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ACCESSION SHEET

42 M 83, 43 M 15, 43 M 85, 43 M 112,  
47 M 11, 49 M 77, 51 M 80, 52 M 79,  
Accession # 58 M 87a, 58 M 87b, 58 M 124, Location 21-o-5/7(L), 21-p-1/7(L), 21-q-1/7(L),  
63 M 48 21-r-1/7(L). 21-s-1/7(L)  
Title Emily Ford Skeel. Papers  
Approximate inclusive dates 1871-1958  
Date of receipt Multiple Accessions Received from Emily Ford Skeel  
Volume on arrival Multiple Accessions  
Number of boxes (after reboxing) 150 boxes: 73 AB, 59 RC, 16 FB, 2 oversize boxes <sup>/2 vols</sup> - 106 lf  
Condition Good  
Restrictions None  
Description (SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries (SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Accessioned by *John V. ...*

Date *November 6, 1987*

ACCESSION SHEET

Emily Ford Skeel. Papers

Biographical Note

Emily Ford Skeel (née Emily Ellsworth Ford) was born in Brooklyn in 1867, the youngest of the seven children of Gordon Lester Ford (1823-1891) and Emily Fowler Ford (1826-1893), and the great-granddaughter of Noah Webster (1758-1843). Her father was a railroad and a real-estate magnate, a lawyer and a collector of Americana. His library was one of the most comprehensive of his day. Her mother wrote poetry, much of which she published; a two-volume work, Notes on the Life of Noah Webster (1912), edited by Skeel, was posthumously published. Skeel did not go to college, however she travelled and made use of her father's library. In 1891 she married Roswell Skeel, Jr. (1866-1922) and moved to Irvington, New York. They had no children. Like her older brothers Paul Leicester Ford (1865-1902) and Worthington Chauncey Ford (1858-1941) Skeel did work in historical research. She published 1928-1929 a three-volume work, Mason Locke Weems, His Works and Ways. The first volume is a bibliography of Parson Weems (1759-1825) left unfinished by Paul Leicester Ford at the time of his death, and the other volumes are Weems letters, 1784-1825, edited by Skeel. For more than 25 years Skeel worked on a definitive bibliography of Noah Webster which she did not complete due to illness and old age. This work was edited by Edwin H. Carpenter, Jr., who followed Skeel's guidelines, and was published by the New York Public Library as A Bibliography of the Writings of Noah Webster (1958). Both Emily Skeel and her husband contributed time and money to various organizations and causes. Roswell Skeel, Jr. worked as a volunteer for the Prison Association of New York, assisting the families of convicts. He worked for other offices and associations, generally in order to improve the education and health care of young people. Emily Skeel gave money to several societies and

(2)

organizations, most concerned with social reform or environmental conservation, and to educational institutions. She supported the Single Tax measures of Henry George, and contributed to societies committed to his ideas. After the death of her husband, Skeel moved to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts; one of her residences was a restoration of Ann Dunham's house (And'hunam). She also lived in New York City, Arizona and California. After several years of illness, Skeel died in 1958. Towards the end of her life her one time secretary and close friend Helen Mouat had power of attorney.

### Series Description

The Emily Ford Skeel Papers are divided into the following series: General Correspondence, Personal and Family Correspondence, Financial and Household Correspondence, Bibliographic Notes, Minor Series, Scrapbooks, Photograph Albums, Photographs, and Printed Matter. The organization of this collection as received was one of several filing systems inconsistent with each other. Although the collection has been further organized, Skeel's original order has been retained as much as possible. Overlap of certain types of material remains both within and between the series.

General Correspondence (1871-1958) includes letters concerned with Skeel's bibliographic and editorial work. These letters include correspondence with various librarians and academics as well as with Skeel's own staff. Some letters are between mutual friends of Skeel and Worthington Chauncey Ford. Many letters concerned with her work on Weems, although originally separate, have been interfiled. These include letters c.1929 from people acknowledging receipt of Weems volumes. Skeel corresponded with F. Carrington Weems, grandson of Mason Locke Weems. Correspondence with four libraries, one society, and Henry Warfel is arranged alphabetically towards the end of the series. Other letters are between Skeel and her bibliographic staff, including Hester Meigs (aka Souris), Gertrude Grimwood (aka GG), and Rosalie Bailey, Skeel's niece. Most of these letters pertain to Skeel's Webster research. Some letters are written by Helen Mouat for Skeel. General Correspondence also includes letters concerned with what Skeel called her contributions and with the volunteer work of the Skeels. The bulk of this correspondence dates from the 1930's and early 1940's; some of the earlier correspondence is relative to Roswell Skeel, Jr. and his work. Several boxes of Single Tax

correspondence incorporate some letters re contributions. The General Correspondence ends with letters re philanthropic donations filed by Skeel. The series is chronologically arranged with alphabetical sub-groupings. Related letters filed together over a period of two or more years are usually filed by the last date if the correspondence is cumulative, otherwise by the first significant date. The correspondence is mostly incoming but includes copies of outgoing correspondence.

Personal and Family Correspondence (1871-1950) contains correspondence with family members, relatives, personal friends, and other correspondence which is personal in nature. Some of the letters were written to both Skeel and her companion, Helen Mouat. Letters over a period of years are addressed to Marraine ( ? ) from Charlotte (Niven?). Other friends represented in the collection include Alice Boughton, Alice Dyke, Charlotte Schetter, and Katherine Day. Early letters in the series include some with friends of the Ford family such as members of the Estes and Conway families. There are personal letters from academics such as James Truslow Adams and Clarence S. Brigham, who also figure in the General Correspondence. Skeel corresponded frequently with everyone in her immediate family except for her brother Malcolm Webster Ford (1862-1902); notable is longterm correspondence with her brother Worthington. Other family letters include those between Skeel and Grace Kidder, widow of Paul Leicester Ford, and Lesta Ford, his daughter. The series also contains letters from Skeel family members, including Annie Skeel Burnap, cousin of Roswell Skeel, Jr., and Almet and Rufus Skeel, his uncles. Letters between Skeel family members, not including Roswell and Emily Skeel, are separately filed. The series ends with letters re the education and finances of Malcolm Webster Ford, Jr., nephew of Skeel.

Financial and Household Correspondence (1913-1946) divides into three parts. The first is financial correspondence with banks and stock-brokers. The next consists of general business letters, some of which pertain to Skeel's donations and others to household matters. Among the household letters is correspondence with booksellers. The final part of the series is correspondence from the period which Skeel spent in Martha's Vineyard.

Bibliographic Notes consist of material which Skeel gathered for her work on Webster. The series includes the notes organized by Edwin H. Carpenter, Jr. along with various unsorted notes and index cards. Because Skeel's manuscript was edited in order to publish a single volume work, the original has been retained in the collection. Some or all of the material marked "journalism" is analogous to the section entitled "periodicals" in the published book. Letters written while the work was in progress are both scattered throughout the series and concentrated in boxes marked "correspondence". The various notes consist of both unsorted bibliographic notes and relevant material gathered from other parts of the collection. Apparently all of the index cards were used in Webster research.

Minor Series are Weems Notes, Notes and Memoranda, Writings, Student Notebooks, Personal and Family Papers, Skeel Family Papers, Genealogical Papers, Commonplace Books, Accounts and Account Books, and Maps. Weems Notes incorporate additions to the bibliography, editorial commentary, a few letters attached to notes, and an article about Weems by Waldo G. Leland. Notes and Memoranda consist of short communications along with other written ephemera, printed invitations and calling cards, and a few scholarly notes which are not part of a cohesive whole. Writings

include printed works and manuscript drafts of Emily Skeel, Roswell Skeel, Jr., and members of the Ford family. A draft of Paul Leicester Ford's introduction to the Weems bibliography, a printed copy and part of the manuscript of Emily Fowler Ford's biographical work on Webster, and a draft by Roswell Skeel, Jr. re technical education are included. Among works by Emily Skeel are various addresses and a printed article "Through the Chinese Provinces". Student Notebooks consist chiefly of Skeel's French exercise books. Personal and Family Papers contain juvenilia, personal documents, short poems, and biographical sketches. Also included is an autograph album signed by friends and acquaintances, and typescripts of Webster family letters. Skeel family letters contain juvenilia of Roswell Skeel, Jr. and documents which pre-date his marriage, letters of Skeel relatives, and deeds re property of the Skeel family in Colorado. Other property deeds, mortgages, and contracts of Roswell and Emily Skeel are filed here. Genealogical Papers contain family trees, essays, and correspondence re the Ford-Fowler-Webster and Skeel-Reed-Burnap families. There are two notebooks (1882) of the genealogy of the descendants of William Greenleaf, copied by Emily Fowler Ford. Commonplace Books are those of Skeel, Annie Skeel Burnap, and Alice Dyke. The Account Books are three ledgers (c.1903-1917) of Roswell Skeel, Jr. and two cash books (c.1904-1917) which Emily Skeel kept as guardian for her nephew, Malcolm Webster Ford, Jr. The Accounts are a few further papers re Skeel's ward along with documents re the Estate of Gordon Lester Ford. Maps, both blueprints and amateur drawings, are of property in Colorado and New York City.

Scrapbooks contain two items of Annie Skeel Burnap which consist of newspaper articles from the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Two scrapbooks represent the work of Roswell Skeel, Jr., while involved with the New York State Education Department. The first is concerned with trade schools in New York City; a published pamphlet contains his conclusions. The second is concerned with apprenticeship procedures in the Hudson Valley; here a typed article is included. Another scrapbook of Roswell Skeel, Jr., is a personal collection of ephemera. Finally, two scrapbooks, compiled by either Roswell or Emily Skeel, document Italian art and architecture.

The earliest item of the series Photograph Albums consists of dog and boat pictures compiled by a young Emily Ford (Skeel). Another album contains photographs of the Ford family and friends. A later album of Roswell Skeel, Jr. consists of photographs from the Skeel ranch in Colorado.

Among the numerous Photographs are several of Roswell and Emily Skeel, and others of Worthington Chauncey, Paul Leicester, Gordon Lester, and Emily Fowler Ford. Group photographs include one of members of the Ford family at home with Skeel visitors. There are photographs of portraits of Emily Skeel's sisters Katherine Gordon, Rosalie Greenleaf, and Mabel Percy Ford. Six tintypes are of Annie Skeel Burnap and her brother George S. Burnap. There are glass negatives of the Fords' Clark Street residence in Brooklyn, many cyanotypes, and a collection of prints and two original photographs of prominent people. This series includes many other photographs of various subjects.

The Printed Matter consists of clippings, pamphlets, a few facsimiles and prints, and ephemera. The series begins with a subject reference file, a group of correspondence and notes filed together with printed matter by Skeel. The categories of this file reflect Skeel's interests



and the content of the rest of the printed matter. Material re Webster and Weems has been grouped together, as have documents of direct concern to the Ford and Skeel families. Noteworthy are clippings collected by Skeel recounting the event of Paul Leicester Ford's murder and Malcolm Webster Ford's suicide. Included also are a cash journal (1910-17) and a ledger (1900-15) of Roswell Skeel, Jr.

EMILY FORD SKEEL PAPERS

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	<u>General Correspondence</u>
1	1871-1913
2	1914-1915; 1915 (A-W)
3	c.1907-1915
4	1916-1920; 1918-1920 (A-W)
5	1920-1925
6	1926-1928
7	1928-1929
8	c.1928-1934
9	1930-1931
10	1931-1933
11-14	c.1932-1942 (A-W)
15	1933-1934
16	1934 (A-W)
17	1934 (A-W); 1935
18	1935 (A-W)
19	1935-1936
20	1937
21	1937-1938
22	1938-1939
23	1939-1940
24	1940-1942
25	1942; c.1942-1944
26	1943-1945
27	1945-1950
28	1950-1958

CONTAINER LIST (cont'd)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
29	1900-1958
30	n.d.
31	c.1935-1942 Correspondence with the American Antiquarian Society, Harvard College Library, Library of Congress
32	" " Correspondence with the Library of Congress, New York Public Library, Rutgers University Library, and with Henry Warfel
33	1924-1933 Correspondence re Single Tax and Contributions
34	1933-1938 " "
35	1938-1941 " "
36	1941-1946; " " c.1885-1897 Henry George Letters
37-38	c.1930-1937 Correspondence re Philanthropic Donations
<u>Personal and Family Correspondence</u>	
39	1871-1913
40	1913-1920
41	1921-1931
42	1930-1935
43	1935-1938
44	1939-1945
45	1945-1950; n.d.
46-47	n.d.
48-49	c.1909-1928 Correspondence re Malcolm Webster Ford
<u>Financial and Household Correspondence</u>	
50	1919-1927 Correspondence with Bankers' Trust Co., Colahan & Stanley
51	1929-1943 " " Bankers' Trust Co.
52	1924-1942 " " Colahan & Stanley, Bailey & Mueller
53	1925-1945 " " Dupont, Phillips & Zoller, Phillips, Swann, & Co.
54	1919-1944 ; " " 1913-1924 Richard's Realty, Rutters & Co. General Business Correspondence

CONTAINER LIST (cont'd)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
55	1924-1930 General Business Correspondence
56	1930-1935 " "
57	1935-1944 " "
58	1944-1946; n.d. " "
59	1923-1928; c.1929-1933 Seven Gates Farm - Ebbtides
60	1930-1934 " " "
61	1932-1941 " "
62	1939- 1946; n.d.; " "
	1929-1932 Seven Gates Farm - And'hanam
63	1930-1937 " " "
	<u>Bibliographic Notes</u>
64-65	American Spelling Book
66	American Spelling Book; Elementary Spelling Book
67	Elementary Spelling Book; Grammars, etc.
68	Grammars, etc.
69	Grammars; Dictionaries etc.
70	Dictionaries etc.
71	Educational Works, etc.
72	Political Works etc.
73	Readers etc.; Periodicals (Journalism)
74	Periodicals (Journalism)
75-77	Appendixes and Indexes
78	Appendixes cont'd; Correspondence
79	Correspondence
80	Correspondence-Letters of Others, Diaries
81-83	Misc. and Working Papers

CONTAINER LIST (cont'd)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	<u>Bibliographic Notes</u>
84	Newspapers Consulted
85	Journalism
86-87	"Journalism ccc" (sic)
88-92	"Journalism Discards"
93-96	Various Notes
97-104	Index Cards
	<u>Minor Series</u>
105-106	Weems Notes
107-109	Notes and Memoranda
110-111	Writings
112	Writings; Student Notebooks
113-115	Personal and Family Papers
116-118	Skeel Family Papers
119-120	Geneological Papers
121	Commonplace Books
122	Accounts and Account Books
123	Accounts and Account Books; Maps
	<u>Scrapbooks</u>
124	Annie Skeel Burnap c.1885-1898
125	" " c.1901-1918
126	Technical Education 1908-1909
127	" " 1909
128	Roswell Skeel Jr. 1896
129	Italian Art and Architecture 1889; nd
	<u>Photograph Albums</u>
130	Roswell Skeel Jr. c.1901
131	Emily Skeel 1886; 1890

CONTAINER LIST (cont'd)

Box

Contents

Photographs

- 132-134 Ford and Skeel Families  
135 Household; Travel  
136 Household; Unidentified People  
137 Prominent People  
138 Glass Negatives

Printed Matter

- 139 Subject Reference File  
140 Webster; Weems; Family Items; Clippings re Death  
of Paul and Malcolm  
141 Clippings re Death of Paul and Malcolm  
142-143 Various Clippings  
144-146 Re Gardening  
147-150 Pamphlets, Ephemera, etc.  
151-152 Printed Material  
153 Miscellaneous Accounts  
154 Cash journal (1910-17) of Roswell Skeel, Jr.  
155 Ledger (1900-15) of Roswell Skeel, Jr.