

Guide to the Loomis Havemeyer Papers

MS 632



compiled by Mary McKay

July 1999

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 632

CREATOR: Havemeyer, Loomis, 1886-1971

TITLE: Loomis Havemeyer papers

DATES: 1899-1971

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, personal papers, diaries and journals, photographs, and scrapbooks relating to the life and career of Loomis Havemeyer. The collection documents Havemeyer's childhood, his experiences at Hill School, undergraduate and graduate studies at Yale University, as well as his lengthy career as an instructor and an administrator at the university. Details regarding Havemeyer's personal life are recorded primarily in his diaries and in his autobiographical writings. An audiotape of his memorial service is included. The papers also include travel diaries of Loomis Havemeyer's sister, Julia Loomis Havemeyer, which record in detail her summer travels abroad.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0632>

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.0632>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Loomis Havemeyer and his estate, 1966-1972; and George Vaill, 1972; and transfer from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 1998.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

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.

Preferred Citation

Loomis Havemeyer Papers (MS 632). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Loomis Havemeyer was born in Rye, New York on June 7, 1886 to Charles W. Havemeyer and Julia Ida Loomis Havemeyer. Havemeyer's paternal great-grandfather, William Havemeyer, established the sugar refining business in North America (1807), and his grandfather, William Frederick Havemeyer, was elected mayor of New York City, during the mid-19th century, on three separate occasions. Havemeyer's maternal grandfather, Francis Bolles Loomis, was lieutenant governor of Connecticut from 1887 to 1889. Havemeyer lived his early childhood years in Brooklyn, New York while his father managed one of the Havemeyer sugar refineries. Havemeyer's mother, after learning of her husband's infidelities, moved her two children to Hartford, Connecticut (ca. 1890) and was later granted a divorce. A bequeathment of \$200,000 from Julia's brother-in-law, Hector Havemeyer, helped secure the family's financial independence.

Havemeyer attended the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania and in 1907 entered Sheffield Scientific School at Yale University. After receiving a Ph.B in philosophy (1910S), Havemeyer pursued graduate study at Yale in anthropology under Albert Galloway Keller, who, according to Havemeyer, "had the ability of making a man feel on the heights and in the depths in the same breath." Keller openly expressed his concern that Havemeyer did not have the maturity or commitment necessary to pursue graduate work seriously; Keller then advised Havemeyer not to be discouraged under any circumstances should he choose to pursue a career in academics. In 1912, Havemeyer received his M.A. in anthropology and after presenting his dissertation, "The Drama of Savage Peoples," he was awarded a Ph.D. in 1915. In 1925, Havemeyer taught a class on social evolution in the Sheffield Scientific School. Keller was opposed to the course, believing it to be "subversive" to the department. The rift ultimately resulted in the dissolution of their professional and personal relationship.

Throughout his four decade career at Yale, Havemeyer held many positions in both academic and administrative capacities. Havemeyer's academic appointments included instructor of geography and anthropology (1913-1919); instructor of geography (1919-1920); instructor of anthropology (1920-1921); instructor of anthropology and economic geography (1921-1923); lecturer (1923-1925); assistant professor of anthropology (1925-1934); assistant professor of social sciences (1934-1937); assistant professor of evolution (1937-1941); and lecturer (1941-1954). Despite numerous teaching positions, Havemeyer is remembered more for his administrative contributions, most notably as registrar of Sheffield Scientific School (1919-1929). Additional administrative duties included assistant dean (1929-1941) and associate dean (1941-1945) of Sheffield Scientific School; registrar of the School of Engineering (1932-1954); director of undergraduate registration (1945-1948); associate dean in charge of undergraduate registration (1941-1954); and director of undergraduate schedules and allocations (1954-1969). In 1967, Havemeyer was awarded the Yale Medal of Honor in recognition of his continuing role in the operation of the university.

Havemeyer was very involved in the Yale community in informal capacities as well. As an undergraduate, he was a member of the Book and Snake Society as well as a co-founder of the Aurelian Honor Society, in both of which he actively participated throughout his life. He was also a great supporter of the Yale Dramat, claiming to have attended over 270 performances.

Beginning in the summer of 1901 and throughout his undergraduate years, Havemeyer traveled extensively with his mother and sister to Eastern and Western Europe, Canada, the Northwestern United States, and Alaska. On a number of occasions he was a guest in the home of the Baron and Baroness von Munchausen and in 1911 was invited by Annette von Munchausen to attend a dance given for the Duke and Duchess of Coburg.

Havemeyer's reputation was that of a generous person with a philanthropic nature. Much of his giving was done anonymously, as in the case of Carnes Weeks, a student whose medical education Havemeyer financed. Havemeyer never married and with the death, in 1941, of his sister, Julia Loomis Havemeyer, he was left with no immediate relatives. Yale became the major beneficiary of his wealth when in 1949, Havemeyer established the "Loomis and Julia Havemeyer Fund" for students in science and engineering. In 1958, with a gift of \$40,000, Havemeyer established the "Timothy Dwight College Fellowship Fund," in order to bring distinguished artists in the areas of arts and literature to the college. In 1969 he established the "Julia Havemeyer Musical Fellowship," at the Yale School of Music, to provide a fellowship for advanced students of music.

In addition to music, theater, and dinner parties, Havemeyer enjoyed writing and became an avid chronicler of Yale history and traditions, especially after his official retirement in 1954. Many writings were published privately with his own money and distributed to friends. His writings on Yale history and traditions included *Aurelian Honor Society of Yale University and Its Times*; *Eating at Yale, 1701-1965*; *Go to Your Room: Undergraduate Societies and Fraternities at Yale*; *The Engineering Heritage at Yale*; *A History of Book and Snake*; *A History of Timothy Dwight College*; *Sheff Days and Ways*; *Out of Yale's Past*; *Then and Now*; *Undergraduate Yale in the Second World War*; *Yale's Extracurricular and Social Organizations, 1780-1960*; and *Yale, 1930-1946*. "The Drama of Savage Peoples" (dissertation), *Ethnography* (co-authored with A. G. Keller), and *The Conservation of Our Natural Resources* comprised Havemeyer's published scholarly contributions. Autobiographical writings such as "These Things I Remember" and "The Years Since My Retirement, 1954-?" recollect events and experiences throughout his life. Havemeyer died on August 14, 1971.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Loomis Havemeyer document his personal life and, to a lesser extent, his professional career at Yale University. His autobiographical writings and diaries provide the most comprehensive sources regarding Havemeyer's personal life. Information relating to his writings on Yale history and traditions is mostly found in his autobiographical writing, "The Years Since My Retirement, 1954-?". Correspondence between Albert Galloway Keller and Havemeyer documents some of Keller's ideas regarding curriculum within the anthropology department and gives insight into the manner in which Keller interacted with students and colleagues. Both Loomis Havemeyer's and Julia Loomis Havemeyer's [sister] travel diaries provide descriptions of countries, people, and customs encountered during their summer travels to Eastern

and Western Europe, the Orient, the Middle East, North Africa, the Northern United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, in the years of 1901-1914 and 1936. Julia Loomis Havemeyer's diaries, in particular, furnish detailed descriptions and views of other cultures through the perspective of an educated New England woman traveling during the early 20th century. Official records created during Havemeyer's administrative career at Yale have been transferred to the Yale University Archives.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence. II. Writings and Speeches. III. Personal Papers and Photographs. IV. Julia Loomis Havemeyer.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1905-1970

Composed mainly of incoming letters, the series is arranged alphabetically by individual or corporate name within two sections: General and World War II correspondence. In both sections, correspondence is fragmentary and predominantly personal in nature. The dates range from 1905 to 1970 with the bulk falling between 1920 and 1950. Correspondence regarding the publication of writings is filed in Series II under the title of the work it concerns. Correspondence regarding Yale appointments is filed in Series III under Financial, Yale University.

General correspondence is comprised of congratulatory letters, thank-you notes and personal greetings. Many of the correspondents were members of the Aurelian Honor Society or the Book and Snake Society and references to both societies are scattered throughout the letters in the section. Correspondence regarding the publication of a memorial pamphlet dedicated to Book and Snake members killed in World War I or World War II is filed under Book and Snake. Included in the Albert Galloway Keller file is correspondence relating to Havemeyer's relationship with Keller, as both a student and colleague, as well as details of the rift which prompted the dissolution of their personal and professional relationship. Correspondence between Havemeyer and his beneficiary, Carnes Weeks, consists mainly of incoming letters containing fairly routine descriptions of Weeks' activities while a medical student. Brief correspondence regarding Havemeyer's flirtation with a career in the federal government's department of statistics is filed under Herbert Hoover. The Yale University file contains letters from the Art Gallery, the Conservation Program, the Library, and the Peabody Museum acknowledging gifts from Havemeyer.

During World War II, Havemeyer corresponded with a number of Yale students serving in the military. These incoming letters are fairly routine in their chronicling of daily military life and thoughts on the war. Some letters contain reminiscences of gatherings at Havemeyer's residence and provide insight into the students' social relationships with Havemeyer and their "devotion" to him.

General		
b. 1, f. 1-5	A - Z	1905-1970
b. 1, f. 6	Book and Snake [re: WWI and WWII memorial]	1948, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Furniss, Edgar S.	1926, 1944, 1954-1955
b. 1, f. 8	Hoover, Herbert	1917
b. 1, f. 9	International Research Library	1923-1935, undated
b. 1, f. 10	Keller, Albert Galloway See also: Series II, folder 1 See also: Series II, folder 10	1913-1935, undated
b. 1, f. 11	New Haven Preservation and Trust, Inc.	1969-1970
b. 1, f. 12	Paramore, Edward E., Jr.	1917, 1933-1935, undated
b. 1, f. 13	Seymour, Charles and Gladys	1937-1950, undated

General (continued)

b. 1, f. 14-16	Weeks, Carnes	1919-1923, 1943-1945, undated
b. 1, f. 17	Yale University	1918, 1949-1954, undated
b. 1, f. 18	Unidentified	1918-1923, 1938-1954
	World War II	1942-1945
b. 2, f. 19-21	A - Z	1942-1945
b. 2, f. 22	Beck, Brennor W. and Marie	1943-1945
b. 2, f. 23	Campbell, Douglas, Jr.	1943-1945
b. 2, f. 24	Gesner, John M., III	1943-1945
b. 2, f. 25	Pope, Edward J., Jr. and Sr.	1944-1945
b. 2, f. 26	Unidentified	1942-1945

Series II: Writings and Speeches, 1911-1966

Writings are comprised of published and unpublished books, pamphlets, articles, and a play script dramatizing Horace Vachell's book *The Hill*. They are arranged alphabetically by title and include manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, and receipts associated with a particular title. The majority of the correspondence is between Havemeyer and publishing companies and documents his efforts to publish his work. Havemeyer's autobiographical writings, "These Things I Remember" and "The Years Since My Retirement, 1954-?," along with the audio tape from his memorial service (Series III), provide the most comprehensive overview of his life. "These Things I Remember", in particular, furnishes details regarding his parents, grandparents, his childhood in Hartford, Connecticut, his educational experiences, travels abroad, and his career at Yale University. "The Years Since My Retirement, 1954-?" is the primary source for information regarding his writings on Yale history and traditions. Havemeyer describes the impetus behind each book and provides a list of resources he consulted while researching the topic. Both autobiographical works document Havemeyer's interests, beliefs, biases, and relationships, both personal and professional.

Speeches are arranged alphabetically according to place of presentation. The majority of them are in the form of handwritten or typed notes on cards.

Writings		
b. 3, f. 1	"Are You Superstitious?" [correspondence] English	1916, 1929-1930
	"Arts of Life"	
b. 3, f. 2	Correspondence	1940-1941
b. 3, f. 3	Manuscript	1940
b. 3, f. 4	<i>The Aurelian Honor Society of Yale University and Its Times</i> [correspondence]	1956
b. 3, f. 5	<i>Conservation of Our Natural Resources</i> [correspondence] English	1930-1947
	"The Drama of Savage Peoples"	
b. 3, f. 6	Correspondence	1915-1917, 1933, undated
b. 3, f. 7-8	Manuscript	1915
b. 3, f. 9	"The Early Development of the Dramatic Instinct" [manuscript] English	undated
b. 3, f. 10	<i>Ethnography</i> [correspondence] English	1915-1957, undated
b. 3, f. 11	<i>Go to Your Room</i> [manuscript] English	1960
	"The Greatest of These" [dramatization of Horace Vachell's book <i>The Hill</i>]	
	Correspondence	
b. 3, f. 12	A - Z	1932-1946
b. 3, f. 13	A. P. Watt Son	1933-1934

Writings > "The Greatest of These" [dramatization of Horace Vachell's book [...]] > Correspondence
(continued)

b. 3, f. 14	Dean, Alexander	1932-1933
	Paramore, Edward E., Jr.	
b. 3, f. 15	Vachell, Horace A.	1933
b. 3, f. 16	Manuscript	undated
	<i>My Years in the Yale Dramat</i>	
b. 4, f. 17	Correspondence	1966
b. 4, f. 18	Manuscript	1966
	"Our Beginnings"	
	Correspondence	
b. 4, f. 19	A - Z	1938-1941
b. 4, f. 20	Longman's Green Co., Inc.	1938-1940
b. 4, f. 21	"Proof of Man's Antiquity on the Earth as Shown by the Finds in Kent's Cavern of Devonshire" [article] English	1914
b. 4, f. 22	"The Real Teacher" [article in <i>Yale Graphic</i>] English	1919
b. 4, f. 23	<i>Then and Now: A Study of Class Loyalty</i> [manuscript]	
b. 4, f. 24-28	"These Things I Remember" [manuscript] English	undated
b. 4, f. 29	<i>Yale Daily News</i> [articles]	1930, undated
b. 4, f. 30-31	"The Years of My Retirement, 1954-?" [manuscript] English	[1968?]
	Speeches	
b. 5, f. 32	Aurelian Honor Society	1911-1915, 1938
b. 5, f. 33	Book and Snake Society	1947-1953
b. 5, f. 34	Cloister Dinner	1950
b. 5, f. 35	Interfraternity Council	1949
b. 5, f. 36	Race Brook Country Club	1927
b. 5, f. 37	Record Banquet	1949
b. 5, f. 38	Scroll and Compass Fraternity [re: <i>Superstition</i>]	1933
b. 5, f. 39	Sheldon House College [Pine Orchard, CT]	undated
b. 5, f. 40	WYBC Dinner	1955
b. 5, f. 41	Unidentified writings and speeches	1936, undated

Series III: Personal Papers and Photographs, 1900-1971

This series is arranged alphabetically by record type and includes appointment books, diaries, financial records, legal papers, memorabilia, memorials, photographs, and scrapbooks. Diaries comprise the largest and most substantive portion of the series. Havemeyer's travel diaries (1901-1903) provide brief descriptions of accommodations and travel conditions in Eastern and Western European countries, as well as accounts of sites visited and observations on local customs and people. While attending the Hill School, Havemeyer began keeping "Line a Day" diaries, a practice he continued throughout his life. The most detailed entries coincide with his years as a student at the Hill School and his undergraduate and graduate years at Yale. Some entries provide insight into personal and professional relationships; the majority of entries furnish synopses of daily activities. After 1903, Havemeyer recorded travel notes in the "Line a Day" diaries rather than in separate travel diaries. In later years the diary entries become heavily routine and minimal and, especially in later years, increasingly illegible. Havemeyer relied on the "Line a Day" diaries for his books on Yale history and traditions and his autobiographical works. Included in this series is the diary of Mrs. Henry House of Hartford, Connecticut (1900). The Houses socialized with the Havemeyer family and occasional mention is made of Loomis Havemeyer and Julia Ida Loomis Havemeyer. The majority of entries are recapitulations of the House family's daily activities with minimal allusions to Hartford's social scene. According to Havemeyer's inscription in the diary, he had no knowledge as to how it came into his possession.

The audio tape of Havemeyer's memorial service offers further insight into Havemeyer's personality and life from the perspective of a friend and colleague by way of eulogy.

b. 6, f. 1-8	Appointment books	1939-1966
	Diaries	
	Havemeyer, Loomis	
	"Line A Day"	
b. 6, f. 9	1903-1911	1903-1911
b. 7, f. 10-12	1912-1936	1912-1936
b. 8, f. 13-15	1937-1956	1937-1956
b. 9, f. 16-17	1957-1970	1957-1970
	Travel	
b. 9, f. 18-21	1901-1902	1901-1902
b. 10, f. 22	1903	1903
b. 10, f. 23	House, Mrs. Henry	1900
	Financial	
b. 10, f. 24-25	Accounting ledger	1923-1933
b. 10, f. 26	Loomis and Julia Havemeyer Trust Fund	1949-1962
b. 10, f. 27	Timothy Dwight College Fellowship Fund	1958-1969
b. 10, f. 28	105 Grove Street	1936-1962

b. 10, f. 29	Legal papers	1918-1919, 1969-1971, undated
b. 10, f. 30-31	Memorabilia	1910-1954, undated
	Memorials	
b. 10, f. 32	General	1971
b. 10, f. 33	Sympathy notes [addressed to Robert Blaine Browne]	1971
b. 25	Memorial service at Dwight Memorial Chapel [reel-to-reel audiotape] <i>1 Audiotape Reel 0:43:01 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> As a preservation measure, original materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives.	1971 November 12
b. 11, f. 34	Notebook [listing of Charles W. Havemeyer's personal library]	undated
	Photographs	
b. 12, f. 35	Chittenden, Russell Henry [second director of the Sheffield Scientific School]	1874
b. 12, f. 36	Family	[ca. 1903]
b. 12, f. 37	Flood scenes	undated
b. 12, f. 38	Flower garden	[ca. 1958]
b. 12, f. 39	Havemeyer, Loomis and Julia	undated
b. 12, f. 40	Hill School [Pottstown, PA]	1901-1907
b. 12, f. 41	Travel and vacation, 1093-1910	undated
b. 12, f. 42	Yale [re: Aurelian Honor Society, Book and Snake Society, commencement, and reunion]	1916, undated
b. 12, f. 43	Miscellaneous	undated
	Scrapbooks	
b. 13, f. 44	Undergraduate	1907-1910
b. 14, f. 45	Graduate	1911-1919
b. 14, f. 46	Collection of quotes	undated
b. 14, f. 47	Teaching materials	1932-1943, undated
b. 14, f. 48	Yale University [re: appointments, salaries and retirement]	1913-1968

Series IV: Julia Loomis Havemeyer, 1899-1914, 1936, 1941, undated

This series contains the papers of Loomis Havemeyer's older sister, Julia (ca. 1874-December 8, 1941). Julia, financially independent and unmarried, resided in Hartford, Connecticut until her death. The series is arranged alphabetically by record type and includes genealogical materials, notebooks, photographs, travel diaries, and writings.

The travel diaries of Julia Loomis Havemeyer comprise the largest and most substantive portion of the series and are arranged chronologically. Traveling nearly every summer with her mother and brother, Julia wrote very detailed descriptions of her traveling experiences. Entries describe sites visited, excursions taken, travel accommodations, individuals encountered, as well as observations on local customs, dress, and people. Many entries are supplemented with postcards, clippings, brochures, maps, and flora, which she used to illustrate the written descriptions. Havemeyer wrote a title across the top of each page that indicates the subject of the entry. The diaries provide insight into her personality and relationships with her mother and brother.

The notebooks are a collection of handwritten notes on subjects such as sculpture, architecture, painting, notable artists, and include brief historical synopses of countries, most likely compiled in preparation for her trips abroad. One notebook contains jottings and clippings of information relating to the royal families of European countries. The writings folder contains the draft of a poem written by Julia in honor of the publication of her brother's dissertation "Drama of Savage Peoples."

Genealogical materials		
b. 15, f. 1	"Ancestry of Julia Loomis Havemeyer" English	1899
b. 15, f. 2	Obituary	1941
notebooks		
b. 15, f. 3	Arts and artists	undated
b. 15, f. 4	European countries	undated
b. 15, f. 5	Royal families of Europe	undated
b. 16, f. 6-7	Miscellaneous notes	undated
Travel Diaries		
b. 16, f. 8-9	1901 English	1901
b. 17, f. 10-12	1902 English	1902
b. 18, f. 13-19	1903-1904	1903-1904
b. 19, f. 20-23	1905 English	1905
b. 20, f. 24-25	1906 English	1906
b. 21, f. 26-29	1907-1910	1907-1910

Travel Diaries (continued)

b. 22, f. 30-32	1911 English	1911
b. 23, f. 33-36	1912[?]-1913	1912[?]-1913
b. 24, f. 37-40	1914, 1936	1914, 1936
b. 24, f. 41	Writings [draft of poem, written by Julia, in honor of the publication of her brother's dissertation], [ca. 1916]	

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

Educators
Women -- United States
World War, 1939-1945

Geographic Names

Europe -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats

Autobiographies (documents)
Diaries

Occupations

Authors

Names

Bergin, Thomas Goddard, 1904-1987
Havemeyer, Julia Loomis, 1844-
Havemeyer, Loomis, 1886-1971
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964
Keller, Albert Galloway, 1874-1956

Corporate Bodies

Aurelian Honor Society (Yale University)
Yale University. Dramatic Association
Yale University -- Faculty
Yale University -- Students