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GUIDE TO A MICROFILM EDITION



#### The Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst Papers at Cornell University

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# Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst Papers at Cornell University

1909-1925

Guide to a Microfilm Edition
Ingeborg Wald, Editor

Department of Manuscripts and University Archives

John M. Olin Library

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## Preface

Since a guide to the microfilm edition to the Willard D. Straight Papers appeared in 1974 the papers of Dorothy Payne Whitney Straight and additional papers of Willard D. Straight have been donated to the Archives by the Straight family. The papers of Dorothy Payne Whitney Straight have been arranged and can be used as a separate collection in the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives. A computer-generated index to the papers of Willard and Dorothy Straight is available. Additional information concerning Mrs. Straight and her children can be found at Elmhirst Centre, Dartington Hall, England.

I wish to thank the Whitney Foundation, which has supported the work for this guide. I am grateful to Michael Straight, who has answered swiftly my innumerable questions and often suggested wider avenues of approach to the family papers. My thanks also go to Beatrice Straight Cookson for her help and kindness.

I wish to thank my colleagues, friends, and students who were helpful and understanding when I was working on this guide and indexing project, particularly Gould P. Colman, H. Thomas Hickerson, and Kathleen Jacklin for archival advice and Diane Perushek, who helped many times by elucidating problems concerning Chinese and Japanese personal names and places. Finally my thanks go to Jane K. Gustafson, who typed the manuscript in its various stages and to Elina Hum, who provided enthusiastic help when we were arranging the papers.

Ingeborg Wald December 1, 1980



# Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst

1887-1968

Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst was born January 23, 1887 in Washington, D.C., where her father, William C. Whitney, was serving as Secretary of the Navy. His family was among the early settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Dorothy's mother, Flora Payne Whitney, was also a descendant of colonists. The Paynes moved to Ohio at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Dorothy's maternal grandfather, Harry Payne, was mayor of Cleveland, state senator in Ohio, and U.S. congressman.

During the Cleveland administration, Mrs. Whitney was among the most popular hostesses in Washington. Her friend, Mrs. Cleveland, became godmother to Dorothy. At the end of Cleveland's presidency, William C. Whitney moved to New York City. There he built a magnificant Renaissance-style mansion, which he filled with works of art. He also remodeled an early farm house in Westbury, Long Island and it was on this estate that Dorothy spent much of her youth.

Dorothy Whitney was the youngest of four children. Harry, born in 1872, married Gertrude Vanderbilt in 1896; Pauline, born in 1874, married Almeric Paget in 1895; and Payne, born in 1876, married Helen Hay in 1902. After her mother's death, when Dorothy was only six, she was looked after by governesses. Her father's second marriage to Edith May Randolph ended tragically after only two years, when his wife died as the result of a riding accident.

In 1899 Dorothy's sister Pauline introduced Beatrice Bend to the Whitney family. Miss Bend, Dorothy's senior by more than 10 years, was knowledgeable in social skills and spoke languages. Because her family had suffered financial reverses, she was forced to accept a paid position as Dorothy's companion. She remained in that position until Dorothy married Willard Straight in 1911.

Opposite: Willard Straight and Dorothy Whitney about 1911.

#### Education

Dorothy began her formal education at home with a small group of friends—all children of wealthy families in New York City. Later she attended Miss Spence's and Miss Finch's schools. In 1902 she was confirmed in the Episcopal Church by the Bishop of New York. In 1904 she joined the Junior League along with many of her schoolmates and friends. Here she helped stage amateur plays in order to raise money for the needy in the Metropolitan area. During the first World War she concluded that if the Junior Leagues had a national organization they could be more effective and useful than as autonomous organizations. From 1921 to 1922 she served as the first president of the Association of Junior Leagues of America.

During World War I, in an effort to better social conditions for the underprivileged, she actively supported the Women's Trade Union and assisted Lillian D. Wald of the Henry Street Settlement in Brooklyn and Miss Lucy C. Kellogg, Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society Health Home in Brooklyn. At the same time she gave individual scholarships to various students.

Dorothy Whitney had many suitors. Although there seemed to be some family pressure, especially from her sister Pauline, who wanted her to marry Lord Falconer, she remained single until 1911. Yet, it is clear from a note written in the fall of 1907 when she was in Italy that she had a design in mind about the man she would marry:

(Grand Hotel — Venise) "When the right person comes along, I wonder if one has doubts even then. Many of us are immediately carried off our feet and swept away into an irresistable current of love — while to the rest of us love comes walking slowly, and yet with sure steps he overtakes us and folds his arms about our shrinking forms. How little can we know ourselves, and yet I feel that love would come veryslowly and gradually into my heart — and not with a sudden inrush of emotion. Of course the man one marries cannot be all one dreams of having him — and I am fully expectant of disappointments — I can't help longing for certain things — he must be strong, and he must be tender — he must be honest and generous, and also kind and thoughtful — and oh — if he only will love me tenderly, take care of me, put his arms about me."

#### Willard D. Straight

Dorothy had travelled widely in Europe, but knew England especially well. She often stayed with her sister Pauline in London during the racing season at Ascot. After being introduced to Willard Straight in Washington, D.C. in 1909, their relationship deepened in the course of her international travel. They started to correspond shortly before her arrival in Peking that fall on a trip around the world, which took her to Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Burma, India, Ceylon, Egypt and Europe again. In 1910 she travelled with Willard Straight, Beatrice Bend and Miss Bend's mother, Marraine, returning to the United States that fall. In July 1911, she travelled with Willard Straight in Europe in the company of Miss Bend. Even so, almost until her wedding day, she was unsure if marriage would be the right step:

"Married life is full of rifts and troubles of course — and I have seen too much of life to imagine it is all a rosy dream. But if two people understand each other and each has patience and confidence — the troubles will be cleared away and will not become black and mysterious shadows. Perfect faith in each other — that above all things is the truest, surest foundation, and I can't imagine anything more wonderful than this sort of an understanding between two people. Nothing then could really go wrong.

I don't think I could fall in love with a man who had no ambition and no aim in life — because I feel a great longing to become a part of his life and help him when possible to do his work."

Dorothy and Willard Straight were married in Geneva, Switzerland on September 7, 1911. Their honeymoon started in Europe and continued en route to Peking on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Although Dorothy and Willard spent only six months in China because of the outbreak of the Chinese revolution, they met important Chinese and Europeans who influenced their thinking. During this time they were host to Sidney and Beatrice Webb, the British socialists.

"Willard likes Mr. Webb very much and thought him wonderfully intelligent," Dorothy wrote to Beatrice Bend on October 30, 1911, "but I'm afraid that I'm the only one who found any charm in Mrs. Webb—how I wish you had been there—for you would have known how to get along with them, and how to really bring

GRAND HÔTEL-VENISE Where the right porson cours along, Justians, if suchas doubls, somether i Thanky yus and swept away into an orresistable current of love - and the rest of us. Show down fore corner to corner walking showly, and yet switty states in bilately he overlakes us and folds his arms I that net skrinking potoes - How little ice us Recon Tracelves, and get Head at love weld come very stouty and

them out! They talked a great deal about democracy — both social and political — and she made some rather annoying and insulting remarks about America — doubtless perfectly true but we all felt that she might have said them in a somewhat nicer way. After dinner she talked about her school in London and her work and her book — and about signs and mysticism and the fourth dimension, until I thought I should die of exhaustion. After they all left Willard and I just sank down in a chair and gasped for breath — O dear — I couldn't stand many intellectual evenings of that kind — but it certainly was a wonderful education every now and then!"

During the same week the Straights gave a second dinner party to which they invited Chinese and foreign officials. They met with the Webbs at other times and discussed politics, education, and the New Statesman, which had been started by the Webbs. In Peking they were continously involved in social activities. While Willard was active as a representative of American banking interests, Dorothy formed new relationships and met many of the leading Chinese families and members of the ruling class. These activities came to an abrupt end as the revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen moved into northern China. In the spring of 1912 the Straights left for England.

Most of the years between 1912 and 1917 were spent in America. The Straights' three children were born here, Whitney in 1912, Beatrice in 1914, and Michael in 1916. Although there was no effective way to continue his work with China and the Far East, Willard Straight maintained intellectual connections with China and to this end he founded, with Dorothy, Asia magazine. To provide a vehicle for liberal opinion, the Straights founded the New Republic, a weekly journal clearly inspired by the New Statesman. Herbert Croly was editor and Walter Lippmann a member of the editorial staff. Willard Straight also founded a luncheon club, India House, located at Hanover Square in New York City.

Opposite: Venetian reverie, 1907. "When the right person comes along . . ."

In 1915 the Straights built a house at 1130 Fifth Avenue which now houses the International Center of Photography. During the summers Willard spent most of his time in New York City while Dorothy and the children vacationed in Woods Hole, Westbury, and the Adirondacks. When separated they exchanged daily letters and telegrams, which illustrate how they made decisions.

#### World War I

The outbreak of World War I immediately preoccupied Willard Straight, who predicted that the United States would become involved. He volunteered for military service and, after attending training at Plattsburgh, New York and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, went to France in 1917 where he directed the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. He helped organize this bureau of the War Department, which was created to provide low cost insurance for the dependents of soldiers and sailors. Because of Willard's effort and the cooperation of the YMCA and Red Cross, this program became highly successful in helping servicemen provide for their families.

While Willard was in the Army, Dorothy raised funds for the Women's Liberty Loan Committee, the Red Cross, and the YMCA and was involved in many other service projects. As chairman of the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense, she organized volunteer activities such as working in community kitchens, promoting thrift savings campaigns, and providing recreation programs for soldiers. She assisted the Women's City Club in a campaign to reduce infant mortality and supported the New York State Food Commission, which encouraged people to use wartime rations wisely. In an effort to boost food production, she worked with the Nassau County Farm Bureau on a plan to recruit college girls to work on farms during the summer. Through the YMCA she began a program to recruit women to go overseas to work in military canteens.

At the end of the war Willard Straight became a representative at the peace negotiations in Paris. On November 16, 1918 he telegraphed to Dorothy: "Colonel [House] wants you to come over and to have us take a house. It may be a question of several months. You should bring children with you if doctors approve. Consult with Frank Polk regarding passports and have Fiedler see Franklin regarding accommodations. Get in touch with Mrs.

Auchincloss and Mrs. Grew who are also coming. It will be too wonderful to have you here." The following day, November 17, 1918, Willard wrote, "Dear Beloved, are you coming? This is all I'm thinking of — I love you everywhere. Your Willard." It was his last letter to his wife. Willard Straight died of pneumonia on December 1, 1918 before his family could leave for France.

Although Dorothy remained active in social affairs, the period from Willard's death until her marriage to Leonard K. Elmhirst in April 1925, was the most difficult in her life. She consulted with the editors of the New Republic and Asia magazine and became a member of the Board of Directors of the Teachers College at Columbia University. She was instrumental in founding the New School for Social Research. Because of her political associations and help to causes such as that of Sacco and Vanzetti, the women's trade union movement, and the New School for Social Research, she found herself under attack by those who felt otherwise to the point that her health was impaired. In 1923 she withdrew for a year largely due to exhaustion.

#### Willard Straight Hall

In 1920, along with President Farrand and various members of the Cornell University faculty, she explored possibilities for implementing Willard Straight's bequest to make Cornell "a more human place." According to his will, "My wife, Dorothy Payne Whitney Straight, is to be unrestrained in the possession and enjoyment of my entire property and estate. I nevertheless desire her to do such thing or things for Cornell University as she may think most fitting and useful to make the same a more human place." To implement this provision one of the first student unions in the U.S. was established. At the dedication of Willard Straight Hall on December 14, 1925, Dorothy said:

"Willard Straight saw individual life assuming significance and importance through vital relations with other human beings. The formative factor in his own life was his contact with people, a group of relationships through which his personality progressively expanded. It was characteristic of him that whatever he did he built up around each of his activities a little society of friends and because human relationships

opened new worlds to Willard Straight, it is our hope that the Union may in some measure recreate life in these terms for others. In that faith we present the building to the University to be guided and governed by the students and made by them through their own adventure of spirit here into an instrument for the illumination and enhancement of personal and social living."

#### Leonard K. Elmhirst

In the course of implementing the Straight will, Dorothy met Leonard Knight Elmhirst, a graduate student in the College of Agriculture, who asked her to help the Cosmopolitan Club, a financially troubled cooperative house for international students. Soon a friendship developed as Elmhirst helped, supported and advised her about the development of Willard Straight Hall.

As plans for the building progressed, the relationship between Dorothy and Leonard became reciprocal. She encouraged and supported his work in India with Rabindranath Tagore, which was directed toward establishing a university there and developing rural life by reconstructing villages and introducing health and social services. Later, as Elmhirst travelled with Tagore to China, South America, and Europe, he remained in touch with Dorothy and many times asked her to marry him. In 1925, after becoming convinced that her children could live as happy and constructive lives in England as in the United States, Dorothy agreed. The Elmhirsts purchased Dartington Hall, a 2,000 acre estate in Devonshire, which had fallen into disrepair. Here they founded a community directed toward education through arts and crafts which utilized concepts of rural reconstruction Elmhirst had followed in his work with Tagore.

In 1924 Leonard wrote:

"It would be a school such as has not happened yet, drawing on India, America, China — again a concentration, again education, again the fellowship of a few men of ideals and spirit — not politics, or press, or even adult education, not public schools nor panaceas nor "isms," but fellowship, children, service, and a hoping for results after 25 years. It is the only way."

Dorothy replied on September 21, 1924:

"You know how keen I am to have you lose no time in laying the foundations for the English experiment — and you know the money is yours now, to be used at once if you want it. Couldn't you use these next months in just getting started seeing other schools and talking to the educational people in England and acquiring some place for the farm? And then you must come back to America to study schools here!!"

The papers of Dorothy Whitney Straight at Cornell University document her life before her marriage to Leonard Elmhirst on April 3, 1925. Records concerning Dorothy and Leonard K. Elmhirst and their children, as well as some pre-1925 diaries are preserved in the Archives at Elmhirst Center, Dartington Hall. Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst died at Dartington Hall on December 13, 1968.

# Organization of the Papers for the Microfilm Edition

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Series I Correspondence
subseries 1 Willard D. Straight to Dorothy
subseries 2 WDS to others
subseries 3 Others to Dorothy
subseries 4 Engagement and wedding congratulations, 1911
subseries 5 Congratulations on Whitney's birth, 1912
subseries 6 Dorothy to Willard
subseries 7 Dorothy to others
subseries 8 Others to Willard
subseries 9 Wedding congratulations, 1925
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Series II Other papers through 1911 subseries 1 Photographs, documents, miscellany subseries 2 Notes

Series III Other papers, 1912-1925 subseries 1 1130 Fifth Avenue subseries 2 Civic activities subseries 3 WDS, his death in France subseries 4 India House subseries 5 Asia magazine subseries 6 Willard Straight Hall

Series IV The New Republic, 1915-1925 subseries 1 Correspondence subseries 2 Accounts

#### Reel Notes

Reel 1 1909-1911 Series I. subseries 1

Begins with a letter from Willard Straight, January 10, 1909, commemorating his meeting with Dorothy Whitney at a dinner party in Washington, D.C. Later letters show that they did not meet again until October, when Dorothy and Beatrice Bend visited Peking during their trip around the world and were guests of Straight and Henry P. Fletcher. After Dorothy left Peking to continue her trip, Willard's letters and cablegrams followed her throughout the Far East and Europe. He wrote often of personal matters, but also a great deal about diplomatic affairs, business, and the people they had met. Included on this reel are copies of documents he sent to Dorothy describing his work in the currency loan negotiations and newspaper clippings relating to Far Eastern affairs. Willard's friend J.O.P. Bland is often mentioned in the correspondence. Notes and cards written during the summer of 1910 document that Dorothy and Willard met at various places in Europe. Willard wrote to her as he travelled to St. Petersburg, London, and New York for the American Group he represented, which included J. P. Morgan, First National Bank, New York, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and the National City Bank, New York. In addition to visiting various resorts in Europe, Dorothy spent some time in France with her ailing sister Pauline W. Paget. Throughout the reel are many cables Willard sent to Dorothy, especially when letters seemed to be too slow. They used many code words in their messages and towards the end of the reel, there is a list of these words and their meanings. For example, antung means "are you well"; shemmo, "how are things going"; migrando, "things going splendidly in . . . "; escribella, "have you written on . . . "; Liebestraum, "God guard you always"; Pulun, "I'm leaving for . . . "; Mozart, "I'm returning to China via the Pacific"; Borderland, "may I come for you now" and there are many more. The last items on the reel are a



letter of New Year's greetings for 1911 from Willard to Dorothy and a cable dated January 31, 1911: "Isola New York grazia antung shem moaiken liebestraum borderland Peking" which means: "Paris to New York. Thanks for your telegram. Are you well? How are things going? I miss you frightfully. God guard you always. May I come for you now?"

Reel 2 1911-1917 Series I, subseries 1, continued

This reel begins with a letter Willard wrote to Dorothy on February 2, 1911 from Peking. He described the situation in Manchuria and the negotiations he was involved in concerning the Chinese currency reform. Throughout February he kept Dorothy informed of the progress of the negotiations. In a letter dated February 13 he enclosed a draft of a letter he intended to send to F.M. Huntington Wilson concerning the currency reform. Also in February he sent copies of documents relating to negotiations with his Excellency Sheng Kung P'ao and Prince Tsai Tao. He enclosed copies of correspondence with Henry P. Davison and J.O.P. Bland, who also commented on the negotiations. In addition, he wrote of the strained relations between Russia, China, and Japan and enclosed a few documents and newspaper clippings that commented on the subject. In April 1911 Willard wrote that the currency reform agreement finally had been signed. He enclosed copies of the documents he was to send to J.P. Morgan and Company and many newspaper clippings that commented on the agreement. This correspondence makes frequent reference to Maurice Casenave, William J. Calhoun, and Frank H. McKnight, European diplomats who were also involved in the negotiations. Almost as soon as the currency reform agreement was completed, Straight began negotiations about a loan agreement for the Hukuang Railway and on May 20 he reported the signing of this agreement. In June 1911 he set out for America, continuing to write regularly to Dorothy as he traveled by train across Russia and Europe and then finally sailed for America. After only a brief

Opposite: Dorothy Whitney Straight Elmhirst about 1965.





visit in America he sailed for Europe, apparently to travel with Dorothy and Beatrice Bend. Willard and Dorothy were together in Paris July 6–8 and then Willard left for England to visit Dorothy's sister Pauline. A series of undated notes also appear, possibly written during the voyage to Europe and during the stay in Paris. During the summer of 1911 Willard completed some loan agreements for J.P. Morgan and Co. and traveled extensively in Europe. The main part of the correspondence discusses their engagement in July, their wedding plans, and their feelings about marriage. Many cablegrams concern their travels and wedding plans.

They met in Caux for about a week in the middle of August. For the remainder of the year the reel contains only scattered notes and cablegrams written after their honeymoon and their return to Peking. Occasionally they were separated as Willard traveled for J.P. Morgan and Co., but for the most part they were together.

Early in 1912, they left Peking. During the summer of 1912 Willard wrote from New York to Dorothy in residence in their home in the Adirondacks. Through the rest of 1912 there are scattered notes and cablegrams. In the summer of 1913 Willard wrote to Dorothy in the Adirondacks again, as well as in Narragansett, Rhode Island where she spent part of the summer. She enclosed copies of letters from Laura R. Newkirk and Winston Churchill, the American writer.

In 1914, while they were apart, their scattered correspondence mostly concerned Willard's business meetings and mutual friends, but occasionally described meetings about foreign trade. During September 1914 and January 1915 Willard wrote from London and Paris where he was on business.

Reel3 1904-1906, 1911-1918 Series I, subseries 1, concluded; 2, 3

The first part of this reel consists of correspondence from Willard to Dorothy. The frequent letters were written when he was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and later in Paris, France. They reflect his concern for the well-being of Dorothy and the children. In September 1917 he chided her for not getting enough rest, begging her to take care of herself and asking her to write and cable more regularly. He commented on his army training and made many small sketches in his letters. All of his letters reflect his longing to be with her. On December 19, 1917 he enclosed the "Song of the War Risk Insurance" in a letter. A 1917 Christmas greeting sketched by Straight for his family is also on the reel. As the war continued his letters home became very detailed and descriptive of military actions. Some of these letters, written early in 1918, were censored before reaching Dorothy and portions of this correspondence have been erased. Also included are numerous telegrams from Straight covering a variety of topics: congratulatory birthday messages, inquiries about their home, and reports from the war front. Enclosed in a letter begun on May 30, 1918 is a whimsical set of rules for a competition between Dorothy and Maud Murphy for dividing pictures sent back from Langres,

France by Willard and Grayson Murphy. A June 24th letter contained a copy of a letter from Henry P. Davison to Willard offering a renewal of friendship after a misunderstanding. The last letters sent by Willard were written in November 1918 and involved plans to have Dorothy and the children come to Paris to be with him since he was involved in the peace negotiations.

Subseries 2, which comprises the second part of this reel, contains Willard's letters to other friends and relatives covering the period from June 23, 1911 through July 22, 1918. This subseries is arranged according to recipient with separate folders for each. They are not always in chronological order. Included are illustrated stories, letters, and postcards sent to his children, one of which is the letter sent for his son Whitney to be read only on the occasion of his death. Early correspondence includes a letter and cablegram to Henry P. Fletcher announcing Willard and Dorothy's engagement and asking Fletcher to be best man. A letter dated March 12, 1911 to Mrs. Richard Harding Davis talks about his feelings for Dorothy and his hopes for their marriage. A letter to Marraine Bend dated June 23, 1911 announces Willard and Dorothy's engagement and asks her blessing. A transcript of this letter also appears. A letter Willard wrote to President Woodrow Wilson in April 1917 tells of his admiration of the President's handling of the war effort. In a letter to William Phillips, the American diplomat, in June 1918 Willard also discussed the war effort and army morale and organization. Excerpts from his letter were transcribed by Phillips and sent to Dorothy. Other correspondents include H. Morse Stephens, T.B. Little, Henry Schoellkopf, J.O.P. Bland, Willard's brother-in-law Harry Whitney, and Alfred W. Fiedler, Willard's secretary in New York.

The remainder of the reel, subseries 3, contains letters to Dorothy, Feburary 7, 1904 and July 25, 1906, from suitors and various school friends. There are letters, especially those written in February 1904, which express sympathy over the death of her father, William C. Whitney. The summer of 1904 brought a series of letters expressing concern over Dorothy's appendicitis attack. Also there is a series of letters to Dorothy and Beatrice while they traveled in Europe during 1904–1905. Frequent correspondents of that period were Sally Dunton Dixon, Adelaide Lambart, Grosvenor Atterbury, J. Howland Auchincloss, and Delancey K. Jay.

Reel 4 1906-1910 Series I, subseries 3, continued

This reel continues correspondence from others to Dorothy. Letters from Delancey K. Jay described his travels, school experiences, and mutual friends. In April 1907 he asked Dorothy to marry him, but she refused. Stephano Flori, a member of the Italian aristocracy, was another suitor. He corresponded with Dorothy in 1906, but died of pneumonia in Rome in the fall of that year. In 1907 Lloyd Warren was a frequent correspondent and wrote about mutual friends and social events and enclosed poems to Dorothy.

She also received letters from Mary Harriman during this period. Frances Livingston and Adelaide Lambart wrote often discussing social events and friends. In 1908 William S. Whitehouse, who signed his letters as "Sheldon," wrote to Dorothy concerning his travels and his stay in London. The letters of Lord Falconer. who was nicknamed "Boo," commented often on British politics of the time. Charles D. Draper and I. Watson Webb wrote to Dorothy in 1908 and 1909 discussing mutual friends and activities. Gladys Vanderbilt Szechenyi wrote to Dorothy on November 12, 1908 telling about the death of her baby and thanking Dorothy for her condolence letter. On March 2, 1909, François Flannery, the French artist who had painted Dorothy's portrait, wrote to Dorothy.

In May 1909 letters from Delancey Jay appear once again. He answered, apparently, a letter from Dorothy which expressed hope of re-establishing their friendship. In preparation for her trip around the world in 1909 Dorothy secured letters of introduction. Elihu Root sent her one to William C. Magasin of the American consulate in Ceylon. He also enclosed letters of introduction from Leigh Hunt to George E. Morrison and T'ang Shao-yi.

Just before her departure, Dorothy received a letter from Edith Lindley thanking her for her sympathy and help after Edith's baby died. A series of bills for purchases Dorothy made during her trip appears near the end of the reel. Most were dated 1910 and came from India, Italy, and France. After Dorothy met Willard many of her friends and acquaintances wrote to tell her about his good qualities. One of them, Henry Morse Stephens, wrote on July 8 and Margaret Dix Lawrance on July 20. The reel ends with letters from George D. Marvin and Henry P. Fletcher during the summer of 1910.

Reel 5 1910–1925 Series I, subseries 3, continued

This reel begins with a letter dated August 8, 1910 from Charles D. Draper, which recounts details of the wedding of Margaret G. Dix to Charles E. Lawrance and describes the commencement at Harvard at which Theodore Roosevelt received an honorary degree. Frequent, illustrated letters appear from Margaret to Dorothy, concerning mutual friends and travels. A letter from George Marvin mentions a visit to the Roosevelts at Sagamore Hill, a visit from Willard, and a party for Peter Bowditch, which Marvin attended. Later in the reel there appears a 1974 letter from Andrew Gray to Michael Straight, Willard and Dorothy's younger son, requesting information on Gray's great-uncle, A. Piatt Andrew, who had been a friend of Dorothy's. Following are letters from Willard to A. Piatt Andrew and from Dorothy to Andrew. Also, there are photographs probably taken at a weekend party which Dorothy attended with Andrew and various other friends, an engraved invitation to a White House party given by the Tafts on January 2, 1911, and a receipt, June 12th, for the passage of Dorothy, Beatrice Bend, and Beatrice Bend's mother, Marraine Bend, on the Lusitania.

Frequent correspondents during 1911 were J.O.P. Bland, Robert Bacon, David Gray, Henry P. Davison, Henry P. Fletcher, Katherine Barnes, Margaret D. Lawrance, and Maurice Casenave. On September 10, 1911 Caroline Phillips wrote to Dorothy about Willard and Dorothy's wedding party of which she had been a member. In February 1912 Peter Bowditch wrote to both thanking them for their visit in Manila and wishing them all happiness in the future. In May 1912 Katherine Barnes and William J. and Lucy Calhoun congratulated Dorothy on her pregnancy. A letter from Edwin V. Morgan dated February 14, 1913 discussed the political

situation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In December 1913 Felix Frankfurter wrote wishing success for the New Republic, and Winston Churchill, the American writer, expressed similar hopes in a letter written during 1914.

Gladys Vanderbilt Szechenyi, a frequent correspondent during 1914-1916, provided interesting insights into the situation in Europe during World War I. The death of Dorothy's sister, Pauline W. Paget, brought many letters of condolence in November 1916. March 20, 1917 Herbert Hoover wrote Dorothy thanking her for her support. In the autumn of 1917, General William M. Wright sent letters thanking Dorothy for her hospitality during his visits to her home and invited her to visit Willard at Fort Sill, William G. McAdoo wrote to Dorothy on October 27, 1917 about his request to assign Willard to the treasury section of the War Department to administer the "Soldiers and Sailors Insurance Law." Also he inquired about the progress on the monument to Alexander Hamilton that Dorothy intended to erect anonymously in front of the Treasury building in Washington, D.C. A letter from Louise K. Hollister on December 24, 1917 wished Dorothy a Merry Christmas and provided details about activities of the Junior League in New York City. Alfred W. Fiedler, Willard's secretary in New York City, was a regular correspondent during March 1918. He forwarded many of Willard's cablegrams and letters to Dorothy.

Thoughts about Christian Science teachings and beliefs were discussed in letters from Emily Hammond and Hazel S. Sanborn in 1918. Folders 2-26 on this reel contain cards that many friends, including Generals Pershing and Wright, sent with flowers at the time of Straight's death. In 1919 several letters from Cornell University faculty members appear. They regard Willard's bequest "to make Cornell a more human place." A letter on July 15, 1919 from Eliza M. Swift began a regular correspondence in which she included copies of her poems and descriptions of her travels in the western United States. Helen Strickland James, Dorothy's housekeeper, wrote often about the children, vacationing in the Adirondacks while Dorothy remained in New York City. Mrs. James' correspondence included letters from Whitney and Beatrice and photos. December 19, 1919 Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography sent Dorothy a copy of their entry for Willard Straight asking her to make corrections, which she did. At this time Dorothy was also asked to donate money to the American Church of the Holy Trinity in Paris, which was dedicated to American

servicemen. With this letter, Frederick W. Beekman enclosed a booklet describing the project. In March 1920 Joseph Clark Grew, the secretary general of the American Commission to negotiate peace, sent Dorothy a chart of Willard's plan for the organization of the peace commission he was working on at the time of his death. An appeal from Rabindranath Tagore on February 9, 1921 asked for funds to establish a Willard Straight chair of oriental arts and music at Tagore's International University. He described this university and its needs. Dorothy supported his project. On April 14, 1921 Cedric Long thanked her for her contribution to the Consumers' League of New York State. On September 7, 1921 Edith I. Lindley wrote to Dorothy recalling what would have been Dorothy and Willard's tenth wedding anniversary and praising Dorothy for her courage and inspiration. Later, on December 1, she remembered the third anniversary of Willard's death and sent condolences. In another letter she sent sympathy over the death of Hazel Straight Sanborn, Willard's sister. Beginning in 1921 Charles H. Brent, who spoke at Willard's funeral, became a frequent correspondent. He told Dorothy of his travels and speaking engagements and discussed such topics as world peace and education. Letters from Ruth Morgan appeared from then on. She wrote about her activities and often about Christian thought, ideas, and prayer. In 1922 several letters from Eleanor Tweed contained news about mutual friends and many poems. On April 10, 1922 R.M. McElron inquired about the papers of Dorothy's father, William C. Whitney. McElron was writing a biography of Grover Cleveland and hoped her father's correspondence and papers would contain useful information about Cleveland. Also Frances P. Bolton sent condolences to Dorothy concerning Hazel Sanborn's death. There are notes from 1923-1925 from nieces and nephews thanking her for gifts she had sent. January 25, 1923 Theodore Willard wrote a letter regarding the Willard Family Association, in which Willard Straight had been interested. Also Mr. Willard enclosed a picture of a stained glass window, a memorial to Willard family members in an English church to which Willard Straight had donated money. Margery Bird wrote to Dorothy on April 23, 1923 to tell her about a psychic who, she believed, was receiving messages from Willard, who was trying to reach Dorothy through this medium. The Suresnes Cemetery where Willard is buried was also a topic of correspondence. One letter dated October 23, 1923 from Leonard K. Elmhirst, her future husband, describes his travels in India, Gretchen Green

wrote about Leonard in the summer of 1924, telling Dorothy that he could never care for anyone but Dorothy and explained that a match between Gretchen and Leonard, which Dorothy had encouraged, could never work out. Dorothy's charitable work continued, as evident in a letter from Karl J. Friedrich thanking Dorothy for her support of the German exchange student program in which Friedrich was involved. The Indian Mountain School was described to Dorothy in a brochure sent by its headmaster, F.B. Riggs, on August 8, 1924. Riggs urged that Dorothy send Whitney there for preparatory school. Asia Magazine remained one of Dorothy's interests. Roy Chapman Andrews wrote during November of 1924 about the archaeological expedition to Mongolia in which he participated and about which he intended to write for Asia Magazine. A letter dated January 25 contains progress reports on the children from a friend, who was caring for them; many social events in New York are described in the same letter. On July 7, 1925, Martin Egan sent Anna Bogue, Dorothy's secretary, an old picture of Willard and Dorothy at the Empress Dowager's funeral in Peking and asked Miss Bogue to give it to Dorothy. The reel ends with undated postcards from various friends.

Reel 6 1904-1925 Series I, subseries 3, continued

This reel begins with correspondence from Beatrice Bend, who became Dorothy's companion in 1889. Her letters from 1907-1920 reflected thoughts about growing up, friendship, and tales of travel. Various letters from the rest of the Bend family, especially Marraine, Beatrice's mother, appear. Dorothy's protege, Wilbur R. Chenoweth, a pianist who lived in the Straight house on Fifth Avenue in 1923, wrote frequently during the six-month period between July and December 1923, discussing Dorothy's kindness, various concerts he was preparing, piano playing, music, and composition.

Correspondence from her family appears here, including thankyou notes, letters from nieces and nephews telling her about their vacations and studies and discussing family problems. A letter from Dorothy's sister-in-law, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, discussed Dorothy's bout with appendicitis in 1905. There are letters from Harry Whitney, Dorothy's eldest brother, Helen Hay Whitney, and Almeric Paget, as well as letters from her brother Payne Whitney and sister Pauline Paget.

A series of letters between Dorothy and Susan R. Hammond appear next. On May 7, 1911 Susan congratulated Dorothy on her courage for marching in the first woman suffrage parade in New York. Dorothy's letter of March 9, 1912, addressed jointly to Susan Hammond, Edith Greene, May Tuckerman, and Frances Livingston, described the mutiny in Peking, in which the city was partially burned by soldiers and ransacked by looters.

Members of the Roosevelt family were frequent correspondents with the Straights between 1910 and 1924. Letters to both Willard and Dorothy from Theodore Roosevelt concerning the journal, the New Republic, and various philanthropic activities are included. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson wrote many letters to Willard and Dorothy; one letter to Dorothy written in 1919 praised Willard and his accomplishments. Ethel C. Roosevelt was especially close to Dorothy, and they frequently corresponded about the activities of mutual friends. She enclosed poems and clippings in her letters. Other correspondents in the Roosevelt family include Kermit Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

Letters from Eliza Morgan Swift appear near the end of this reel, along with letters from May Tuckerman Kinnicutt, discussing marriage, motherhood, and views on their lives.

Reel 7 1908–1924 Series I, subseries 3, concluded; 4

A continuation of May Tuckerman Kinnicutt's correspondence with Dorothy begins this reel. Willard Straight is first mentioned in a letter dated August 29, 1910. A 1918 letter from May expressed her sorrow over his death. Lillian D. Wald is a frequent correspondent between 1909 and 1922. Her letters dealt primarily with philanthropic projects, especially the Henry Street Settlement and the Emergency Fund, which was created to meet the special needs of the poor and the sick. Dorothy had promised to

donate \$50,000 before her marriage. A letter dated 1911 contained Lillian's advice to Dorothy on marriage. Some of Dorothy's responses to Miss Wald's letters are also included on this reel. From March 1911 to May 1924 Stark Young, a theatre critic and New Republic contributor, corresponded with the Straights.

Newspaper clippings describing Pauline W. Paget's death (November 27, 1916) and funeral and letters expressing sympathy to Dorothy are included. Frances Livingston, Helen Hastings, John M. Ferber, and Alice Van Rensselaer were among the friends who wrote. Willard Straight's death in 1918 brought a deluge of telegrams, expressing shock and sympathy to Dorothy. Condolence letters sent by her many friends and acquaintances are arranged in alphabetical order.

Subseries 4 contains congratulatory letters and telegrams about the engagement and wedding of Dorothy and Willard in 1911. They are arranged in alphabetical order.

Reel 8 1909-1912 Series I, subseries 4, concluded: 5, 6

The reel continues the series of letters congratulating Dorothy and Willard on their engagement and wedding. Many of the senders are unidentified, but there are letters from their close friends Annah de Viel Castel, Felix M. Warburg, Max Warburg, Lloyd Warren, J. Watson Webb, Barrett Wendell, William F.H Whitehouse, the family, and organizations such as Consumers League of New York, Grace Church, and The Three Arts Club.

Subseries 5 consists of letters of congratulation to Dorothy and Willard on the occasion of the birth of their first son Whitney in 1912. Aside from the many unidentified letters, there are those from Straight's sister Hazel Straight Sanborn, and friends, such as Marraine Bend, Henry Prather Fletcher, Lily Lee Cross, David Gray, Lucy Dodge, Henry H. Harjes, Florence J. Harriman, Helen S. James, Lucy C. Kellogg, Margaret D. Lawrance, Edith G. Lindley, Frances Livingston, and Annah de Viel Castel.

After the congratulatory notes, letters (Subseries 6) from Dorothy to Willard appear. She regularly wrote long letters, as well as many postcards and cablegrams which described her impressions of the sights she saw during her tour of the Far East. She often mentioned her memories of the time they had had together in Peking; she described the people she met, inquired about mutual friends in Peking, and often sent short poems. Her letters described her travels from Hankow to Singapore, India, Ceylon, the Middle East, and Europe. On February 27, 1910 she wrote that her brother Harry repurchased their parents' home at 871 Fifth Avenue in New York and expressed happiness at the purchase because she felt that the house should be in the family. Later, during April, she wrote from San Raphael in Italy where she was staying with her sister Pauline. Her visit with the Roosevelt family in Cairo was described, and she mentioned a new tie she was making for Willard: "I work away on a tie for you — blue one this time which I trust will be more successful than the first. When I first knew you I thought your color was red, but after all I've decided it's just a certain shade of blueish green - and I shall search now for silk of the right shade so that I can make you a tie which is really you." (September 12, 1910)

From Italy she wrote in April 1910 praising Willard for his success in the loan negotiations and commenting on opera and her impression of Italian men. On May 21, 1910 Willard met Dorothy in Italy. Following Willard's departure Dorothy wrote to him trying to explain why she could not yet marry him. On May 25 she sent him a poem she had written in France. In June 1910 Dorothy was in Dorking, England with her sister Pauline. Willard came to visit a few times and a series of notes they wrote to each other while they were staying at the Paget home appears. In July Dorothy returned to France and stayed at Divonne. Many notes document that Willard visited her there. At the end of September 1910 Dorothy finally returned to America. In November she wrote to Willard from New York recalling their meeting in Peking the previous year. She also commented on recent elections and current politics and mentioned meetings with Mary Harriman. The turn of the year brought Christmas and New Year's wishes to Willard with descriptions of her travels between Washington, D.C. and New York and accounts of her charitable work. In February 1911 she described her friend Ethel Roosevelt's need for her support in her relationship with Richard Derby. In her letter of March 29, 1911 Dorothy mentioned her meeting with Henry P. Davison; in April 1911 she discussed Robert Bacon's broken engagement and her attempts to help him.

After Willard and Dorothy's engagement in July 1911, their letters discussed their wedding plans and feelings about marriage. Folders 4 through 16 contain undated notes Dorothy wrote to Willard while they were together during that year. The August correspondence continued discussions about wedding plans. The end of the reel contains correspondence and many telegrams received just before the wedding. Also included are a few notes, telegrams, and letters written while they were in Peking shortly after their marriage.

Reel 9 1912-1918 Series I, subseries 6, continued

In letters dated in the summer of 1912, Dorothy discussed plans for the couple's first baby, gossip of home and mutual friends, and her longing for her husband. Later, travelling plans, vacations she and the children took, politics and various philanthropic interests, such as the YMCA, Junior League, and the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense, were discussed.

In the latter part of the correspondence Willard's involvement in the war was the prime subject. Many of Dorothy's letters written during the war were opened by the censor, who erased some of the content. Throughout 1917-1918 she reported on the activities of the people working for the New Republic, commenting on various plans of the editors. A letter of January 8, 1918 described the reorganization of the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense, of which Dorothy had been chairman. She described Millicent Hearst's attempt at becoming the chairman and her alleged intention of excluding Dorothy and her friends from the work of the committee.

Also included on this reel are many photographs of the children and newspaper clippings about politics and Dorothy's charitable work. She wrote from Deepdene, England, their summer home in Tannersville, N.Y., Narragansett, R.I., Southampton, and New York.

Reel 10 1904–1918 Series I, subseries 6, concluded; 7, 8, 9

Dorothy's frequent letters to Willard, who was stationed in Paris, pertain to her home life, the children, and her work on various projects. She enclosed clippings and articles which dealt with the war and topics of interest, along with photos of the children. Her last letter received by Straight before his death in 1918 is included. This letter, dated November 17, talks about the end of the war and the approaching peace negotiations. Handwritten copies of her telegrams to Willard during this time are also included.

The second part of this reel (Subseries 7) contains Dorothy's correspondence with other friends. Included are letters to Katherine Barnes, Sally D. Dixon, Henry P. Fletcher and also letters to her niece Flora Payne Whitney.

A large portion of the reel (Subseries 8) contains the letters other people had written to Willard Straight. Among prominent correspondents are Beatrice Bend, J.O.P. Bland, Henry P. Fletcher, Margaret D. Lawrance, George D. Marvin, and the Straight children.

The rest of the correspondence is arranged in alphabetical order. Letters of Martin Egan, Edwin V. Morgan, Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, Mary H. Rumsey, Henry Schoellkopf, and Peter Bowditch appear.

A report from a private investigator, who was hired to watch George C. Bennett, Willard's valet, is also among these papers. This investigation took place in 1913.

The last part of the reel (Subseries 9) consists of wedding congratulations to Dorothy on her marriage to Leonard Elmhirst in April 1925.

Reel 11 1899–1911, 1946 Series II, subseries 1

Contains photographs, documents, and miscellany of Dorothy Whitney up to 1911. Notebooks, papers, and examinations dating from 1899 are included. Her 1903 architecture notebook, 1904

diary, and correspondence concerning "A Gallant Lady," the biography of Dorothy's mother, which was written by Mark Hirsch in 1946, is included, as well as a reprint of the work along with letters discussing the funding of the project. Newspaper and magazine clippings concerning Dorothy's father William C. Whitnev and photographs taken in the pre-1904 period, as well as pictures of his homes follow. The tragedy of his death in 1904 is documented through numerous clippings, the accounts of Harry P. Whitney as Dorothy's testamentary guardian and other records concerning the management of Dorothy's inheritance are also included.

Reel 12 1829-1918 Series II, subseries 1, concluded: Series III, subseries 1

The reel begins with legal documents: a petition filed by Harry Whitney as executor of William C. Whitney's will, seeking permission to sell the Whitney home at 871 Fifth Avenue in New York and a copy of William C. Whitney's will dated November 19, 1902. Photographs of Dorothy and her friends, as well as a guest book (1906-1914) and a series of newspaper clippings describing Dorothy's debut ball, Willard's work in China, and the announcement of their engagement in July 1911 follow. Also included are photos and memorabilia of the Yale Prom in 1909. Many miscellaneous items appear, including a menu in Russian, a poem entitled "Borderland," and drafts of many cablegrams, as well as the original copy and a transcript of Dorothy's writings on marriage, dated sometime around 1907. Photographs of the homes of William C. Whitney and of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Pavne, Dorothy's grandparents, mounted photographs taken during Dorothy's trip to Europe in 1904, and photographs of Dorothy and her friends taken before 1911, a signed photograph of Elihu Root, and Dorothy and Willard's wedding photograph are included. There are also photos of friends' weddings and house parties.

Miscellaneous household papers appear next on the reel; they include accounts, menus and recipes, and invitations sent by Willard and Dorothy. Inventory and appraisal lists for the Straight home at 1130 Fifth Avenue in New York, including an accession list of the extensive library, end this reel.

Reel 13 1912-1926 Series III, subseries 1, 2, 3

Subseries 1 contains the second volume of the accession list of their library in their home at 1130 Fifth Avenue. In Subseries 2, Dorothy's civic and charitable activities are documented through letters and newspaper clippings. Numerous photos dating from 1912 to 1926 include snapshots of Willard, Dorothy, and their children and the wedding photo of Dorothy and Leonard K. Elmhirst. These pictures are arranged randomly. A scrapbook (1917-1919) contains more clippings of Dorothy's work with charities, as well as clippings on Willard and his involvement in World War I. Subseries 3 of this reel documents Willard Straight's service in France and includes a copy of his appointment as Major in the infantry on July 9, 1918. Handwritten transcripts of cables between Dorothy Straight and Daisy Harriman document the weeks during and after Willard's illness. They include daily reports on his condition and news of Willard's death on December 1, 1918. Also included are photos and various correspondence relating to Suresnes Cemetery, where Willard Straight is buried, and a copy of Willard's last will and testament, which was filed in 1919. Subseries 4 of the reel describes India House, a club in New York City. Receipts dated 1914 through 1918 deal with various art work Straight purchased for the club. Newspaper clippings dating from 1914 to 1915 contain information on India House; pamphlets, rules of the Board of Governors, lists of members, by-laws, blueprints of the building, and financial records from 1914-1917 make up the remainder.

Reel 14 1911–1925 Series III, subseries 4, concluded; 5, 6 Series IV, subseries 1

Consists in part of the financial records (1920–1925) of India House, including the documents relating to its sale. Subseries 5 contains correspondence dated from 1919 to 1920, including much about Willard Straight's series of articles in Asia. Letters from Cornell Professors Olaf M. Brauner and Charles H. Hull to Louis Froelick depict Straight's life as a student at Cornell. These letters, along with other correspondence from Willard Straight's acquaintances, were used to develop articles for a series in Asia. Many letters also were used as references for Herbert Croly's biography of Willard.

Included also are the 1915–1924 minutes, kept by John Foord and Louis Froelick, of the Executive Committee of the American Asiatic Association held at India House. Memoranda regarding the policy and programming for the American Asiatic Association and for the distribution and popularization of its journal, *Asia*, are included.

Subseries 6 correspondence (1922-1923) with Livingston Farrand and other Cornell officials concerning Dorothy's gift to Cornell University in memory of Willard appears next on the reel.

The third part of the reel shows the honeymoon scrapbook (1911–1912) of Dorothy and Willard. This decorated book contains photos, clippings, notes and drawings by Willard Straight, along with many mementos of their early married life.

Next appearing is a scrapbook of clippings (1912-1918) concerning Willard's activities on Wall Street and in the Army and maps and photos of New York City and Long Island.

Pamphlets concerning existing college unions in the United States were sent to Dorothy while Willard Straight Hall was being

planned. Included is contemporary documentation on the Michigan Union, the Purdue Union, the Reynolds Club, the Stanford Union, and the Stephens Union at Berkeley, California; also included are reports, correspondence, and the program of the Second Annual Conference of the Association of College and University Unions which Dorothy attended.

Newspaper clippings (1924–1925), the architectural blueprints of the building, correspondence and photo albums concerning the cornerstone-laying ceremony in 1924, copies of speeches given at the ceremony, and a list of objects placed in the cornerstone of Willard Straight Hall were included.

The reel ends with the beginning of correspondence (1914–1917) dealing with the *New Republic*, Series IV, subseries 1.

Reel 15 1915-1925 Series IV, subseries 1, continued; 2

This reel continues correspondence concerning the New Republic. Louise and Herbert Croly discussed business in their letters, as well as matters concerning their friendship with the Straights and other personal matters. E.A. Stettner's typewritten transcribed copies of Croly's letters follow the hand-written originals. The Straight-to-Croly letters (1915-1918) include discussions about China, the New Republic, and related topics; also an article written by Straight for publication in the New Republic. Other correspondents include Norman Angell, Harold J. Laski, William Jay Schiefflin, Charles Merz, Stark Young, Felix Frankfurter, and Walter Lippmann. In January 1924 Herbert Croly discussed the need to study Christianity and its affects on international relations; in 1925 he cautioned Dorothy about the effect a move to England would have on her wealth and taxes. The reel ends with the financial records and cash statements of the New Republic Publishing Co. for the year 1915-1925.

Reel 16 1915–1925 Series IV, subseries 2, concluded

Contains correspondence and financial statements concerning the New Republic. A report of February 7, 1925 by Haas and Schlesinger, Certified Public Accountants, concerned the financial records of the magazine; correspondence from Daniel Mebane, treasurer, and from Herbert Croly, President of the New Republic Publishing Company. Correspondence in 1925 dealt largely with the financial circumstances of the magazine and included many requests made to Dorothy for large cash advances. Some correspondence relating to financial matters dates back to 1915 and was addressed to Willard. Financial matters also are the subject of letters (1921-1924) between Robert Hallowell, Treasurer of the New Republic, Daniel Mebane, Circulation Manager, and Alfred W. Fiedler, Straight's secretary, who managed the Straight finances. A memorandum dated October 25, 1924 concerned the bankruptcy move of the New Republic and discussed the form in which Dorothy should get a return on the money she had invested and advanced. Also included is a court petition requesting a bankruptcy declaration of the New Republic Publishing Company, a court order, minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Directors, and memoranda and correspondence regarding the reorganization of the New Republic. At the end of the reel is assorted correspondence for December 1924, a December 3 letter to Herbert Croly discussing Felix Frankfurter's resignation, and a December 19 letter from a staff member of Asia Magazine offering advice on reorganization.