Accessioned
Gift of Sylvia Davies Diehl, June 2001

Extent
.21 linear feet

Processed
Sarena Fletcher, 2006

Abstract
The Virginia M. Davies Correspondence, 1891-1935 collection consists primarily of letters written to Virginia Meriwether Davies, the wife of Arthur B. Davies.

Access Restrictions
Unrestricted

Contact Information
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives
Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 571-9590
hfslibrary@delart.org

Preferred Citation
Virginia M. Davies Correspondence, 1891-1935, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials
Arthur B. Davies Papers
Biography of Virginia Meriwether Davies

1862 April 18: Lucy Virginia Meriwether is born in Huntsville, Alabama, to Niles Meriwether, related to Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition team, and Lide Parker Smith, a suffragist instrumental in the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920.


1886 Lucy Virginia Meriwether graduates from Woman’s Medical College of New York Infirmary for Women and Children, becoming one of the first female doctors in the United States. Nicknamed “Dockie.”

1890 Summer: meets Arthur Bowen Davies while chief resident physician at the New York Infant Asylum.


1893 March: Niles Meriwether Davies, Sr. is born.

1895 March: Arthur David Davies is born.

1927 April: Niles Davies, Sr. marries Erica Riepe.

1928 March: Sylvia Ann Davies (later Diehl) is born. October 24: Arthur Bowen Davies dies in Florence, Italy.

1931 Niles Meriwether Davies, Jr. is born.

1949 April 17: Lucy Virginia Meriwether Davies dies at her farm in Congers, New York, three days after celebrating her eighty-seventh birthday.

Sources:

Dr. Davies Farm, History: http://www.drdaviesfarm.com/history.htm (accessed February 6, 2006).
Scope and Contents Note

The collection of correspondence consists primarily of letters written to Virginia M. Davies, the wife of Arthur B. Davies. The prominent subject is the exhibition of textiles designed by Arthur B. Davies. This correspondence was collected and saved by Erica Riepe Davies, the wife of Arthur B. Davies’ eldest son, Niles Meriwether “Rab” Davies. The correspondence was donated in June 2001, along with other primary material relating to Brenda Kuhn and the 1913 International Exhibition of Modern Art, by Sylvia Davies Diehl, the daughter of Niles and Erica.

Description of the Collection

Folder

1. Administrative material

2. Correspondence

Typed and signed letter addressed to Doctor V. M. Davis, Sixty-first St. & Tenth Ave, New York, November 28, 1891. From illegible, on letterhead of The Century Co., Art Department, New York. Declines entry of poem of “Iphigenia” to accompany sketch by Arthur B. Davies.


Handwritten letter addressed to Mrs. Davies, April 26, [1929]. From Abby A. Rockefeller, Ten West Fifty-fourth Street. Includes envelope, postmarked April 23, 1929, New York. Envelope addressed to Mrs. Niles M. Davies, Golden Bough Farm, Congers, New York. Thanking Mrs. Davies for clipping of Mr. McBride’s article and information about gingko trees. Mentions having met with Mr. Davies’ two sons and their wives.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Mrs. Davies, Congers, New York, July 18, 1929. From Abby A. Rockefeller, The Eyrie, Seal Harbor, Maine. Mentions payment to Mrs. Davies for tapestry being made in Paris as well as watercolor by one of her sons.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, New York, April 23, 1930. From C. Powell Minnigerode, on letterhead for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Regarding exhibition of work by Arthur B. Davies. 2 leaves.


Typed and signed letter [addressed to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, New York], May 14, 1930. From C. Powell Minnigerode. Regarding exhibition of work by Arthur B. Davies. [Page 3; page 1 and 2 missing.]

Typed and signed letter addressed to Mrs. Davies, Congers, New York, January 26, 1931. From Robert E. Macbeth, on letterhead for William Macbeth, 15 East 57th Street, New York. Regarding identification of a painting by Arthur B. Davies called “Under the Bough” to be used in a monograph by Professor Mather.

Handwritten letter to Erica Davies from Gertrude Käsebier; also signed by Käsebier’s daughter, Hermine Turner. On verso of letter identifies letter to Erica Davies from Käsebier after birth of Davies’ son, Niles Davies, Jr., 1932-1933. Note watermark on paper.


22 postcards and 3 pins from the 1913 International Exhibition of Modern Art