

Mary Bradish Call Collection  
Circa 1895-1900

Volume: 1 box 2 ½" X 15"

Processed by: Beth Shetter  
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**Provenance:** The items in this collection were donated by Mrs. Mary-Leigh Call Smart, the daughter of Mary Bradish Call and Leigh Call. The collection consists mainly of letters, most of them written to Mary Bradish during her late teenage years. There are also a small number of photographs, as well as a collection of calling cards.

**History:** Mary Bradish Call was born Mary Eugenie Bradish on August 4, 1877 in Springfield. Her father, Walter Horace Bradish, was co-owner of the Springfield Woolen Mills. She grew up in a house her father built, at 931 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and graduated from Springfield High School. After attending Monticello Seminary in Godfrey, Illinois for one year, the country experienced a depression and Mary's father could not afford to send her back to continue her education. Instead, she lived with an aunt and uncle in Minneapolis for a year, studying pattern making. After an apprenticeship in Chicago, she moved back to Springfield and established her own business designing clothes; she employed a staff of 12 to sew them for her.

In 1912, Mary married S. Leigh Call, who was editor and publisher of the Illinois State Journal. After her marriage, she gave up her business and began painting and studying with George Raab, the Director of the Art Association. In 1917, her daughter Mary Leigh was born. Mary continued her art studies and the family began summering in Ogunquit, Maine, an art colony.

Leigh Call died in 1952. Mary continued her work in art and traveled throughout the world, including a trip to Paris in 1953 and a trip around the world in 1957. In 1965, she sold her home in Springfield and moved to Ogunquit permanently; there, she painted everyday. She died in May 1966.

The letters in this collection are from Mary's youth, ca. 1895-1900. Most of them are from friends, with a few from family members. There are also some photos, most unidentified, and a collection of calling cards.

**Preservation:** Letters were removed from envelopes, flattened, and in some cases, attached to the original envelope with a plastic clip. Some letters were repaired with archival tape. Paper clips and staples were removed.

**Copyright:** Requests for permission to publish materials from the collection must be submitted in writing to the director of the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library.

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<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Life history	Biographies Correspondence Bradish house
2	Calling cards	
3	Correspondence	1896 Springfield High School Commencement invitation 1896 wedding announcement Valentine
4	Correspondence	From Julia
5	Correspondence	From Pearl
6	Correspondence	From Bob From Fred
7	Correspondence	From Edward Elliott
8	Correspondence	From J.M.H.
9	Correspondence	From Alia From H. E. Owsley
10	Correspondence	From Harvey Fleming
11	Correspondence	From John P. Latham From Jordan From Juliet
12	Correspondence	From Ada From Hal
13	Correspondence	Miscellaneous
14	Correspondence	Miscellaneous
15	Correspondence	From Mother From Aunt From Uncle

16	Correspondence	From Mary to John Mrs. Owsley Fred Utz
17	Miscellaneous	Journal pages
18	Miscellaneous	Scrapbook pages Newspaper clippings
19	Miscellaneous	Sketches Gift cards Envelopes
20	Photos	Unidentified