;n.d.

	27	Sinclair – Stockton
	28	T
	29	Trask, Katrina
	30	Van Dyke, Henry
3	1	Ward, Elizabeth S. P.
	2	Ward, M. – Wharton
	3	Wilcox, E.W.
	4	Wilkins, Mary E.
	5	Wilson – Wyatt
	6	Miscellaneous
	7	Letter, 5 March 1917. William Allen White to Jordan. Suggestions for chapters to be changed in <i>The Sturdy Oak</i> .
	8-10	Correspondence regarding <i>The Sturdy Oak</i> . 1915-1917; n.d.
	11	<i>The Sturdy Oak</i> (typescript draft).
		Chapter 1. Samuel Merwin
	12	Chapter 2. Harry Leon Wilson
	13	Chapter 3. Fannie Hurst
	14	Chapter 4. Dorothy Canfield Fischer
	15	Chapter 5. Kathleen Norris
	16	Chapter 6. Henry Kitchell Webster
	17	Chapter 7. Anne O'Hagan
	18	Chapter 8. Mary Heaton Vorse
	19	Chapter 9. Alice Duer Miller
	20	Chapter 10. Edith Watts Mumford
	21	Chapter 11. Marjorie Benton Cooke
	22	Chapter 12. William Allen White
	23	Chapter 14. Leroy Scott
	24	Miscellany

INDEX TO CORRESPONDENTS

- Addams, Jane 1907 (1)
 Andrews, Mary Raymond Shipman n.d. (2)
 Anthony, Lucy E. 1916 (1)
 Anthony, Susan B. (1820-1906) 1900 (1)
 Anthony, Susan B. (neice of) 1939 (1)
 Atherton, Gertrude 1908-1916; n.d. (56) Includes photograph of Atherton on a postcard
 Austin, Mary Hunter 1915-1917; n.d. (11)
 (Includes a version of *Kearney, A Phantasy in One Act* 3 pp)
- Bacon, Deborah 1917; n.d. (2)
 Bacon, Josephine Dodge Daskam 1900-1916 (16)
 Bangs, John Kendrick 1901-1911 (5)
 Bosher, Kate Lee (Langley) 1914-1918 (2)
 Bowles, Louise C. 1918 (1)
 Brewer, George Emerson 1934 (1)
 Brisbane, Arthur 1902-1908 (8)
 Brown, Alice 1904-1946; n.d. (20+)
 Burnett, Frances Hodgson 1903-1925; n.d. (97) Includes photograph and color print.
- Christy, Howard Chandler 1900; n.d. (5)
 Clemens, Samuel L. 1905-1906 (6)
 Chambers, Robert W. 1904 (2)
 Crane, Stephen n.d. (1)
 Crothers, Samuel 1939;n.d. (3)
 Cutting, Mary S. 1906 (2)
- Damrosch, Walter 1945 (1)
 Davis, Richard Harding n.d. (2)
 Deland, Margaret 1901-1938 (50)
 Duneka, Frederick.A. 1906 (1)
- Ferber, Edna 1917 (1)
 Freeman, Mary E. Wilkins –*see Wilkins*
 French, Alice 1907 (2)
 French, Edwin Davis 1905 (3)
 Gale, Zona n.d. (2)
 Garland, Hamlin n.d. (1)
 Glasgow, Ellen 1915; n.d. (2)
- Haney, G.B.W. 1901 (1)
 Harper, J. Henry 1900 (3)
 Hichens, Robert 1905-1906 (2)

Howe, Julia Ward 1906-1910 (6)
 Howells, Mildred 1926-1927 (3)
 Howells, William Dean 1900-1914; n.d. (approx. 71)
 Hurst, Fannie 1941; n.d. (8)

James, Henry 1904-1909 (30+)
 Joline, Adrian H. 1901-1911 (5)
 Jordan, Elizabeth 1906-1946 (4)
 Jordan, Mary N. 1920 (1)

King, Mary 1920-1926; n.d. (7)

London, Jack 1906 (1)

Matthews, Brander 1906 (1)
 Miller, Alice Duer n.d. (1)

National American Woman Suffrage Association see: Shaw, Anna H.
 Norris, Kathleen 1917 (1)

Parrish, Maxfield 1900 (1)
 Phelps, Elizabeth Stuart – *see Ward*

Repplier, Agnes 1908 (1)
 Riggs, Kate Douglas Wiggin. 1903-1918; n.d. (14)

Sangster, Margaret E. 1900-1938 (14)
 Sedgwick, Anne Douglas n.d. (3)
 Shannon, Effie 1911-1938; n.d. (13)
 Shaw, Anna Howard. 1914-1918; n.d. (approx. 35)
 Sinclair, May 1905 (1)
 Skinner, Otis n.d. (5)
 Smith, Francis Hopkinson n.d. (1)
 Somerville, Edith Anna OE. 1917 (3)
 Stockton, Frank R. 1900 (3)

Tarbell, Ida M. n.d. (2)
 Towne, Charles Hanson 1919-1938; n.d. (3)
 Trask, Katrina N. n.d. (approx. 18)
 Twain, Mark see: Samuel L. Clemens
 Van Dyke, Henry 1900-1910 (approx. 24)
 Ward, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. 1900-1907 (approx. 29)
 Ward, Mary A. 1908 (1)
 Wells, Carolyn 1900;n.d. (2)
 Wiggin, Kate Douglas Smith – *see Riggs*

Wharton, Edith 1900 (1)
Wilcox, Ella Wheeler 1891-1916 (16)
Wilkins, Mary E. 1900-1910; n.d. (29)
Wilson, Rose Cecil O'Neill 1906 (1)
Wyatt, Edith 1900-1907 (19)