

**American Antiquarian Society  
Manuscript Collections**

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Forbes, Esther, Papers  
“F”

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. boxes

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

seven manuscript boxes

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographical information on Esther Forbes, see obituary in the *AAS Proceedings*, vol. 77 (1967), pp. 209-212.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Allan W. Forbes and Cornelia B. Forbes, 1968

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Esther Forbes (1891-1967), historical novelist and short story writer, was the daughter of Harriette Merrifield Forbes of Worcester, Mass. Although she wrote several widely acclaimed works, her reputation rests primarily on her book Paul Revere and the World He Lived In. This won her the 1942 Pulitzer Prize for History and provided the material for her very popular juvenile book, Johnny Tremain: A Novel for Young and Old. Miss Forbes' last literary project, a history of witchcraft, was unfinished at the time of her death.

The materials in this collection were generated by her research on witchcraft. There are notes, roughly arranged by topic; correspondence from librarians and historians; drafts of chapters; and newspaper clippings. Much of the correspondence is from a friend, Mrs. Lovell Thompson (“K”) from Ipswich, Mass., who did research for Miss Forbes. The collection seems to have been posthumously arranged by her typist, M. H. Jentsch. The handwritten notes are very difficult to decipher.

22 October 1975

**American Antiquarian Society  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

ESTHER FORBES, PAPERS  
CONTENTS LIST

Box 1

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| <p>Folder 1: Increase &amp; Cotton Mather<br/>         2: Clergy<br/>         3: Animals &amp; Crops<br/>         4: Confessions of Witches<br/>         5: Witchcraft<br/>         6: Superstitions<br/>         7: Meetings, etc.<br/>         8: Accused—Spectral Evidence<br/>         9: 17<sup>th</sup>-century Witchcraft—Other Countries<br/>         10: Witchcraft—Possession<br/>         11: Tolerance<br/>         12: Witchcraft—Law<br/>         13: Witchcraft—Poppets<br/>         14: Witches cakes &amp; proof of<br/>         15: Witchcraft, proof of</p> | <p>Folder 16a: Law, Sheriffs, Constables, etc.<br/>         16b: Law, Sheriffs, Constables, etc.<br/>         17: Jails<br/>         18: Barbados and Trade to Islands<br/>         19: Events leading up to 1692 (not including French-Indian wars, loss of charter, “earlier cases,” etc.)<br/>         20: Small Pox<br/>         21: Events leading up to 1692 (loss of charter, Gov. Andros, etc.)<br/>         22: Charter &amp; loss of<br/>         23: Witchcraft</p> |
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Box 2

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|---|--|
| <p>Folder 1: Executions<br/>         2: Ending of Witchcraft<br/>         3: Canada<br/>         4: Dr. Griggs &amp; other physicians<br/>         5: Witchcraft—Later Cases<br/>         6: To look up<br/>         7a: Massachusetts book notes<br/>         7b: Massachusetts book notes</p> | <p>Folder 8: Illustrations<br/>         9: Bibliography<br/>         10: Afflicted in general &amp; notes on Upham’s lectures, etc.<br/>         11: Andover, including Dan B. and Dudley Bradstreet<br/>         12: Andover afflicted<br/>         13: Beverly</p> |
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Box 3

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|--|---|
| <p>Folder 1: Billerica<br/>         2: Boston &amp; Boston witches<br/>         3: Boxford<br/>         4: Charlestown</p> | <p>5: Chelmsford<br/>         6: Chelsea<br/>         7: Gloucester<br/>         8: Haverhill</p> |
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|------------|------------|-----|---------------------|
| 9:         | Ipswich    | 14: | Milton and Newbury  |
| Folder 10: | Lynn       | 15: | Reading             |
| 11:        | Malden     | 16: | Rowley              |
| 12:        | Manchester | 17: | Salisbury including |
| 13:        | Marblehead |     | Amesbury            |

Box 4

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|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Folder 1: | Salem         | Folder 4b: | Salem Village |
| 2:        | Salem Witches | 4c:        | Salem Village |
| 3:        | Salem Village | 4d:        | Salem Village |
| 4a:       | Salem Village |            |               |

Box 5

- |            |                            |           |                   |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Folder 1a: | Afflicted in Salem Village | Folder 3: | Wells, Me.        |
| 1b:        | Afflicted in Salem Village | 4:        | Woburn            |
| 1c:        | Afflicted in Salem Village | 5:        | Named and dropped |
| 2:         | Topsfield                  |           |                   |

Box 6

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|-----------|---------------|-----------|--|
| Folder 1: | Earlier Cases | Folder 3: | Letters about manuscripts<br>with material and notes |
| 2a:       | Accused       | 4a:       | Notes & earlier versions of<br>introduction          |
| 2b:       | Accused       | 4b:       | Notes & earlier versions of<br>introduction          |
| 2c:       | Accused       | 5:        | 1962 version of Chapter I                            |
| 2d:       | Accused       |           |  |
| 2e:       | Accused       |           |  |

Box 7

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|-----------|---|-----|--|
| Folder 1: | Introduction; Chap. I,<br>Prologue, Sections, 1, 2, 3,<br>4                       | 8:  | French & Indian wars<br>background (various dates) |
| 2:        | Industry—Salisbury<br>Papers, notes by Esther<br>Forbes                           | 9:  | Letters re: manuscript notes                       |
| 3:        | Complete Prologue or<br>Synopsis  | 10: | Case history of early<br>witches, 1679-1691        |
| 4:        | Miscellaneous   |     |  |
| 5:        | Drafts on 1692 cases, may<br>be earlier versions than<br>those in other folder    |     |  |
| Folder 6: | Material Esther was<br>working on (old & new)<br>last time she was in<br>workroom |     |  |
| 7:        | Notes & partial prologue<br>pages—older version                                   |     |  |

