**Chester E. Gillette Collection**

**An inventory of the collection at Syracuse University**

Finding aid created by: -  
Date: unknown

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| Revision history: | |
| 29 Sep 2006 | converted to EAD (AMCon) |
| 11 May 2010 | updated use restrictions (MRC) |

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| **Overview of the Collection** | |
| **Creator:** | Gillette, Chester. |
| **Title:** | Chester E. Gillette Collection |
| **Dates:** | 1905-1939 |
| **Quantity:** | 0.3 linear ft. |
| **Abstract:** | Materials relating to the trial and execution of Chester Gillette for the murder of Grace Brown in 1905, including photocopies of correspondence, autopsy reports, court records, hotel records, a judgement of the appeal to the Supreme Court, judges remarks, a prison statement about Gillette's execution, trial description, list of witnesses, love letters of Gillette and Grace Brown, newspapers clippings, and a telegram to Judge Ward. This case served as the basis of Theodore Dreiser's novel, *American tragedy*. |
| **Language:** | English |
| **Repository:** | Special Collections Research Center,  Syracuse University Libraries  222 Waverly Avenue Syracuse, NY 13244-2010 <http://scrc.syr.edu> |

**Scope and Contents of the Collection**

*Note: All the materials in this collection are xerox copies of the original. The originals are located at Hamilton College Library.*

The **Chester E. Gillette Collection** includes incoming and outgoing correspondence, autopsy reports, court records, hotel records, a judgement of the appeal to the Supreme Court, judge's remarks, a prison statement about Gillette's execution, unidentified material, a statement of Gillette, a description of the trial, a laundry statement, a list of the official witnesses, love letters from the decedent, newspaper clippings and comments about the trial and a telegram.

**Correspondence** contains incoming correspondence arranged alphabetically by author and outgoing correspondence arranged alphabetically by the person to whom it was sent. Where possible these materials are further arranged chronologically. Dates: 1905, 1906, 1939 and undated. 8 Folders

**Subject file** contains autopsy reports, court reports, a description of the trial, court reports, a laundry statement, a judgement of the appeal to the Supreme Court, the judge's remarks at the trial, a prison statement of the execution and unidentified material. This material is arranged by subject. Dates: 1906, 1908 and undated. 10 Folders

**Manuscripts** includes a statement by Gillette concerning the trial and his innocence. Dates: undated. 1 Folder

**Published material** consists of a list of the official witnesses at the trial, the published love letters of the decedent Grace Brown to Gillette, newspaper clippings and comments on the trial and a telegram. These materials are arranged alphabetically by type. Dates: 1906, 1908, 1938. 7 Folders

**Restrictions**

**Access Restrictions**: The majority of our archival and manuscript collections are housed offsite and require advanced notice for retrieval. Researchers are encouraged to contact us in advance concerning the collection material they wish to access for their research.

**Use Restrictions**: Written permission must be obtained from Hamilton College Library and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts or images from any materials in this collection.

**Subject Headings**

Persons

Brown, Grace, 1885 or 1886-1906.  
Gillette, Chester.

Subjects

Murder victims -- New York (State)  
Murder, New York (State) -- Case studies.  
Murderers -- New York (State)  
Trials (Murder) -- New York (State)

Genres and Forms

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Correspondence.  
Judicial records.

**Administrative Information**

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Chester E. Gillette Collection,   
Special Collections Research Center,   
Syracuse University Libraries

**Table of Contents**

Correspondence

Subject file

Published material

**Inventory**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Correspondence | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Incoming | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Grace Brown 1906 and undated | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | L.M. Gillette, Mrs. 1906 | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Outgoing | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Grace Brown 1905-1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Grace Brown 1905-1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | L.M. Gillette, Mrs. 1906 | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Correspondence of others | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | To W.A. Breckwoldt from Daniel Pananicles 1939 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | To Grace Brown from Maude Crund 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | To Judge Ward from Albert M. Mills 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Telegram: Note to Judge Ward 1906 | | | | | | | | |

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|  | Subject file | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Autopsy reports 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Court records 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Description of trial 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Hotel records | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Hotel Glenmore July 4- July 8, 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Hotel Martin July 9 and undated, 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Raymond House July 4, 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Taber House July 6- July 9, 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Judgement of appeal 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Judge's remarks 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Laundry statement 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Prison statement of execution 1908 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Unidentified undated | | | | | | | | | |

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|  | Manuscripts | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Statement by Gillette undated | | | | | | | | | |

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|  | Published material | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | List of official witnesses 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  | Love letters 1906 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Newspaper comments | | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | 1938 | | | | | | | | |
| **Box 1** |  |  | Annotated copy of Brown's love letters pamphlets by George Ward 1906 | | | | | | | | |