

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Florence Holbrook Scrapbooks
1914-1930, n.d.
Mss Col 6292

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Summary

- Main entry:** Holbrook, Florence
- Title:** Florence Holbrook Scrapbooks, 1914-1930, n.d.
- Size:** .4 linear feet (1 box)
- Source:** Donated in 1944 as part of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection.
- Abstract:** Florence Holbrook was an educator and author involved in the peace movement during the early years of the 20th century. She was a member of the small American delegation, headed by Jane Addams, to the 1913 International Conference of Women at The Hague, as well as a participant on the Ford Peace Expedition of 1915. Her role as an educator spanned fifty years as a teacher and principal at three different Chicago schools, and led to her publication of several children's primers and readers.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Preferred citation:** Florence Holbrook Scrapbooks, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
- Special formats** Photographs, scrapbooks

Provenance note

Florence Holbrook's papers were donated as part of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection, and originally processed as part of series Q. This series was reprocessed in 2006 and Miss Holbrook's materials now constitute a separate collection, although they remain under the administrative aegis of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection.

Related materials note

Lola Maverick Lloyd Papers. New York Public Library.

Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection. New York Public Library.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Collection (DG043). Swarthmore College.

Biographical note

Florence Holbrook was an educator and author involved in the peace movement during the early years of the 20th century. She was a member of the Chicago Peace Society, chair of the Women's Peace Committee of the Chicago Political Equity League, and President of the Chicago Division of the Illinois State Teachers Association. Miss Holbrook also attended the 1913 International Conference of Women at The Hague, as part of the small American delegation headed by Jane Addams. It was at this conference that she met and befriended the Hungarian pacifist Rosika Schwimmer; this friendship led to Holbrook managing Schwimmer's 1913-1914 American lecture tour. Holbrook was also an occasional speaker on the theme of peace, and an active participant in Schwimmer's Ford Peace Expedition of 1915-1916.

Holbrook was born in Peru, Illinois to Judge Edmund S. Holbrook, an early abolitionist, and his wife Anne, née Case. She spent most of her life in Chicago, attending the old Chicago University, which was originally founded by Stephen A. Douglas and closed its doors in 1886. Holbrook obtained an A.B. from the institution in 1879, and an A.M. in 1885. She began her fifty year career as an educator by teaching Greek and Latin for four years at Oakland High School in Hyde Park, after which time she became principal of the school. Following her time at Oakland, Holbrook served as principal at an elementary school--the Forestville Elementary School--and then at the Phillips Junior High School. She was an early proponent of the arts and physical education as important elements of education, hosting student field trips to the Art Institute of Chicago, and bringing artists and performers to talk to the children in her school.

As evidenced by the clippings and flyers in her scrapbooks, Miss Holbrook was an ardent pacifist, a suffragist, and a believer in public education as the foundation for a democratic society. Her interests in these causes additionally led her to travel to Zurich in 1917 to visit the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom headquarters, and to Russia in 1928 or 1929, with a commission of twenty educators led by Dr. John Dewey.

Florence Holbrook was the author of a number of children's books, primers and readers, among them *The Hiawatha Primer*, *The Book of Nature Myths*, *Northland Heroes*; and *Cave, Lake and Mound Dwellers, and other primitive people*.

Miss Holbrook passed away in 1932.

Scope and content note

This small collection consists of four scrapbooks compiled by Miss Holbrook, documenting her career, contacts, and interests over the period 1914 through 1932. In addition, there is one file of newspaper clippings, printed matter, and correspondence removed from the scrapbooks.

The small amount of correspondence present includes letters from former students as well as several letters from Jane Addams, Lola Maverick Lloyd, Louis P. Lochner, and Rosika Schwimmer.

Two of the scrapbooks contain a small number of unidentified photographs.

Container list

Scrapbooks

<u>Box</u>	<u>Vol</u>	
1	1	1914 February- September
	2	1914 October-December
	3	1914 September-1915 June
	4	1915-1916
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Inserts, 1897-1932, n.d.