

Adelaide Johnson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79027821>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012121>

Prepared by Grover Batts and David Mathisen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2018 September

Collection Summary

Title: Adelaide Johnson Papers

Span Dates: 1873-1947

ID No.: MSS27821

Creator: Johnson, Adelaide, 1859-1955

Extent: 40,000 items

Extent: 130 containers

Extent: 55.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79027821>

Summary: Sculptor and suffragist. Family and general correspondence, diaries, speeches, articles, notes, and other papers concerning Johnson's life and activities as sculptor and feminist. Documents her work on the monument to Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, now located in the crypt of the United States Capitol. Also includes records of sittings by Susan B. Anthony, John Burroughs, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and others of whom she created portrait busts.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Statues.

Biedler, Lily--Correspondence.

Brisbane, Arthur, 1864-1936--Correspondence.

Burroughs, John, 1837-1921--Statues.

Ferris, Edith M.--Correspondence--Correspondence.

Gardener, Helen H. (Helen Hamilton), 1853-1925--Correspondence.

Hall, Agnes--Correspondence.

Harding, Gena R.--Correspondence.

Harper, Ida Husted, 1851-1931--Correspondence.

Jenkins family--Correspondence.

Jenkins family.

Johnson family--Correspondence.

Johnson family.

Johnson, Adelaide, 1859-1955.

Johnson, Alexander Frederick--Correspondence.

Mott, Lucretia, 1793-1880--Statues.

Murphy, Elizabeth Hale Falkner--Correspondence.

Pankhurst, Emmeline, 1858-1928--Correspondence.

Paul, Alice, 1885-1977--Correspondence.

Richmond, Cora L. V. (Cora Linn Victoria), 1840-1923--Correspondence.

Robson, May, 1865-1942--Correspondence.

Rogers, Henry--Correspondence.

Sewall, May Wright, 1844-1920--Correspondence.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 1815-1902--Statues.

Sumner, Helen L. (Helen Laura), 1876-1933--Correspondence.

Thursby, Emma Cecilia, 1845-1931--Correspondence.

Upton, Sara Carr, 1843- --Correspondence.

Whitney, Henry G.--Correspondence.

Wilcox, Ella Wheeler, 1850-1919--Statues.

Organizations

United States Capitol (Washington, D.C.)

Subjects

Busts.

Feminism.

Monuments--Washington (D.C.)

Portrait sculpture.

Sculpture.

Occupations

Sculptors.

Suffragists.

Provenance

The papers of Adelaide Johnson, sculptor and suffragist, were given to the Library of Congress by her niece, Romola Johnson Cristal, in 1962. Additional material was given by David and Margaret Henderson in 1981 and by Cristal in 1984.

Processing History

The papers of Adelaide Johnson were arranged and described in 1963 and expanded in 1986. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

Photographs, a watercolor, pencil drawings, and printed matter have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Adelaide Johnson Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Adelaide Johnson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Adelaide Johnson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Adelaide Johnson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date

1859, Sept. 26

1877

Event

Born Sarah Adeline Johnson, near Plymouth, Ill.

Diploma, School of Design, St. Louis, Mo. First and second prizes for wood carving at a Missouri state exposition competition with professional wood carvers

1878	Changed name to Adelaide Johnson
1883	Studied painting, Dresden, Germany
1884	Moved to Rome, Italy; studied under Giulio Monteverde for eleven years and established a studio in Rome that she maintained for twenty-five years, along with other studios at various periods in Carrara, Italy; London, England; New York, N.Y.; Chicago, Ill.; and Washington, D.C.
1893	Exhibited busts of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Caroline B. Winslow, Woman's Pavilion, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
1896	Married Alexander Frederick Jenkins (divorced 1908); he assumed the name of Johnson and was known as Mr. Johnson as well as Mr. Jenkins Johnson.
1904	As suffragist, changed allegiance from National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington, D.C., to National Woman's Party in New York, N.Y. Charter member, Lyceum Club, London, England, and its American organizer
1921	Sculpture "The Woman Movement," containing busts of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony, presented to the nation on behalf of the National Woman's Party and maintained in the Capitol
1936	Bust of Susan B. Anthony in "The Woman Movement" used as model for the three-cent postage stamp
1939	Faced eviction and sale of her home to pay back taxes; in frustration, mutilated many of her sculptures; congressional intervention prevented her eviction
1955, Nov. 11	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Adelaide Johnson (1859-1959) span the years 1873-1947 and consist of diaries, family and general correspondence, speeches and articles, miscellaneous notes, and other material. The collection is organized into five series: [Diaries](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Articles File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Addition](#).

The papers are rich in detail concerning Johnson's life and activities as a sculptor and feminist. Most prominently covered among her pieces of sculpture is the monument to the three suffrage leaders, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, executed in Carrara, Italy, over a period of twenty years for eventual display in the crypt of the United States Capitol Building. Included in the [Speeches and Articles file](#) is a record of portrait sittings by Susan B. Anthony, John Burroughs, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and others. Correspondents include Susan B. Anthony, Lily Biedler, Arthur Brisbane, T. Campbell-Copeland, Edith M. Ferris, Helen H. Gardener, Agnes Hall, Gena R. Harding, Ida Husted Harper, Elizabeth Hale Falkner Murphy, Emmeline Pankhurst, Alice Paul, Cora L. V. Richmond, May Robson, Henry Rogers, May Wright Sewall, Helen L. Sumners, Emma Cecilia Thursby, Sara Carr Upton, and Henry G. Whitney.

The family correspondence in the [Addition](#) series is divided into three parts: letters between Adelaide and her husband, those with her family, and some with her husband's family in England. Because her marriage to Alexander Frederick Jenkins was characterized by long separations, she living in her Washington, D.C., studio and traveling frequently to Europe in reference to her art, he working and living at various times in New York, Hartford, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and London, their relationship is strongly documented in the papers. The Johnson family correspondence includes several letters from Adelaide's mother, Margaret Huff Hendrickson Johnson. The bulk, however, rests with her brother Charles and sister Elizabeth, Mrs. John Dickerman, with some, as well, from their spouses and children. Most letters relating to the Jenkins family are from Alexander's mother, Lydia S. Jenkins, and his brother Leonard.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries, 1875-1947](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1877-1947](#)
- [Speeches and Articles File](#)
- [Miscellany](#)
- [Addition, 1873-1944](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-15	<p><u>Diaries, 1875-1947</u></p> <p>Diaries in bound volumes and loose sheets. Arranged chronologically within the two groups.</p>
BOX 16-66	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1877-1947</u></p> <p>Letters received by Johnson as well as drafts of numerous letters dispatched by her. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 67-71	<p><u>Speeches and Articles File</u></p> <p>Speeches and articles. Speeches are arranged chronologically and articles alphabetically by title. A record of portrait sittings is filed at the end.</p>
BOX 72-100	<p><u>Miscellany</u></p> <p>Notes by Johnson, also biographical and financial papers, mostly bills and receipts, and names and addresses of her acquaintances. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 101-130	<p><u>Addition, 1873-1944</u></p> <p>Family papers, including letters of Adelaide Johnson and Alexander Frederick Johnson, the Johnson family, and Jenkins family; general correspondence, mainly of letters received with some drafts of replies; and miscellany, including addresses, calling cards, financial papers, notes, printed matter, and clippings. Organized by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-15	Diaries, 1875-1947 Diaries in bound volumes and loose sheets. Arranged chronologically within the two groups.
BOX 1	Bound
BOX 1	1895-1899
BOX 2	1900-1905
BOX 3	1906-1910
BOX 4	1911-1917
BOX 5	1918-1922
BOX 6	1923-1925
BOX 7	1926, 1929-1930
BOX 8	1931-1933
BOX 9	1934-1936
BOX 10	1937-1939
BOX 11	1940-1941, 1943-1944
BOX 12	Loose sheets
BOX 12	1875-1916
BOX 13	13 1916-1922
BOX 14	1922-1931
BOX 15	1932-1947
BOX 16-66	General Correspondence, 1877-1947 Letters received by Johnson as well as drafts of numerous letters dispatched by her. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 16	1877-1892
BOX 17	1893-1901
BOX 18	1902-1904
BOX 19	1904-1906
BOX 20	1907-1908
BOX 21	1908-1909
BOX 22	1909
BOX 23	1910
BOX 24	1910
BOX 25	1911
BOX 26	1911
BOX 27	1911-1912
BOX 28	1912-1913
BOX 29	1913
BOX 30	1913-1914
BOX 31	1914-1915

General Correspondence, 1877-1947

Container	Contents
BOX 32	1915
BOX 33	1916
BOX 34	1916-1917
BOX 35	1917-1918
BOX 36	1918
BOX 37	1919-1920
BOX 38	1920
BOX 39	1920-1921
BOX 40	1921-1922
BOX 41	1922-1923
BOX 42	1923-1924
BOX 43	1925-1926
BOX 44	1926
BOX 45	1927
BOX 46	1928-1929
BOX 47	1929
BOX 48	1929-1930
BOX 49	1931
BOX 50	1931-1932
BOX 51	1932-1933
BOX 52	1933-1934
BOX 53	1934-1935
BOX 54	1935-1936
BOX 55	1936-1937
BOX 56	1937-1938
BOX 57	1938
BOX 58	1938-1939
BOX 59	1939-1940
BOX 60	1940
BOX 61	1940-1942
BOX 62	1942-1943
BOX 63	1943-1945
BOX 64	1945-1947, undated
BOX 65-66	Correspondence of others
BOX 67-71	Speeches and Articles File Speeches and articles. Speeches are arranged chronologically and articles alphabetically by title. A record of portrait sittings is filed at the end.
BOX 67	Speeches, 1914-1938
BOX 67	Articles
BOX 67	“Aberdeen”-“Susan B. Anthony”
BOX 68	“Art Activity of American Women”-“Political Emancipation as Related to the Evolution of Womanhood”
BOX 69	Articles “The Portrait Idea and Object”-“Emma Thursby”
BOX 70	“Emma Thursby”-“Women in Music” Untitled

Speeches and Articles File

Container	Contents
BOX 71	Record of sitting, Susan B. Anthony-Ellen Wheeler Wilcox
BOX 72-100	Miscellany Notes by Johnson, also biographical and financial papers, mostly bills and receipts, and names and addresses of her acquaintances. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 72-89	Notes
BOX 90	Biographical papers, certificates, and awards
BOX 91-93	Financial
BOX 92	Financial records and invitations
BOX 93-97	Names and addresses
BOX 94	Names and addresses and general miscellany
BOX 95-100	General
BOX 101-130	Addition, 1873-1944 Family papers, including letters of Adelaide Johnson and Alexander Frederick Johnson, the Johnson family, and Jenkins family; general correspondence, mainly of letters received with some drafts of replies; and miscellany, including addresses, calling cards, financial papers, notes, printed matter, and clippings. Organized by type of material.
BOX 101	Family correspondence
BOX 101	Adelaide Johnson and Alexander Frederick Johnson
BOX 101	Jan. 1894-May 1895 (10 folders)
BOX 102	June-Dec. 1895 (7 folders)
BOX 103	Jan. 1896-Feb. 1897 (9 folders)
BOX 104	Mar. 1897-Dec. 1899 (13 folders)
BOX 105	Jan. 1900-Dec. 1905 (3 folders)
BOX 105	Undated
BOX 106	Johnson family
BOX 106	Nov. 1878-Oct. 1882 (2 folders)
BOX 106	Dec. 1885-Dec. 1894 (7 folders)
BOX 107	Jan. 1895-Sept. 1916 (10 folders)
BOX 108	Mar. 1917-May 1944 (6 folders)
BOX 109	Undated
BOX 109	Jenkins family
BOX 109	Oct. 1894-Sept. 1906 (7 folders)

Addition, 1873-1944

Container	Contents
BOX 109	Undated
BOX 110	General correspondence
BOX 110	Nov. 1873
BOX 110	Mar. 1880-Aug. 1888 (10 folders)
BOX 111	Sept. 1888-Oct. 1889 (10 folders)
BOX 112	Nov. 1889-Dec. 1892 (12 folders)
BOX 113	Jan. 1893-Apr. 1895 (10 folders)
BOX 114	May 1895-Dec. 1896 (10 folders)
BOX 115	Jan. 1897-Aug. 1899 (9 folders)
BOX 116	Sept. 1899-Mar. 1901 (7 folders)
BOX 117	Apr. 1901-Dec. 1902 (7 folders)
BOX 118	Jan. 1903-Feb. 1904 (6 folders)
BOX 119	Mar. 1904-Apr. 1905 (7 folders)
BOX 120	May 1905-Feb. 1906
BOX 121	Mar. 1906-Apr. 1907 (7 folders)
BOX 122	May 1907-Aug. 1908 (8 folders)
BOX 123	Sept. 1908-Nov. 1944 (7 folders)
BOX 124	Undated (4 folders)
BOX 125	(4 folders)
BOX 126	(4 folders)
BOX 127	Miscellany
BOX 127	Address books
BOX 127	Automatic writing
BOX 127	Biographical
BOX 127	Calling and business cards (2 folders)
BOX 128	Financial (2 folders)
BOX 128	General
BOX 128	Lists
BOX 128	Names and addresses (1 folder)
BOX 129	(1 folders)
BOX 129	Notes

Addition, 1873-1944

Container	Contents
------------------	-----------------

BOX 129	Photographs
BOX 129	Printed matter (2 folders)
BOX 130	(2 folders)
BOX 130	Clippings