

Grace C. Nye diary

Ms. Codex 1919

Finding aid prepared by Donna Brandolisio.

Last updated on May 09, 2019.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

May 2018

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	3
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	4
Controlled Access Headings.....	5
Collection Inventory.....	6

Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Nye, Grace C., (Grace Cornelia), 1851-1871
Title	Grace C. Nye diary
Call number	Ms. Codex 1919
Date	1870
Extent	1 volume
Language	English
Language Note	In English with a few lines written in German.
Abstract	Travel diary of Grace C. Nye written during her tour of Italy and Germany from January to May 1870.

Cite as:

Grace C. Nye diary, 1870, Ms. Codex 1919, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Grace C. Nye was one of seven children born to Bartlett Nye and Laura Maria Moore of Champlain, New York on November 21, 1851. Barlett Nye was previously married to Matilda Moore who was the sister of Laura Moore. Bartlett had one child with Matilda prior to her death in 1841. Barlett died in 1857 when Grace was six years old. In 1870 Grace traveled to Europe with her mother Laura Moore Nye and her elder sister Ellen Rose, known as Nell. Grace Cornelia died March 6, 1871, at the age of nineteen.

Scope and Contents

A travel diary written by Nye during her tour of Italy and Germany from January to May in 1870. Nye traveled with her mother Laura Moore Nye and her elder sister Ellen Rose who she refers to as Nell or Nellie. The majority of the diary was written while she was in Italy where the Nye trio visited Rome, the Vatican, Florence, Naples, Pompeii, Sorrento, and Venice. There are brief entries of Nye's time in Munich, Germany and a visit to Vienna. Much of the diary references Rome. Nye provided detailed descriptions of major sights in each city regarding artists' studios, architecture, basilicas, catacombs, churches, gardens, museums, paintings, Roman ruins, and sculpture. She met artists in their studios such as American sculptor Franklin Simmons, Italian copyist Giuseppe Mazzolini, American poet and portrait painter Thomas Buchanan Read, and cameo artist Margaret Foley. Nye made observations of her surroundings and events, wrote the historical context of works of art, and noted the people they visited. Nye mentioned she was taking lessons in German, Italian, and painting. The diary is written in a German day calendar with ruled pages for each day. Nye's entries are written in ink and pencil and are not in chronological order. Some quotations are written on the title leaf with one in German. Written on the first leaf: Grace C. Nye, Munich, May 9, 1870. A few portrait sketches appear throughout the diary. A pressed botanical leaf is laid in the diary. A portion of the diary is blank.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Access Restrictions

This codex is available for research.

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Source of Acquisition

Sold by Quinn's Auction Galleries (Falls Church, Virginia), 2017

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Codices (bound manuscripts)
- Diaries
- Manuscripts, American--19th century
- Quotations
- Sketches

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Italy--Description and travel--19th century
- Munich (Germany)--Description and travel--19th century
- Rome (Italy)--Description and travel--19th century

SUBJECT(S)

- American diaries--19th century--Specimens
- American diaries--Women authors--19th century

Collection Inventory

	Volume
Grace C. Nye diary, 1870.	1