College of the Holy Cross
Archives and Special Collections
Collection Inventory

Accession Number  SC2000-53

Collection Name (Title):  Stearns Family Papers

Dates of Material:

Size of Collection:  **10 Boxes: 7 Volumes**

Arrangement:

Restrictions:

Related Material:

Preferred Citation:

Processed on:

**Biography/History:**
Frank W. Stearns, a native of Boston MA, was an American businessman, whose father founded the R. H. Stearns department store in Boston. Stearns graduated from Amherst College 1878 and joined his father’s dry goods firm in Boston. He became a partner there in 1881 and was appointed chairman of its Board of Directors in 1919. Stearns is noted for being an early supporter and close friend of his fellow Amherst College alumnus, Calvin Coolidge. Stearns married Emily Williston Clark in 1880, and died in Boston in 1939.

Foster W. Stearns, son of Frank Stearns, was a native of Hull, MA. He graduated from Amherst College in 1903, Harvard University in 1906, and Boston College in 1915. He was the Librarian of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston from 1913 to 1917, and the State Librarian of Massachusetts in 1917. Stearns served as a first lieutenant during the First World War. He was assistant military attaché from 1917 to 1919, at the General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. He served in the State Department in Washington, D.C., from 1920 to 1921. Stearns was the third secretary of the American Embassy in Constantinople, from 1921 to 1923, and was the second secretary of the American Embassy at Paris, from 1923 to 1924. Upon returning to the United States, Stearns became the Librarian of College of the Holy Cross from 1925 to 1930. In 1927, he moved to Hancock, NH and served as a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1937 and 1938. He was elected to Congress and

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Biography/History:
served from January 1939 to January 1945. He moved to Exeter, NH in 1948, where he
died on June 4, 1956. Stearns married Martha Genung in June 1905 and she was the
author of several books on needlework.

John Franklin Genung (1850-1919) was a professor at Amherst College from 1882 until
1917 where he taught English, biblical literature as well as rhetoric. Genung published a
number of books concerning biblical literature and rhetorical guidelines. He was the
father of Martha (Genung) Stearns.

Scope and Content Note:
This collection contains the papers of Frank Stearns; his son, Foster Stearns, as well as
Foster Stearns’ wife Martha Stearns and her father, John F. Genung. The collection was
donated by Martha and Foster Stearns during the mid 20th century in numerous
donations..

The Frank Stearns papers consist of one box of correspondence and a political scrapbook
from August 1923, when Coolidge became president. The first folder contains letters
from Calvin Coolidge to Stearns and retained copies of Stearns’ letters to Coolidge. Most
of the letters involve greetings, thank you notes and personal comments. The “political
letters” concern Massachusetts politics and the election of Calvin Coolidge.

The Foster and Martha Stearns papers include personal correspondence, some relating to
Massachusetts politics, personal interests, and donation of material to Dinand Library at
Holy Cross College. There are letters from Cardinal Spellman, Mary Balascheff, a White
House employee and other correspondents. There are family genealogies, albums of the
Stearns’ activities in Europe, family portraits, photos of family members and classmates
of Martha Stearns, 7 scrapbooks of biographical and political activities of Stearns, 2
boxes of memorabilia, including military and other medals of Foster Stearns.

The John Genung papers include a journal of a family trip to Europe and a photo album
of a trip to Sinai, a song to Amherst written by Genung and a handwritten chronology of
English history and literature as well as family portraits and photos.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1: Frank Stearns
Folder 1: Coolidge Correspondence, 1916-1923
Folder 2: Political Letters, 1919
Folder 3: Political Letters, 1923- Aug. 3
Folder 4: Misc. Correspondence, 1917-1934
Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings
Folder 6: Death Announcement 1939
Frank Stearns Scrapbook 1, August 1923, clippings of Calvin Coolidge

Box 2: Foster and Martha Stearns Records
  Folder 1: Biographical Information
  Folder 2: Foster Stearns General Correspondence, 1914-1953
  Folder 3: Bishop James A. Walsh Correspondence, 1930-1934
  Folder 4: Francis Cardinal Spellman Correspondence, 1931-1955
  Folder 5: Dinand Library Correspondence and Donation Records, 1927-1951
  Folder 6: Vatican Records, 1924-1950
  Folder 7: Calvin Coolidge Bookplate, 1928-1929
  Folder 8: Republican Convention of 1920 Records
  Folder 9: Correspondence Regarding Corgis (dogs), 1935
  Folder 10: Foster Stearns Awards and Certificates, 1920, 1924, 1951
  Folder 11: Foster Stearns Writings, Misc. Notes, undated
  Folder 12: Martha Stearns Correspondence, undated; 1905-1965
  Folder 13: Martha Stearns – Ellen Riley Correspondence, 1928
  Folder 15: Mary Balascheff Letters to Martha Stearns, 1925-1930; undated
  Folder 16: Martha Stearns Misc. Items, 1920’s
  Folder 17: Martha Stearns Writings, Clippings, etc., undated

Box 3: Genealogies, c. 1920s
  3 volumes of Stearns and Families’ genealogies
  1 Book of Saints, compiled by Foster Stearns

Box 4: Photo and Art Albums from Turkey, 1922-1925
  Folder 1: Photo Album of Turkey, 1922-23
  Folder 2: Photo Album of Art, etc. “From Russian Painters,” in Turkey, 1922
  Folder 3: Photo Album of Turkish Art from D. Tsmailovitch
  Folder 4: Album of Art from Alesander Paukauff

Foster Stearns Scrapbook 1 1937-1938
Foster Stearns Scrapbook 2 1939
Foster Stearns Scrapbook 3 1940
Foster Stearns Scrapbook 4 1941
Foster Stearns Scrapbook 5 1942
Foster Stearns Scrapbook 6 1943
Foster Stearns Scrapbook 7 1944

Folder 1: Foster Stearns Portraits
Folder 2: Foster and Martha Stearns, 1915
Folder 3: Photos taken by Martha Stearns; Washington, New York, Philadelphia, 1919
Folder 4: Photos taken by Martha Stearns; Soldiers, Sailors, etc., 1919
Folder 5: Belgium, 1919

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Box 5: Foster and Martha Stearns Photos

Folder 6: Foster Stearns with President & Mrs. Harding & General Pershing, 1920
Folder 7: Photos of Gallipoli, 1923; Martha Stearns for “Catholic World” Magazine, 1923
Folder 8: Bulgaria & Serbia, 1923
Folder 9: Photos of Turkey, etc, 1923
Folder 10: Foster Stearns and Grace Coolidge, 1929; 1939
Folder 11: Calvin Coolidge on Plymouth Rock, 1920; On Vermont Farm, undated (5 photos)
Folder 12: Foster Stearns Papal Ceremonies, 1932
Folder 13: Freiburg, Germany, 1933
Folder 14: Photos of Plaques, statues, art - Rome
Folder 15: Postcards of Rome, undated
Folder 16: Photos presented to the Stearns

Box 6: Photographs Stearns Family
Folder 1: Dr. Bigelow
Folder 2: Grace Coolidge
Folder 3: Ruth Grace Harlin
Folder 4: Pamela Hubbard Howland
Folder 5: Elizabeth Kidder
Folder 6: Henry S. Kenyon
Folder 7: Nora Klein
Folder 8: Hubert Knapp
Folder 9: Mr. Knapp (Lizzie Sprague)
Folder 10: Lizzie (Sprague) Knapp
Folder 11: John McChesney, May 1908
Folder 12: Lillie McCully
Folder 13: Richard Genung Minott
Folder 14: Lillie Smith (Hanlon)
Folder 15: John M. Tyler
Folder 16: Group Photo World War I Soldiers, Plattsburg, NY
Folder 17: Unidentified Children
Folder 18: Unknown man in naval uniform, 1918
Folder 19: Unidentified Portraits
Folder 20: Unidentified women-exterior views
Folder 21: Unidentified group-Amherst College
Folder 22: Family Portrait, unknown, undated
Folder 23: Unidentified Group Portraits
Folder 24: Unidentified Group-ethnic costumes
Folder 25: Unidentified Exterior Views

Box 7: Martha Stearns Photo Album
Box 8: John Genung Records
   Folder 1: Memory Song to Amherst
   Folder 2: Book of English History & English Literature, 1882
   Folder 3: Journal of Genung Vacation to England, 1889
   Folder 4: Photo Album, “A trip to Sinai in 1907 J. Genung”

Box 9: Genung Family Photos
   Folder 1: John F. Genung
   Folder 2: John F. Genung
   Folder 3: Genung Family Photograph
   Folder 4: John F. Genung and wife
   Folder 5: Martha, Elinor, and John Genung, Jr.
   Folder 6: Martha and Elinor Genung with Mrs. Genung
   Folder 7: Martha and Elinor Genung
   Folder 8: John Genung, Jr.
   Folder 9: Martha Genung
   Folder 10: Martha G. Stearns, dated/undated
   Folder 11: Elinor Genung
   Folder 12: Elinor Genung – May Queen Festival, May 1901
   Folder 13: Elinor Genung
   Folder 14: Elinor Genung 1910
   Folder 15: Graduation Photos: Jeanette Bacliuau, Olive Rowell, Elinor Genung, Jeanette Willkie, Dorothy Smith, Lillian Cleiclester

Box 10: Portraits of Amherst High School Students, 1910-1917
   Classmates of Martha (Genung) Stearns

Box 11: Memorabilia, Early 1900s
   Folder 1: Wallet, Printing plate
   Folder 2: Ceramic Tile
   Folder 3: Words of Koheleth
   Folder 4: St. Pius X Relic Photos
   Folder 5: Watercolors and Turkish Caricatures
   Folder 6: Watercolors
   Folder 7: Easter Cards Distributed to Russian Soldiers by the Imperial Family, 1915
   Folder 8: Crochet Piece by Grace Coolidge

Box 12: The Foster Stearns Collection of Medals
   The Silver Star for Gallantry in Action
   The Purple Heart for Being Wounded in Action
   The Great War for Civilization Medal
   The Maltese Cross Knights of Malta (New York)
   The Maltese Cross Knights of Malta (Rome)
   STS. Maurice and Lazarus Italian Civil Decoration
   The Lateran Cross

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Box 12: The Foster Stearns Collection of Medals

Minature Decorations
Military Order of the World War
Society of Colonial Wars Medal
A Distintivo Papal Chamberlain Badge
Society of Mayflower Descendants Medal
Decoration of Imperial Russian Red Cross, Presented by Prince Lvoff, Paris, 1923
Socio Vitalizio, Touring Club Italiano

Box 13: The Stearns Family Art Collection