

Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
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**Florence Fetz Mansfield Papers, 1924-1955
Collection Mss. 2005:4**

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Florence Fetz Mansfield Papers, 1924-1955

Collection Number: Mss. 2005:4

Creator: Florence Fetz Mansfield

Extent: 2 archival boxes

Administrative Information

Provenance: Gift, 2005

Processed by: Jessica Kross

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research

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Scope and Contents Note

This collection comprises correspondence, photographs and a scrapbook associated with the American actress Minnie Maddern Fiske (1865-1932) and collected by her niece Florence Fetz Mansfield. The correspondence, both from Mrs. Fiske and her husband Harrison Grey Fiske (1861-1942) was to Florence Mansfield. Most of it is from the mid 1920s. Photographs are of the Fiskes, Florence Mansfield, and Mrs. Fiske's first husband Legrand White. The scrapbook is devoted to Mrs. Fiske's professional career and contains playbills, articles announcing the opening of her plays, clippings, and reviews of her performances.

Minnie Maddern Fiske was born in New Orleans on December 19, 1865 and began acting as a child. She was one of the leading stage actors of the late nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth centuries and is credited with bringing the work of Henrik

Ibsen to American attention. She also performed Shakespeare, Restoration comedy, and works she or she and her husband wrote. Much of her time seems to have been spent on the road performing, without her husband. Childless, she concerned herself with her extended family as this correspondence with her niece, Florence Mansfield, demonstrates. She was also an animal rights advocate, serving as Honorary Chairman of the Human Trapping Committee, American Humane Association, Albany, NY. She died in New York on February 15, 1932 at the age of 66.

These materials belonged to, related to, or concerned the American actress Minnie Maddern Fiske and were collected by her niece, Florence Mansfield Fetz. Box 1 includes photographs, some taken at the Fiske's summer house, Camp Veery, on Big Moose Lake in New York's Adirondack mountains; letters; and postcards. Legrand White, Minnie Maddern Fiske's first husband, is included among the photographs. There are also a number of letters from Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield. The undated letters to Florence Mansfield seem to be from the mid 1920s. Box 1 is arranged in reverse chronological order. Many of the letters were written on the road as Mrs. Fiske toured.

The scrapbook in Box 2 contains newspaper clippings and obituaries of both Minnie Maddern Fiske and her husband, Harrison Grey Fiske. Folder 3 in Box 2 includes lavish praise by Brooks Atkinson, the noted theater critic.

Container List

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 1 | Photographs, Florence Mansfield, Harrison Grey Fiske, Minnie Maddern Fiske; Harrison Grey Fiske, Legrad White |
| | 2 | Correspondence (5 leaves), re: Archie Binns' biography of Minnie Maddern Fiske, 1955 |
| | 3 | News clipping re: Glennmore Hotel fire, 1955 |
| | 4 | TLS, 1p., Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 1 March 1932 |
| | 5 | Postcard, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, July 1930 |
| | 6 | TLS, 1p., Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, [December 1929] |
| | 7 | Postcard, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, August 1929 |
| | 8 | TLS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 6 May 1929 |
| | 9 | ALS, 3p., Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 10 April [1927] |
| | 10 | ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, April 1927 |
| | 11 | TLS with envelope and Christmas card, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 4 January 1927 |
| | 12 | ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, c 1927 |
| | 13 | ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, December 1926 |
| | 14 | Postcard, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 4 August 1926 |
| | 15 | TLS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, December 1926 |
| | 16 | ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, On Humane Trapping Committee letterhead, 19 March, [1926] |
| | 17 | Envelope pieces, 1926 and undated |

- 18 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 1925
- 19 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 11 April 1926
- 20 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 12 February 1926
- 21 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 10 February 1926
- 22 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 28 January 1926
- 23 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 24 January 1926
- 24 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 13 December 1925
- 25 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 9 October 1925
- 26 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 26 September 1925
- 27 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 17 September 1925
- 28 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, September 1925
- 29 ALS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 23 August 1925
- 30 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield [22 August 1925]
- 31 TLS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 4 August 1925. Includes
schedule in the West.
- 32 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 15 July 1925
- 33 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, [July 1925]
- 34 TLS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 28 June 1925
- 35 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 8 June 1925
- 36 Postcard, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 6 April 1925
- 37 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, January 1925
- 38 TLS, Harrison Grey Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 24 November 1924
- 39 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 26 May, 19[2?]
- 40 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, 23 April [c 192?]
- 41 Typed schedule of appearances, 10 Apr-20 June, 192?
- 42 TLS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, no date
- 43 TLS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, no date
- 44 Signed postcard, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, no date
- 45 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to Florence Mansfield, no date
- 46 ALS, Minnie Maddern Fiske to "Liddy," no date
- 47 Christmas card, Minnie Maddern Fiske to "Liddy," no date

Box Folder

- 2 1 Harrison Grey Fiske (1861-1942), photograph, no date
- 2 2 Scrapbook page, Big Moose Lake, New York, no date
- 3 3 Scrapbook page with clippings about Mrs. Fiske and typescript excerpt from
Brooks Atkinson's *Broadway*, 1971.
- 4 4 Scrapbook