



## Virginia M. Davies Correspondence, 1891-1935

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

---

### **Accessioned**

Gift of Sylvia Davies Diehl, June 2001

### **Extent**

.21 linear feet

### **Processed**

Sarena Fletcher, 2006

### **Abstract**

The Virginia M. Davies Correspondence, 1891-1935 collection consists primarily of letters written to Virginia Meriwether Davies, the wife of Arthur B. Davies.

### **Access Restrictions**

Unrestricted

### **Contact Information**

Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives  
Delaware Art Museum  
2301 Kentmere Parkway  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
(302) 571-9590  
hfslibrary@delart.org

### **Preferred Citation**

Virginia M. Davies Correspondence, 1891-1935, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

### **Related Materials**

Arthur B. Davies Papers

## Biography of Virginia Meriwether Davies

- 1862 April 18: Lucy Virginia Meriwether is born in Huntsville, Alabama, to Niles Meriwether, related to Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition team, and Lide Parker Smith, a suffragist instrumental in the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920.
- 1882 May: graduates from the Augusta Female Seminary in Stanton, Virginia. Marries Lowe Davis. September: shoots and kills Lowe Davis purportedly out of self-defense. Autumn: leaves family home in Memphis, Tennessee for New York City.
- 1886 Lucy Virginia Meriwether graduates from Woman's Medical College of New York Infirmary for Women and Children, becoming one of the first female doctors in the United States. Nicknamed "Dockie."
- 1890 Summer: meets Arthur Bowen Davies while chief resident physician at the New York Infant Asylum.
- 1892 July: marries Arthur Bowen Davies. Purchases farm in Congers, New York.
- 1893 March: Niles Meriwether Davies, Sr. is born.
- 1895 March: Arthur David Davies is born.
- 1927 April: Niles Davies, Sr. marries Erica Riepe.
- 1928 March: Sylvia Ann Davies (later Diehl) is born. October 24: Arthur Bowen Davies dies in Florence, Italy.
- 1931 Niles Meriwether Davies, Jr. is born.
- 1949 April 17: Lucy Virginia Meriwether Davies dies at her farm in Congers, New York, three days after celebrating her eighty-seventh birthday.

### Sources:

Perlman, Bennard B., *The Lives, Loves and Art of Arthur B. Davies*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1998.

Dr. Davies Farm, History: <http://www.drdaviesfarm.com/history.htm> (accessed February 6, 2006).

## Scope and Contents Note

The collection of correspondence consists primarily of letters written to Virginia M. Davies, the wife of Arthur B. Davies. The prominent subject is the exhibition of textiles designed by Arthur B. Davies. This correspondence was collected and saved by Erica Riepe Davies, the wife of Arthur B. Davies' eldest son, Niles Meriwether "Rab" Davies. The correspondence was donated in June 2001, along with other primary material relating to Brenda Kuhn and the 1913 International Exhibition of Modern Art, by Sylvia Davies Diehl, the daughter of Niles and Erica.

## Description of the Collection

### Folder

1 Administrative material

2 Correspondence

Typed and signed letter addressed to Doctor V. M. Davis, Sixty-first St. & Tenth Ave, New York, November 28, 1891. From illegible, on letterhead of The Century Co., Art Department, New York. Declines entry of poem of "Iphigenia" to accompany sketch by Arthur B. Davies.

Handwritten letter to My Dear V. M. Davies, May 7, 1896. From H. T. Chapman, Jr., New York. Regarding visit by V. M. Davies to Henry T. Chapman.

Typed and signed letter to addressed to Mr. Davies, August 8, 1896. From John W. Beatty, on letterhead of Carnegie Art Galleries, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sent to Mr. Arthur B. Davies at 116 E. 28<sup>th</sup> St., New York City. Regarding acceptance of invitation to contribute to first annual exhibition in Carnegie Galleries, November 5. Handwritten draft responding to front of letter by [Arthur B. Davies].

Handwritten letter addressed to Mrs. Davies, April 26, [1929]. From Abby A. Rockefeller, Ten West Fifty-fourth Street. Includes envelope, postmarked April 23, 1929, New York. Envelope addressed to Mrs. Niles M. Davies, Golden Bough Farm, Congers, New York. Thanking Mrs. Davies for clipping of Mr. McBride's article and information about ginkgo trees. Mentions having met with Mr. Davies' two sons and their wives.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Mrs. Davies, Congers, New York, July 18, 1929. From Abby A. Rockefeller, The Eyrie, Seal Harbor, Maine. Mentions payment to Mrs. Davies for tapestry being made in Paris as well as watercolor by one of her sons.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, New York, March 31, 1930. From. C. Powell Minnigerode, on letterhead for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Regarding exhibition of tapestries and carpets designed by Arthur B. Davies and produced by the Gobelin Works, Paris. 3 leaves.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, New York, April 23, 1930. From C. Powell Minnigerode, on letterhead for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Regarding exhibition of work by Arthur B. Davies. 2 leaves.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, New York, May 2, 1930. From C. Powell Minnigerode, on letterhead for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Regarding exhibition of work by Arthur B. Davies.

Typed and signed letter addressed to Mrs. Arthur B. Davies, Congers, New York City, N.Y., May 13, 1930. From Nina Riviere, on letterhead from the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio. Letter sent from Paris. Regarding inclusion of work by Arthur B. Davies in International Exhibition of Modern Tapestries.

Typed and signed letter [addressed to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, New York], May 14, 1930. From C. Powell Minnigerode. Regarding exhibition of work by Arthur B. Davies. [Page 3; page 1 and 2 missing.]

Typed and signed letter addressed to Mrs. Davies, Congers, New York, January 26, 1931. From Robert E. Macbeth, on letterhead for William Macbeth, 15 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, New York. Regarding identification of a painting by Arthur B. Davies called "Under the Bough" to be used in a monograph by Professor Mather.

Handwritten letter to Erica Davies from Gertrude Käsebier; also signed by Käsebier's daughter, Hermine Turner. On verso of letter identifies letter to Erica Davies from Käsebier after birth of Davies' son, Niles Davies, Jr., 1932-1933. Note watermark on paper.

Typed and signed letter to Dr. Virginia M. Davies, Congers, Rockland Co., New York, February 6, 1935. From Juliana Force, on letterhead for Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Regarding exhibition of textiles designed by Arthur B. Davies.

3      22 postcards and 3 pins from the 1913 International Exhibition of Modern Art.