

Records Summary

Title	Florence Nightingale letters, Inclusive: 1861-1944, undated; Bulk: 1870-1891, undated
Accession Number	ARTS.12
Repository	Arts and Special Collections Research Center
Creator	Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910
Quantity	1 document box
Abstract	The Florence Nightingale letters contain selected correspondence from among the many letters that Florence Nightingale wrote throughout her life. Most of these letters were written to a dear friend of hers, Madame Caroline Werckner, a nursing colleague who cared for the French prisoners in the Franco-German War.
Language	English

Administrative Information

Physical Description General condition: Good.

Biography/Profile Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy on May 12, 1820. Her childhood was privileged, and her progressive father took it upon himself to educate his daughters in history, mathematics, Italian, classical literature, and philosophy.

Florence felt an early divine calling to care for others as a nurse. At the time, nursing was not a respected occupation, particularly for someone from the affluent class in which she was raised. She traveled extensively as a young woman, and she received her foundational nursing training in Germany among Lutheran deaconesses working with the sick.

Her work in the Crimean War launched her into the public eye and become the basis for much of the rest of her career. Her work with the British soldiers at the military hospital in Scutari (Turkey) is where she earned the nickname "The Lady with the Lamp." She not only coordinated other nurses and worked with the soldiers directly, she also reached out to government officials whom she knew personally with the aim to improve the conditions of wartime hospitals.

After the war, Nightingale drew on her mathematical education to use statistics to highlight the dire needs within the medical field. She soon started the first nursing school, The Nightingale Training School, in 1860. This school, as well as her textbook *Notes on Nursing* (1859), established the respected profession of nursing and cultivated the growth of the profession around the world.

For much of her adult life, Nightingale was confined to bed by various ailments, at least one of which (possibly brucellosis) was something she picked up during the war. Much of her work in social and medical reform was accomplished through prodigious amounts of writing (books, pamphlets, and letters) which she was able to do even when ill. Her writing also nourished numerous friendships with like-minded people, especially a number of nurses from around the world.

In 1883, Nightingale became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1904, she was appointed a Lady of Grace of the Order of St John (LGStJ). And in 1907, she became the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit.

Nightingale died in London on August 13, 1910.

Scope/Content

The Florence Nightingale letters contain roughly 30 complete letters written and signed by Florence Nightingale (dated 1861-1891), primarily to her dear friend Madame Caroline Werckner, who was named in Nightingale's will. Additional materials include a photo postcard and drawing of Florence Nightingale, as well as stamps and clippings of Florence Nightingale, and some portions of letters containing her signature.

Arrangement

The letters have been arranged in chronological order.

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Preferred Citation Florence Nightingale letters, Accession #ARTS.12, Box #, Folder #, Arts and Special Collections Research Center, Baylor University.

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Related Resources [Florence Nightingale Museum](#). Accessed on 25-July-2024.

Index Terms

Subjects Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910--Correspondence.
Nurses.
Nursing.
Nursing on postage stamps.

Local Collection Title --

Personal Name(s) Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910.

Media Correspondence. (655)

Location Polk Rare Book Room

Series 1. Correspondence, 1861-1944, undated

Quantity: 1 box

Administrative Information

Media:

Physical Condition

General condition: Good.

Biography/Profile

FOLDER	DATES	BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER
Letter, to My dear Sir, May 29/61	1861	1	1
Letter, to Messr. Cockerell, April 2/70	1870	1	2
Letter, to Madam, Dec 22/70 (1 of 2)	1870	1	3
Letter, to Madam, Dec 22/70 (2 of 2)	1870	1	4
Letter, unaddressed, Dec 23/70 (1 of 2)	1870	1	5

Letter, unaddressed, Dec 23/70 (2 of 2)	1870	1	6
Letter, to My dear Madame Werckner, July 5/71	1871	1	7
Letter, to My dear Madame Werckner, July 10/71	1871	1	8
Letter, to My dearest Madame Werckner, Nov 4/71	1871	1	9
Letter, to My dear Madam (Werckner), Nov 14/71 (1 of 2)	1871	1	10
Letter, to My dear Madam (Werckner), Nov 14/71 (2 of 2)	1871	1	11
Letter, to My dear Madam (Werckner), Nov 22/71	1871	OVZ	OVZ
Letter, to My dearest Madame Werckner, Dec 16/71	1871	1	12
Letter, to My dearest Mrs. Werckner, 27/2/72	1872	1	13
Letter, to Mrs. Frederic Werckner, March 1872	1872	1	14
Partial letters, unaddressed, undated	undated	1	15
Letter, to My dearest Mrs. Werckner, March 3/72 (1 of 2)	1872	1	16
Letter, to My dearest Mrs. Werckner, March 3/72 (2 of 2)	1872	1	17
Letter, to My dearest Mrs. Werckner, Sept 4/72	1872	1	18
Letter, to O my dear, dear Madame Werckner, March 6/77	1877	1	19
Letter, to My dear Madame Werckner, Jan 12/78	1878	1	20
Letter, to My dear Madame Werckner, March 23/78	1878	1	21
Letter, to Dear Sir William Muir, April 20/78	1878	1	22
Letter, to My dearest Madame Werckner, May 15/78	1878	1	23
Letter, to Dearest Madame Werckner, May 27/78	1878	2	1
Letter, to Dearest Madame Werckner, July 5/78	1878	2	2
Letter, to Dearest friend (Madame Werckner), May 22/79	1879	2	3
Letter, to My very dear friend (Madame Werckner), 17/12/79	1879	2	4
Letter, to My dearest Madame Werckner, June 30/80	1880	2	5
Letter, to Dearest friend (Madame Werckner), Oct. 18/80	1880	2	6
Letter, to My dear Sir (Henry Power), Dec 13/87	1887	2	7
Letter, to My dear Madame Werckner, 25/7/91	1891	2	8
Letter, to Madam (Mrs. Churchill), March 21/94	1894	2	9
Letter, to Sir, March 11/89	1889	2	10
Partial letters, unaddressed, 6/6/80, undated	1880, undated	2	11
Letter with stamps, to Mrs. Brown, 5-31-1939	1939	2	12
Clippings about Florence Nightingale	1944, undated	2	13
Partial letter, unaddressed [likely to Madame Werckner], undated	undated	2	14
Partial letter, to My dear Madame Werckner, undated	undated	2	15
Letter, to dearest Madame (Werckner), undated	undated	2	16

Partial letter, unaddressed, undated	undated	2		17
Photo of Florence Nightingale, postcard of a drawing of Florence Nightingale	undated	2		18
Photo of a sculpture of Florence Nightingale	undated	2		19
Letter from Myers & Co. to "Dear Madam" (Mrs. E. R. Brown)	1938	2		20
Receipt from Myers & Co. Booksellers	1938	2		21
Donor information from Baylor School of Nursing	1992	2		22

Red folder numbers indicate those letters that will need to be rehoused in the larger viewing folders, once they have been received.