Helen Hartness Flanders Papers, 1930-1960  
(Helen Hartness Flanders Ballad Collection)

Special Collections  
Middlebury College Library  
Middlebury College  
110 Storrs Ave.  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Flanders, Helen Hartness (1890-1972)  
Title: Helen Hartness Flanders Ballad Collection: Papers Collection.  
Dates: 1930-1960 (Bulk)  
Abstract: This collection comprises seven series including: correspondence, publications, lectures/exhibits/conferences, photographs, pamphlets and publications, song texts, and song lists and indexes. These materials relate to Helen Hartness Flanders’ work collecting and recording folk songs from around New England from 1930-1960. The majority of these songs have their roots in the traditional music of the British Isles. The Papers Collection compiles in depth information about the music, but also includes correspondence with insight into Flanders’ personal life and collecting process as well as materials focusing on the fields of folklore, anthropology and ethnomusicology.

Quantity: linear feet (76 document boxes (some oversized); 13 index boxes  
Call Number: HHFPAP

Arrangement

Items are arranged according to series.  
Ia. Correspondence  
Ib. Informant information  
II. Publication materials  
III. Lectures, Exhibits, Conferences  
IV. Photographs  
V. Pamphlet/Offprints  
VI. Song texts  
VII. Lists and Indexes
Historical/Biographical Note

Helen Hartness Flanders was born in Springfield, VT in 1890. The wife of Vermont Senator Ralph Flanders, she split her time between Washington and their home in Springfield. She began identifying and collecting traditional folksongs from around New England in 1930 at the request of the Vermont Commission on Country Life. For over 3 decades, Flanders traveled throughout New England recording ballad singers at a time when radios were supplanting live performances as the major source of music in a home. She began by recording on wax cylinders, and then switched to acetate disks and reel-to-reel tapes as the technology improved. Her collection of field recordings eventually numbered over 4500.

In addition to collecting live performances, Flanders also wrote extensively on traditional ballads and published several books. She was an active contributor to conferences and exhibitions on traditional music and folklore. Her collection expanded to include songsters, broadsheets and chapbooks, and photographs of informants as well as research into traditional music.

Helen Hartness Flanders died in 1972.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains around 90 boxes of items ranging from correspondence, to original field notes and photographs of informants, to research materials for Helen Flanders’ many publications, to song indexes and texts. The materials reflect Flanders’ wide ranging interest in folk songs over a period of thirty years. Flanders was remarkably successful at collecting field recordings of New England folk songs, many of which originated in the British Isles. As a result, this collection illustrates the depth of Flanders’ understanding about the topic by uniting materials directly related to the recordings as well as the fields of folklore, anthropology, and ethnomusicology.

Although the songs were recorded during the 1930’s to 1960’s, the origins of this music may predate the recordings by a hundred years or more. Consequently, much of the material reflects Flanders’ attempts to track down the roots of these songs, and place them in their proper context. The collection also documents Flanders’ commitment to disseminating information about New England folk songs through her extensive writings, lectures, and radio and TV appearances. This collection explains the context of many of the field recordings, and as such may be viewed as both a stand-alone collection and a complement to the Helen Hartness Flanders Field Recordings Collection.
Access Points

Special Topics:

Folk songs
Ballads
Irish music
Scottish music
English music
Early American music

Document Types:

Correspondence
Photographs
Field Notes
Research Notes
Newspaper clippings
Publications
Pamphlets
Indexes

Related Materials:

Helen Hartness Flanders Field Recordings Collection
Helen Hartness Flanders Manuscripts Collection
Helen Hartness Flanders Broadsides Collection
Helen Hartness Flanders Songsters and Hymnals Collection
Middlebury college Archives A-11.5 (Library-Special Collection-Flanders)

Administrative Information

Provenance

These papers were donated to Middlebury College by Helen Hartness Flanders beginning in 1941.
Preferred Citation

Published Citations should take the following form:

Identification of item, item number, date (if known); Helen Hartness Flanders Ballad Collection: Papers; (HHFPAP); box number

Special Collections,
Middlebury College,
110 Storrs Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Open for research without restrictions.

Permission to publish materials must first be obtained in writing from the:

Special Collections
Middlebury College Library
Middlebury College
110 Storrs Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753
Container List

Series Ia: Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Number of Folders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A-Bi</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bo-By</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C-Ch</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Co-Di</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Do-F</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>I-J</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>K-Me</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mi</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mo-N</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>P-Se</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sh-Tu</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>U-Z</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series Ib: Informants, Field Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Number of Folders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series II: Publication materials

Boxes 1-7, Ancient Ballads

Box 1

- Folder 1: Ancient Ballads Traditionally Sung in New England: (additions to 2nd copy)
- Folder 2: Ancient Ballads: Vol III Notebooks
- Folder 3: Expenses: Receipts
- Folder 4: Ancient Ballads: Front matter (1959)
- Folder 5: Ancient Ballad: Promotion Vol I-III
- Folder 6: Publicity: Ancient Ballads
- Folder 7: Ancient Ballads-Vol III Production
- Folder 8: Ancient Ballads-Vol II including Proof 1961 U of Penn
- Folder 9: Gift Lists, Ancient Ballads Invoices, Correspondence
- Folder 10: Gift Copy Acknowledgements Ancient Ballads
Box 2
Folder 1: Contract for Ancient Ballads
Folder 2: University of Penn Press Pre Contract Letters
Folder 3: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania Press 12/04/58
Folder 4: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania Press 1959
Folder 5: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania Press 1960
Folder 6: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania Press 1961
Folder 7: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania Press 1962
Folder 8: Publicity Re Ancient Ballads 1963 (Reviews, etc)
Folder 9: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania 1964
Folder 10: Yoseloff, Mr. Thomas, Director. U of Pennsylvania 1965
Folder 11: Reviews-Volume, I
Folder 12: Reviews-Volume, II
Folder 13: Reviews-Volume III
Folder 14: Reviews-Volume IV
Folder 15: Misc. Notes, Lists, etc.
Folder 16: Royalty Sales Reports Ancient Ballads
Folder 17: Ancient Ballads: Index, Lists, Notes

Box 3
Folder 1: Child numbers sent to Professor Coffin
Folder 2: Lists: Child Material 1
Folder 3: Lists: Child Material 2
Folder 4: 1
Folder 5: 2
Folder 6: 3
Folder 7: Ancient Ballads Dust Jackets

Box 4
Folder 1: Ancient Ballads, v. 1. Typescript. Notebook I, part 1
Folder 3: Ancient Ballads, v. 2. Typescript
Folder 4: Ancient Ballads, Notebook 3, part 1, typescript
Folder 5: Ancient Ballads, Notebook 3, part 2, typescript
Folder 6: Ancient Ballads, MS Notebook IV, part 1
Folder 7: Ancient Ballads, MS Notebook IV, part 2
Folder 8: Ancient Ballads, MS Notebook IV, part 3

Box 5
Folder 1: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook V Part 1
Folder 2: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook V Part 2
Folder 3: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook VI Part 1
Folder 4: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook VI Part 2
Folder 5: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook VII Part 1
Folder 6: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook VII Part 2
Folder 7: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook: Workbook Pt 1
Folder 8: Ancient Ballads-MS Notebook: Workbook Pt 2
Box 6
 Folder 1: Ancient Ballads 1
 Folder 2: Ancient Ballads 2
 Folder 3: Ancient Ballads 3
 Folder 4: Ancient Ballads 4

Box 7
 Folder 1: Ancient Ballads 5
 Folder 2: Ancient Ballads 6
 Folder 3: Middlebury College/ HHF 1952-1954
 Folder 4: Recording “Eight Traditional Br-Am Ballads” 1954 Reviews
 Folder 5: Recording Company Correspondence, HHF 1943-1944
 Folder 6: Eight Traditional Brit-Amer Ballads Correspondence HHF/MO, 1952-1953
 Folder 7: Middlebury College/HHF 1965-1967

Boxes 8-9, Ballads Migrant in New England

Box 8
 Folder 1: Ballads Migrant in New England
 Folder 2: Ballads Migrant in New England Part 1-Notebook
 Folder 3: Ballads Migrant in New England Intro Materials
 Folder 4: Ballads Migrant in New England Part I
 Folder 5: Ballads Migrant in New England Part II
 Folder 6: Ballads Traditional in the Northeastern United States
 Folder 7: Ballads Migrant Tune Transcription
 Folder 8: Ballads Migrant in New England Miscellaneous
 Folder 9: Ballads Migrant in New England Negative of transcriptions of Tunes in Ballad Migrant in New England

Box 9
 Folder 1: Ballads Migrant New England Notebook Labelled Ballads Migrant in New England
 Folder 2: Documentation Ballads Migrant
 Folder 3: Deleted from Ballads Migrant
 Folder 4: Dolch, Mrs. Kuna (FSY Sales Dept)
 Folder 5: Farrar, Straws, and Young: Peck, John (1952)
 Folder 6: Peck, John, 1953 (Farrar, Straw and Young)
 Folder 7: Farrar Straws, and Young- Publicity (Wolf and Carolyn)
 Folder 8: University of Pennsylvania Press
 Folder 9: Ballads Migrant (Reprint) Books for Libraries Inc 1968
 Folder 10: Ballads Migrant – Copyright
 Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings, Ballads Migrant
 Folder 12: Reviews and Announcements –abt HHF bks
 Folder 14: Ballads Migrant in New England Invoice 1968
 Folder 15: Ballads Migrant Miscellaneous Notes
Box 10, Country songs, Garland of Green Mountain Verse, Gypsy Daisy
  Folder 1: CSOV Song Transcripts and Text (Fragments)
  Folder 2: County Songs of Vermont G. Schirmer (Royalties 1935-1961)
  Folder 3: CSOV Business Correspondence 1935-1937)
  Folder 4: Country Songs of Vermont G. Schirmer (Copyright)
  Folder 5: CSOV Royalties- G. Schirmer
  Folder 6: Country Songs of Vermont G. Schirmer Royalties 1935-1961
  Folder 7: Eight Traditional British-American Ballads
  Folder 8: Garland Business Correspondence: Peach A. W. 1931-1934 June
  Folder 9: Garland Business Correspondence: Peach A. W. 1934 July-Dec
  Folder 10: Garland Business Correspondence Peach, A. W. 1935-1948
  Folder 11: Garland Business Correspondence John Worley Co. (1934)
  Folder 12: Garland Financial Reports to Prof Peach. 1934-1936
  Folder 13: Garland Business Correspondence: Sales 1933-1936
  Folder 14: Copyright Garland
  Folder 15: Garland Misc
  Folder 16: Gypsy Daisy Came Over the Hill- text

Box 11, Green Mountain Songster, Vermont Chapbook, Vermont Folksongs and Ballads
  Folder 1: Copyright Green Mountain Songster
  Folder 2: Green Mountain Songster (typescript copy)
  Folder 3: Copyright Renewal New Green Mountain Songster 1967
  Folder 4: Proof Sheets- New Green Mountain Songsters
  Folder 5: E.L. Hildreth Printers
  Folder 6: Yale University Press 1938-June 1939
  Folder 7: Yale University Press Sept-Dec 1939
  Folder 8: Yale University Press 1940-1965
  Folder 9: NGMS Reprint
  Folder 10: Pre-publication NGMS
  Folder 11: Publicity New Green Mountain Songster
  Folder 12: Press Notices: New Green Mountain Songster
  Folder 13: Publicity NGMS reprint
  Folder 14: Insurance
  Folder 15: Royalties Yale New Green Mountain Songster
  Folder 16: Address, Lists, Misc Notes New Green Mountain Songsters
  Folder 19: Vermont Chap Book- Reprint Copyright renewal
  Folder 20: Contracts- Financial (oversize)
  Folder 21: Copyright VT Folk Songs and Ballads
  Folder 22: Review/Sales Report/ Correspondence VT Folk Songs and Ballads
  Folder 23: Reprint edition (notes) VT Folk Songs and Ballads
Box 12, Green Mountain Verse
Folder 1: Poems
Folder 2: Vermont Literature Contest (1944) Judges comments
Folder 3: Looking out of Jimmy
Folder 4: Country News Items
Folder 5: Country News Items Promotion (1968)
Folder 6: Miscellaneous
Folder 7: Publication Correspondence
Folder 8: Contract 1943-1953 Royalties
Folder 9: Green Mountain Verse 9
Folder 10: Copyright Renewal 1971
Folder 11: Green Mountain Verse 1
Folder 12: Miscellaneous 2
Folder 13: Miscellaneous 3
Folder 14: Miscellaneous 4
Folder 15: Miscellaneous 5
Folder 16: Miscellaneous 6
Folder 17: Miscellaneous 7
Folder 18: Miscellaneous 8
Folder 19: Miscellaneous 9
Folder 20: Singers’ songs
Folder 21: Announcement Lists

The Looking Glass
Anthology of Verse Vol. III
American Poetry Magazine

Box 13
Folder 1: Lecture-Demo for Am Association for Advancement of Science
Folder 2: Article: Galaxy Magazine -1963 “In the 1800s” (Notes, Article, and Correspondence)
Folder 3: New England Galaxy-“More Folk Songs” (Draft and Notes)
Folder 4: “Prospecting for Folk Songs”
Folder 5: “Prospecting for Ballad Traditional in VT”
Folder 6: “Prospecting for Folk Music” (c. 1937)
Folder 7: “Review of British Ballads from Maine for J of American Folklore”
New England Galaxy Summer 1968
Vermont Quarterly July 1952
Vermont History July 1954
Folder 8: “Living Ballads” (1941)
Folder 9: “Confessions of a Ballad Collector” (1941)
Folder 10: Review of Yankee Life (1949)
Folder 11: Article “Four traditional manuscript ballads from the North Eastern States’”(Correspondences and rejection slips and notes for articles)
Folder 12: Counting, Song A (C. 1944)
Folder 13: “Songs Alive from Revolutionary Times”
Folder 14: VT Historical Society Quarterly Jan 1954
Folder 15: Article “Folksongs Traditional in N.E.” (Includes Song Transcriptions, Photos, and Follow-up correspondence)
Folder 16: Notes Pertaining to 2 articles “Song Alive from Washington’s Times” “Two Poets, Two Folk Ballads”
Folder 17: “His Wife Regards Her Senator” (1954)
Folder 18: American Heritage Article “A Folk Legacy Of History From A Sovereign State VT” (File Copy 1961)
Folder 19: “A Folk Legacy of History From A Sovereign State, VT” (File Copy 1961)
Folder 20: Folk Song Contributions to Oral History (Draft and Work Copy)
Folder 21: “For the Washington Post”

Box 14
Box 15 Miscellaneous Research Materials
   Folder 1: Research notes: Hops
   Folder 2: Research notes: Lumbeurer: Birling
   Folder 3: New Material for Manuscript
   Folder 4: Research File: Research Information From Literary
   Folder 5: Samuel E. Godfrey
   Folder 6: Misc notes
   Folder 7: Misc materials
   Folder 8: Misc research notes
   Folder 9: Short Stories
   Folder 10: Hartness Exhibit Smithsonian

Box 16: Newspaper Articles
   Folder 1: Folk Articles in N.E. Papers-Scrapbook 1
   Folder 2: Folk Articles in N.E. Papers-Scrapbook 2
   Folder 3: Folk Articles in N.E. Papers-Scrapbook 1 (Copies)
   Folder 4: Folk Articles in N.E. Papers Scrapbook 2 (Copies)
   Folder 5: Folk Articles in N.E. Papers Boston Evening Transcript (See oversized)
   Folder 6: Folk Articles in N.E. Papers Springfield Reporter (See oversized)
   Folder 7: New England Folk Songs and Ballads (1935)
   Folder 8: Indexes of Newspaper Articles (Washington D.C. copies)
   Folder 9: Connecticut Newspaper Articles (1949) Chronology Order Feb-Aug
   Folder 10: Connecticut Sunday Papers-Calendar of Article Publication
   Folder 11: Conn Newspapers (1949) Bridgeport Sunday Post
   Folder 12: Articles – Conn. Newspapers Hartford Times
   Folder 13: Songs Collected Connecticut
   Folder 14: Letters to CT Newspaper (1949)
   Folder 15: Newspaper Articles (MA): “Songs Learned by Ear” (1949-1950)
   Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings (MA) Correspondence
   Folder 17: Articles in Narragansett (RI) Times (1945)
   Folder 18: Maine Newspaper Articles (1941)
Folder 20: “As an American Saw Us” in The Scotsman (17 April 1940)

**Series III: Lectures, Exhibits, Conferences**

- Box 1: Interviews 39 Folders
- Box 2: Lecture Notes 15 Folders
- Box 3: Lecture 15 Folders
- Box 4: Articles about the Flanders Collection 13 Folders

- Book of newspaper clippings

**Series IV: Photographs**

- Box 1: Photographs 5 Folders
- Box 2: Photographs 8 Folders

**Series V: Pamphlets, Offprints**

- Boxes 1-2

**Series VI: Song Texts**

- Boxes 1-28, alphabetical

**Series VIIa: Song Lists**

- Boxes 1-2

**Series VIIb: Song Indexes**

- Boxes 3-18