

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Waite, Emma Forbes, Collection, 1942 – 1958

**LOCATION(S):**

Ms. boxes "W"  
Ms. octavo vols. "W"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 manuscript box; 3 octavo volumes

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, 1970; AAS obituary files

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Emma Forbes Waite (1875 – 1970), daughter of Horace Mansfield and Mary Eliza (Forbes) Waite, was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. Waite graduated from Wellesley College in 1898, and was a member of both the Worcester Historical Society and the Worcester Art Museum. She became a staff member of the American Antiquarian Society shortly after World War I, and continued working at AAS past the age of 85. Upon her death in 1970, Waite left a fund to AAS for the purchase of miniature books.

Waite worked extensively with the graphic arts collection at AAS, and served as curator of maps and prints. She held a particular interest in lithography, and was considered an expert in American lithography. Some of Waite's major contributions to AAS while on staff include her work on the Charles H. Taylor Collection of lithography, and the preliminary cataloging of AAS' prints collections. Waite was also interested in music, and strove to make AAS' sheet music collection accessible to readers during her tenure.

While at AAS, Waite performed much research and compiled multiple bibliographies, addressing subjects such as lithography, her field of expertise, and others, including minstrel shows and the lives of various artists. This collection of 20 (?) volumes represents much of Waite's writings while at AAS.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

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