

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 14: Martha Stearns - Rev. Lucey, S.J Correspondence, 1956-1966.
- 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

**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

**Box 12:** The Foster Stearns Collection of Medals

Miniature 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