Warner Fite Collection, 1906-1928: Finding Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call number:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography/History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access and Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition and Appraisal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing and Other Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents List</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Biography/History**

Dr. Warner was an educator, philosopher and author. For twenty-five years he was a member of the Princeton University Philosophy Department as Stuart Professor of Ethics, and in 1934 was the president of the American Philosophical Association. He was not a member of one school of philosophic thought and, consequently, wrote and taught in the spirit of his book Individualism (1911). In another book, Moral Philosophy, The Critical View of Life, Dr. Fite developed his view of life centering on the importance of the "person." He was a friend of the Spanish philosopher Miguel de Unamuno, whose novel Mist he translated (1928), and of Benedette Croce, the Italian philosopher.

**Description**

The collection consists chiefly of selected correspondence of Warner Fite. The bulk consists of letters addressed to Fite from Miguel de Unamuno, the Spanish essayist, poet, and philosopher, and Ramiro de Maeztu, also a Spanish political theorist, journalist, and literary critic. Their correspondence revolves around Fite's work, including his book Moral Philosophy, The Critical View of Life. There is a letter from Prof. J. Helder asking Fite to translate a letter (in Spanish) from Unamuno, accompanied by Fite's translation, which includes holograph corrections in Greek. In addition, there are four letters by Fite to "Mrs. Rogers" (Jeanette Blumenthal Rogers) and one letter to Helen Blumenthal Waterman. Other correspondents include the Italian philosopher Benedette Croce, American philosophers and authors William James and George Herbert Palmer, and the Spanish philosopher, essayist, and poet George Santayana.

**Access and Use**

Access

The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

**Acquisition and Appraisal**

Custodial History

The collection was formed as a result of a Departmental practice of combining into one collection material of various accessions relating to a particular person, family, or subject.

Provenance and Acquisition
Letters addressed to Fite were a gift of Mrs. Fite on December 13, 1955.

Letters of Fite were a gift of Miss Faith D. Waterman on June 28, 1979. AM18544, 80-31.

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Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Warner Fite Collection, Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Dina Britain on May 19, 2009. Finding aid written by Elizabeth Mulvey on June 15, 2009. Folder Inventory added by Jameson Creager '2015 in 2012.

Encoding

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2012-06-26T09:42-0400

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Subject Headings

· Maetzu, Ramiro de, 1875-1936 -- Correspondence.
· Unamuno, Miguel de, 1864-1936 -- Correspondence.
· Princeton University -- Faculty -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Philosophers -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Philosophy -- 20th century.
· Correspondence -- 20th century.
· Philosophy
Contents List

Letter from Benedette Croce to Warner Fite, 1926 February 6  
Box: 1 Folder: 1

Letter from J. Helder to Warner Fite (with his transcripts), 1924 May 2  
Box: 1 Folder: 2

Letter, Card (with transcripts) from William James to Warner Fite, 1906 April-July  
Box: 1 Folder: 3

3 Letters from Ramiro de Maeztu to Warner Fite, 1926-1927  
Box: 1 Folder: 4

3 Letters from George Herbert Palmer to Warner Fite, 1911-1926  
Box: 1 Folder: 5

3 Letter from Jeanette Blumenthal Rogers to Warner Fite, 1921-1936  
Box: 1 Folder: 6

Letter from George Santayana to Warner Fite, 1925 December 12  
Box: 1 Folder: 7

4 Letters (with transcripts) from Miguel de Unamuno to Warner Fite, 1926-1928  
Box: 1 Folder: 8

Letter from Warner Fite to Helen Blumenthal Waterman, 1936 April 30  
Box: 1 Folder: 9

Xerox Copy of obituary in the New York Times about Warner Fite, 1955 June 24  
Box: 1 Folder: 10