

# Guide to the Victor Oscar Freeburg Papers

MS 223



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

May 1983

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	7

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 223

**CREATOR:** Freeburg, Victor Oscar, 1882-

**TITLE:** Victor Oscar Freeburg papers

**DATES:** 1905-1949

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, short writings, notes, memorabilia and printed matter. The correspondence is largely made up of letters commenting on Freeburg's writings on Elizabethan drama and Hesselius. Other writings relate to ciphers and codes. Also in the papers is a scrapbook containing memorabilia of Freeburg's years at Yale together with a play entitled *Sunset*, produced at Yale in 1908 and acted in by Sinclair Lewis. A second scrapbook (1905-1913) reflects Freeburg's early career teaching at the U.S. Naval Academy, the College of the City of New York and contains copies of his writings and speeches.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0223>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0223>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. V. O. Freeburg, 1953.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Victor Oscar Freeburg Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Victor Oscar Freeburg, writer, painter, and teacher, taught English at the United States Naval Academy from 1906-1907. From 1908-1913, he was an instructor of public speaking at the College of the City of New York. Freeburg was an instructor of English at Haverford College from 1913-1915 and at Columbia from 1915-1916. He edited the Swedish-American Trade Journal from 1919-1922 and was a writer on the staff of the Milbank Memorial Fund from 1931-1936. In addition to his teaching and writing, Freeburg was a painter of portraits and landscapes.

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## Scope and Contents

The Victor Oscar Freeburg papers consist of short writings, notes, memorabilia, and other papers. There is a small amount of correspondence, which falls into three groups: four letters of 1915 congratulating Freeburg on his book, *Disguise Plots in Elizabethan Drama*; three letters of 1921 concerning Freeburg's unrealized plans for a round-the-world cruise for writers and artists (a diary and memorabilia relating to this planned cruise are also included in the collection); and a longer sequence of letters with Freeburg's replies, 1938-1949, concerning his research on the Colonial painter Gustavus Hesselius (1682-1755). Among Freeburg's writings is an article on Hesselius, accompanied by research notes, an exhibition catalogue and photographs of Hesselius's works, and a copy of Hesselius's will.

Several other of Freeburg's writings concern ciphers and codes. Related to these are nine glass lantern slides showing pictures and tables of ciphers from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century. These slides are in box 3. Also among the writings is the play "Sunset," produced at Yale in 1908 and acted in by Sinclair Lewis. The text is accompanied by memorabilia; other items related to the play are included in a scrapbook which covers the years 1905-1913. The contents of the scrapbook cover Freeburg's years at Yale, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the College of the City of New York, as well as his early publications and public speaking engagements.

The remaining items in the collection are a logbook from the Torpedo Training School which Freeburg attended during his service in World War I containing notes and pencil drawings of machinery; and notes

and notebooks on such varied subjects as sociology, Swedish poetry, and geographical allusions in English poetry.

These papers were donated to Yale University in 1953 by Mrs. Victor Oscar Freeburg.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 2	Correspondence	1915, 1921, 1938-1949
	Writings	
b. 1, f. 3	"Recollections of Camp Irving" English	1908
	"Sunset"	
b. 1, f. 4	Ms and tms versions	1908
b. 1, f. 5	Memorabilia	1908
b. 1, f. 6	"A Bibliography of Physiologus and the Bestiaries" English	1909
b. 1, f. 7	"Secret Writing" English	1932
	"Gustaf Hesselius"	
b. 1, f. 8	Ms and tms versions	[1937?]
b. 1, f. 9	Notes	1937
b. 1, f. 10	Exhibition catalogue and photographs of paintings	1938
b. 2, f. 11	Photostatic copy of G. W.'s will	1755
b. 2, f. 12	"Ciphers and Literary Men" English	1946
b. 2, f. 13	"New York of Many Names" English	undated
b. 2, f. 14	Scrapbook	1905-1913
b. 2, f. 15	Torpedo logbook	1918
b. 2, f. 16	Diary and other papers related to "A Voyage of Poetic Adventure"	1921
b. 2, f. 17	Notes on Sociology	1945
	Notebooks	
b. 2, f. 18	Swedish poems	undated
b. 2, f. 19	"Index of Geographical Allusions in English Poets, M. M. Lorentz, Columbia University" English	undated
b. 3	Lantern slides	undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Ciphers  
Educators  
Literature -- History and criticism  
World War, 1914-1918

### **Genres / Formats**

Scrapbooks

### **Names**

Freeburg, Victor Oscar, 1882-  
Granville, William Anthony, 1863-1943  
Gummere, Francis Barton, 1855-1919  
Hesselius, Gustavus, 1682-1755  
Leach, Henry Goddard, 1880-1970  
Lee, Sidney, Sir, 1859-1926

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale College (1887- ). Class of 1905  
Yale University -- Students