



Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical note	3
Scope and Contents note	4
Arrangement note	4
File Plan note	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Harkness, Edward Stephen
Creator - aut:	Harkness, Charles W.
Creator - aut:	Harkness, Mary Emma Stillman
Creator - aut:	Harkness, Anna M. Richardson
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19
ID:	FA291
Date [inclusive]:	1863-1982
Date [inclusive]:	1863-1982
Physical Description:	15.67 Cubic Feet
Physical Description:	15.67 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

The Commonwealth Fund was established in 1918 with an endowment of \$10 million from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness for "benevolent, religious, educational and like purposes." The early grants supported a variety of programs while generally promoting welfare, especially child welfare. Several grants were made in the field of medical research, but the Board of Directors decided in 1920 that this field was already sufficiently supported by other philanthropic organizations.

Despite this decision, by the mid-1920s the chief interest of the Fund had become public health, including mental hygiene, community health, rural hospitals, medical research, and medical education. Other grant areas included war relief, educational and legal research, child welfare, and international medical fellowships.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

The Harkness Family Papers are the private records of Edward S. and Mary S. Harkness. These documents are concerned with their donations to universities, schools, institutions and individuals. There is a great quantity of information on donations to schools and universities like Phillips Exeter Academy, Columbia, Harvard, Yale and others. There is a book on the residential halls of Yale University in the Harkness Family Volumes. The Harkness Family provided funds for organizations like the Pilgrim Trust in which further information can be found in the Harkness Family Volumes. There are other institutions which the Harkness family contributed to like Presbyterian Hospital, New York Public Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gifts and donations for servants, friends and family are documented. Members of the family include the Russels, the Stillmans and the Taylors. There are records of the Harkness family. These are mostly concerned with Edward S. Harkness' Estate and Trust after his death. The Harkness Family Volumes contains condolences offered at his death. The Harkness Family papers were examined by Malcolm P. Aldrich, Trustee of the Edward S. Harkness Estate. These documents consist mostly of correspondence, financial data, legal documents and reports.

The Harkness Family Volumes are the business, personnel and condolence documents of Anna M. (AMH), Charles W., Edward S. (ESH), Mary S. (MSH) and Stephen E. Harkness. The business and personnel records relate to the Family. The condolence volumes are concerned with the death of Edward S. Harkness. Information concerning his death can be found in the Harkness Family Papers too. There are two volumes on institutions in which Edward S. Harkness was involved, the Pilgrim Trust and Yale University. Further information on these institutions can be found in the Harkness Family Papers. This collection contains correspondence, legal documents and volumes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement note

This series is arranged in two subseries:

Subseries 1: Documents

Subseries 2: Bound Volumes and Ephemera

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan note

Former Classification: IX; IV 4B 4;

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Mental health
- Medicine -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc.
- Medicine, Rural
- Hygiene
- Law

- Child welfare
- Education, Rural
- Medical education
- Medical research
- Legal issues
- Legal research
- Public welfare
- Public health
- War relief
- United States
- Child mental health
- Child psychology
- New York (State)
- New York (N.Y.)

Collection Inventory

Documents, 1874-1982

Title/Description	Instances	
Antique Collecting, 1915-1930	box 1	folder 1
Atlanta University, 1950-1951	box 1	folder 2
Bayonne Housing Corporation, 1948-1951	box 1	folder 3
Beasley, Ada, 1938-1944	box 1	folder 4
Billings House, 1941	box 1	folder 5
Bird, Virgo E. and Anita, 1923-1949	box 1	folder 6
Blockage (AMH Estate Taxes), July 29, 1926	box 1	folder 7
California Institute of Technology, 1922-1940	box 1	folder 8
Columbia University (Barnard College), 1918-1951	box 1	folder 9
Columbia University (Distribution ESH Trust), 1950-1951	box 1	folder 10
Columbia University (New Library Building), 1930-1935	box 1	folder 11
Columbia University (Thank You to ESH), May 4, 1932	box 1	folder 12
Commonwealth Fund (Distribution ESH Trust), 1950-1951	box 1	folder 13
Commonwealth Fund (Securities from AMH), 1918-1919	box 1	folder 14
Community Service Society, 1950-1951	box 1	folder 15
Connecticut College (Contributions for Harkness Chapel), 1923-1946	box 1	folder 16

Davidson, Florence T., 1917-1940	box 1	folder 17
Ellis, Alfred D. G., 1919-1949	box 1	folder 18
Farmers Federation Educational and Development Fund, July 23-31, 1958	box 1	folder 19
Greenwood Cemetery (MSH Plot/Family Grave Sites), [1938]	box 1	folder 20
Hampton Institute, 1950-1951	box 1	folder 21
Harkness, Charles W. (Ledgers of Donation Accounts), 1904-1919	box 1	folder 22
Harkness, Edward S. (Commonwealth Fund Donations), 1922-1946	box 2	folder 23
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Accounts), 1940-1946	box 2	folder 24-30
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Accounts), 1947-1950	box 3	folder 31-34
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Certificate Deed), 1946 October 9	box 3	folder 35
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Commissions), 1940-1945	box 3	folder 36
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Decree), 1951 August 27	box 3	folder 37
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Distribution), 1944-1951	box 4	folder 38
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Distribution), 1944-1951	box 4	folder 39
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Distribution), 1944-1951	box 4	folder 40
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Distribution), 1944-1951	box 4	folder 41
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Distribution), 1944-1951	box 4	folder 42
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u>		

Conditions Governing Access note

Restricted - Confidential material.

Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Federal Tax Data), 1940-1942	box 4	folder 43
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Federal Tax Data), 1941 January 29	box 5	folder 44
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Intermediate Accounts), 1944-1948	box 5	folder 45
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Inventories), 1940-1950	box 5	folder 46-47
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Legacies), 1940-1944	box 5	folder 48
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Letters of Trusteeship), 1940 March 15	box 5	folder 49
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Receipts and Releases), 1940 October 4-17	box 5	folder 50

Conditions Governing Access note:**Conditions Governing Access note**

Restricted - Confidential material.

Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Reductions and Increases), 1942-1945	box 5	folder 51
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Report), 1940-1944	box 5	folder 52-53
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Schedule C), 1940-1944	box 5	folder 54
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Supplemental Affidavit), 1951 August 15	box 6	folder 55
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Trust), 1942-1950	box 6	folder 56-58
Harkness, Edward S. (Estate Will), 1938-1940	box 6	folder 59
Harkness, Edward S. (Receipt and Release), 1926-1941	box 6	folder 60
Harkness, Edward S. (Releases), 1943-1951	box 6	folder 61
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust), 1949-1951	box 6	folder 62
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Distribution), 1950-1951	box 6	folder 63
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Eolia Estate), 1909-1951	box 6	folder 64
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Indemnity), June 14, 1951	box 6	folder 65
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Miscellaneous), 1950-1957	box 6	folder 66
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Secondary Distributions), 1940-1942	box 6	folder 67
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Surrogate's Court Account), 1940 September 30, 1945-1950	box 7	folder 68-69
Harkness, Edward S. (Trust Will of ESH), 1940-1950	box 7	folder 70
Harkness, Edward S. and Mary S. (Address Book - 654 Madison Avenue Office), 1930-1939	box 7	folder 71

Harkness, Edward S. and Mary S. (Contributions), 1925-1950	box 7	folder 72-73
Harkness, Edward S. and Mary S. (Employee Records), 1930-1950	box 7	folder 74
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Edward S. and Mary S. (Personnel Records - 654 Madison Avenue Office)), 1940-1950	box 7	folder 75
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Mary S. (Estate Final Account), 1954 September 28	box 8	folder 76
Harkness, Mary S. (Estate Petition for Voluntary Accounting), 1954 October 4	box 8	folder 77
Harkness, Mary S. (Estate Supplemental Affidavit), 1954 September-December	box 8	folder 78
Harkness, Mary S. (Historical Information), 1947-1950	box 8	folder 79
Harkness, Mary S. (Personnel List), 1950 June-July	box 8	folder 80
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note Restricted - Confidential material.		
Harkness, Mary S. (Regular Remittances), 1949-1950	box 8	folder 81
Harvard University - College Subdivision (Donations), 1923-1950	box 8	folder 82-85
Harvard University - College Subdivision (Donations and Housing), 1928-1929	box 8	folder 86
Harvard University - College Subdivision (Donations and Housing), 1932-1949	box 9	folder 87
Harvard University - Distribution of ESH Estate, 1950-1951	box 9	folder 88
Hawkins, Louise R., 1926-1949	box 9	folder 89
Husted Family, 1935-1950	box 9	folder 90
Lawrenceville (New Jersey) School, 1929-1949	box 9	folder 91
Loans, 1909-1944	box 9	folder 92
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u>		

Conditions Governing Access note

Restricted - Confidential material.

Lythgoe Trust (ESH for Albert M. Lythgoe), 1929-1932	box 9	folder 93
<u>Conditions Governing Access note:</u> Conditions Governing Access note		
Restricted - Confidential material.		
Marine Historical Association (Thomas Greenman Property, Mystic Seaport), 1941-1970	box 9	folder 94
Miller, John Richardson (Trust Fund), 1913-1936	box 9	folder 95
Metropolitan Museum of Art (Gifts), 1950-1964	box 9	folder 96
Metropolitan Museum of Art (Release of Harkness Portraits to MSH), 1942 February 16	box 9	folder 97
Morrow, Lowell Howard, 1925-1950	box 10	folder 98
Museum of the City of New York (Photo of ESH at King George VI Coronation), 1957 November 12-22	box 10	folder 99
Newell, Elizabeth K. (Mrs. George M. Newell), 1938-1950	box 10	folder 100
New York Public Library - Donations, 1948-1963	box 10	folder 101
New York Public Library - ESH Will (Donations), 1941-1982	box 10	folder 102
Oberlin College - Donations for Harkness Hall, 1923-1949	box 10	folder 103
Oil Companies (Anti-Trust Case), January-July, 1938	box 10	folder 104
Phillips Academy (Andover, Massachusetts) - Donations for Buildings, 1919-1948	box 10	folder 105-107
Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, New Hampshire) - Donations, 1919, 1930	box 10	folder 108-109
Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, New Hampshire) - Donations, 1931-1941	box 11	folder 110
Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, New Hampshire) - Donations for New Buildings, 1932-1949	box 11	folder 111-113
Pilgrim Trust - Establishment and Administration, 1930-1949	box 11	folder 114
Pilgrim Trust - Formation and Deed, 1930-1952	box 11	folder 115-116
Pledges, 1940 April-October	box 11	folder 117
Presbyterian Hospital - Distribution Under Trust, 1950 June-September	box 12	folder 118
Presbyterian Hospital - Endowment of Two Beds, 1898-1927	box 12	folder 119

Presbyterian Hospital - Pledges for ESH Memorial Hall and Pavilion, 1911-1922. 1925-1948	box 12	folder 120-121
Presbyterian Hospital II - Correspondence and Legal Documents, 1910-1937	box 12	folder 122-124
Russell Family, 1921-1946	box 12	folder 125
Sage, Gray, Todd and Sims (Counsellors at Law), 1874-1955	box 12	folder 126
St. Andrews University (Articles on ESH), 1959 March-May	box 12	folder 127
St. Paul's School - Donations, 1937-1953	box 12	folder 128
St. Paul's School - Gifts and Buildings, 1931-1964	box 13	folder 129-130
Salisbury, Frank O. (ESH Portrait), 1932-1939	box 13	folder 131
Special Gifts for Medical Activities, 1937-1953	box 13	folder 132
Stillman, Florence, 1936-1942	box 13	folder 133
Stillman, Lisa, 1936-1937	box 13	folder 134
Stillman, Michael, 1944-1945	box 13	folder 135
Stillman, Mr. and Mrs. Michael, 1944-1948	box 13	folder 136
Stillman, Thomas E., 1912-1925	box 13	folder 137
Stock Costs (American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Standard Oil), 1917-1949	box 13	folder 138
Taylor, Jessie Stillman, 1943-1946	box 13	folder 139-140
Thomas, John Anderson, 1916 November 5-10	box 13	folder 141
Various Organizations (Historical Data), 1896-1950	box 13	folder 142
Weekend (Appraisal of Estate), 1940-1944	box 13	folder 143
Weekend (Sale of), 1940-1944	box 13	folder 144
Woodlawn Cemetery, 1921-1974	box 14	folder 145-146
Yale University - Art Gallery Extension, 1924-1945	box 14	folder 147
Yale University - Bursary and Masters Funds, 1929-1942	box 14	folder 148
Yale University - College Plan, 1926-1955	box 14	folder 149
Yale University - Contributions, 1936-1940	box 14	folder 150
Yale University - Distributions under Trust, 1950-1951	box 14	folder 151
Yale University - Drama School, 1924-1947	box 14	folder 152
Yale University - Endowment Drive, 1920-1932	box 14	folder 153

Yale University - Foreign Missionary Society/Hsiangya Hospital (Yale in China), 1933-1948	box 14	folder 154
Related Archival Materials note: Related Archival Materials note		
See also Commonwealth Fund Grant Series, Hunan-Yale College of Medicine, Changsha, China, Box 147, Folders 1347-1349.		
Yale University - Library, 1926-1965	box 14	folder 155
Yale University - Medical School, 1914-1951	box 15	folder 156
Yale University - Memorial Quadrangle (Branford and Saybrook Colleges), 1916-1950	box 15	folder 157
Yale University - President's Fund for Educational Supervision, 1929-1942	box 15	folder 158-159
Yale University - Record of Contributions, 1940 January 3	box 15	folder 160
Yale University - Residence Halls (Pledges), 1927-1929	box 15	folder 161-162
Yale University - Residence Halls (Reports on the New Quadrangle System), 1929-1940	box 15	folder 163-165
Yale University - Residence Halls (Reports on the New Residential Halls), 1929-1952	box 16	folder 166-167
Yale University - Residential Units (Berkeley College), 1929-1941	box 16	folder 168-169
Yale University - Residential Units (Timothy Dwight College), 1934-1941	box 16	folder 170
Yale University - Residential Units (Jonathan Edwards College, Pierson College and Trumbull College), 1933-1941	box 16	folder 171
Yale University - Tapestries, 1925-1947	box 16	folder 172
Yale University - Theatre, 1924-1937	box 16	folder 173
Yale University - Treasurer Reports, 1947-1949	box 16	folder 174

Bound Volumes and Ephemera, 1863-1973

Title/Description	Instances	
American College of Physicians - Edward R. Loveland Memorial Award to Trustees of the Common Wealth Fund , 1973 April 9	box 17	folder 175
Appeals - I, 1918-1926	box 17	folder 176
Appeals - II, 1927-1939	box 17	folder 177
Appeals - III, 1940-1950	box 17	folder 178

Harkness, Edward S. and Mary S. - Index to Donations, 1930-1940	box 18	folder 179
Harkness, Edward S. and Mary S. - List of Regular Contributions to Individuals , 1918 January 4-1932 June 16	box 18	folder 180
Harkness, Anna M., Charles W., and Edward S. - Donation Records, 1896 February 28-1909 May	box 19	folder 181
Harkness, Anna M. and Charles W. - Ledger of Accounts , 1863 August 28-1879 October 11	box 20	folder 182
Harkness, Stephen E. and Anna M. - Ledger of Deeds , 1869 October 4-1909 June 4	box 21	folder 183
Harkness, Edward S. - Ledger of Real Estate Plots, 1899 January 7-1918 August 8	box 21	folder 184
Harkness, Anna M. - Journal: Real Estate Transactions in Ohio , 1899 January 3-1916 December 31	box 21	folder 185
Harkness Reports, 1931-1949	box 21	folder 186
Harkness, Edward S. - Trust Register of Cash Distributions , 1942 January 26-1951 August 28	box 22	folder 187-188
Harkness, Edward S. and Anna M. - Wage Book and Expenses , 1917 March 1-1918 July 15	box 23	folder 189
Harkness, Edward S. and Anna M. - Wage Book, 1919 August 3-1926 September 1	box 23	folder 190
Ledger Pages - Miscellaneous , 1896-1898, 1937-1949	box 23	folder 191
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Flowers, 1940	box 23	folder 192
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Letters Vol. I, 1940 January 29-February 14	box 24	folder 193
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Letters Vol. II, 1940 January 29-February 14	box 25	folder 194
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Letters Vol. III, 1940 January 29-February 14	box 26	folder 195
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Letters Vol. IV, 1940 January 29-February 14	box 27	folder 196
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Letters Vol. V, 1940 January 30-February 14	box 28	folder 197
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Newspaper Articles , 1940 January 30-February 7	box 29	folder 198
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Resolutions , 1940 February 12-April 24	box 29	folder 199
Harkness, Edward S. - Condolences Books - Telegrams, 1940 January 29-February 2	box 30	folder 200
Harkness Scrapbooks - No. I, 1925-1936	box 31	folder 201

Harkness Scrapbooks - No. 1, 1932	box 2015:FA291:001	
Harkness Scrapbooks - No. II, 1940-1949	box 31	folder 202
Harkness Scrapbooks - Clippings, 1925-1950	box 31	folder 203
Memorials - Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York, 1940 February 21	box 32	folder 204
Memorials - Commonwealth Fund , 1940 January 29	box 32	folder 205
Memorials - Commonwealth Fund, 1940 April 25	box 32	folder 206
Memorials - The Presbyterian Hospital in the City of New York, 1926 June 8, 1940 February 13	box 32	folder 207
Memorials - Southern Pacific Company, 1940 February 1	box 32	folder 208
Memorials - University of St. Andrews, 1940 February 4	box 32	folder 209
Memorials - Wells College, 1941 June 9	box 32	folder 210
Memorials - Commonwealth Fund - Mary Stillman Harkness, 1950 October 19	box 32	folder 211
Memorials - Commonwealth Fund - Barbara Story Quin, 1945 October 11	box 32	folder 212
Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic - Statistical Manual , 1924-1927	box 33	folder 213
Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, 1927-1937	box 33	folder 214
Pilgrim Trust - First Annual Report , 1931-1933	box 34	folder 215
Pilgrim Trust - Scrapbook , 1930-1933	box 34	folder 216
Yale Residential Colleges - Photograph and Essay Book, 1933	box 34	folder 217