

Rives, Amelie and Virginia Moore correspondence

Amélie Rives papers
1930-1983



Title Statement

Rives, Amelie and Virginia Moore correspondence
Guide to the Amelie Rives and Virginia Moore
correspondence MSS.214

Author: Eric Willersdorf, Student Accessioning Assistant

Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
P.O. Box 400110
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110
URL: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/>



20 April 2026

This record is made available under an Universal 1.0 Public Domain Dedication Creative Commons license.

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-21 11:02:24 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.214

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1903

Unit Date

1930-1983

Language

English

Creator

Moore, Virginia, 1903-1993

Creator

Rives, Amélie, 1863-1945

Extent

0.4 Cubic Feet One letter-sized document box

Condition Description

Good

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection has been minimally processed and is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Franklin Gilliam Rare Books by the Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia on 18 February 2026.

Preferred Citation

MSS 214, Amélie Rives papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical Note: Virginia Moore

Virginia Moore was born on July 6, 1903, in Chase City, Virginia, and was educated at Randolph-Macon Woman's College and, later, at Columbia University. She came to prominence first as a poet, publishing several collections including *Not Poppy* (1926) and *Sweet Water and Bitter* (1933), whose lyric qualities earned favorable critical attention. Her interests broadened substantially over the course of her career to encompass biography and literary scholarship, and she became best known for her full-length biographical and critical studies of major literary figures. Her biography *Virginia Woolf* (1945) was among the earliest book-length treatments of Woolf in the United States and contributed significantly to the American critical reception of that writer. She also wrote *Distinguished Women Writers* (1934), a survey of women's literary achievement, and *The Unicorn: William Butler Yeats' Search for Reality* (1954), a critical biography of Yeats that drew on extensive research into his esoteric and philosophical sources. Moore spent much of her academic career at the University of Virginia, where she taught in the English department, and her connection to the University and to Virginia's literary culture informed much of her work. She died on June 16, 1993.

References

"Moore, Virginia (1903-1993)." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Humanities. Last modified December 22, 2021. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/moore-virginia-1903-1993/>.

"Virginia Moore." *Cvillepedia*. Accessed April 20, 2026. https://cvillepedia.org/Virginia_Moore.

Norris, Michele. "Striving for 'Ultimates.'" *Virginia Living*, June 23, 2016. <http://www.virginialiving.com/culture/striving--for-ultimates/>.

"Moore, Virginia, 1903-1993." *Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC)*. Accessed April 20, 2026. <https://snaccooperative.org/view/48176921>.

"Moore, Virginia, 1903-1993." *Archives Search*. Cambridge University Library. Accessed April 20, 2026. <https://archivesearch.lib.cam.ac.uk/agents/people/12058>.

Content Description

This addition to MSS 214, Amélie Rives papers, contains correspondence and literary papers documenting the friendship between Virginia Moore, a poet, biographer, and scholar, and Princess Amélie Rives Troubetzkoy, a novelist, poet, and playwright. Both were prominent literary figures residing in Albemarle County, Virginia, in the early and middle twentieth century, when these letters were authored. The letters date from 1930 to 1945, terminating the year of Rives's death. Much of the collection consists of approximately seventy-seven autograph letters signed from Amélie Rives to Virginia Moore, dating from

1934 to 1945, averaging two to four pages in length. Also included are twenty-three autograph letters from Moore to Rives at Castle Hill, one of which (December 2, 1941) contains a page of holographic poetry. Additional correspondence includes eighteen letters from Frances Shepard of Afton, Virginia, an associate of Rives who worked for her, addressed to Moore, spanning 1938 to 1944. A letter dated July 15, 1945, from Shepard describes Rives's final days and her death. Further correspondence consists of three typed letters signed by Elizabeth Winslow; two typed letters from Max Eastman, a poet, writer, and political activist; letters from Roberta Wellford, a Charlottesville reformer and suffragist; topics also include the death of Pierre Troubetzkoy; and three autograph letters from Lily Morrill, a writer and the owner of Enniscorthy in Albemarle County as well as a list of Rives's books and publications. The collection also contains two typescripts, dated 1983, with corrections, of Virginia Moore's biography and memoir of Amelie Rives.

Keywords

letters (correspondence)

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters: Art to Lily Morrill

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293640

Unit Date 1934-1935

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Elizabeth Winslow to Virginia Moore

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293641

Unit Date 1942-1969

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Biography/Memoir: Amélie Rives: A Personal Reminiscence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293642

Unit Date 1983

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Postcards and Letters: 2 letters from Max Eastman

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293643

Unit Date 1930-1958

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Virginia Moore to Amélie Rives Troubetzkay

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293644

Unit Date 1935-1939

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Roberta Wellford to Virginia Moore, list of Amélie Rives books and publications

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293645

Unit Date 1936-1947

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Francis Shepherd to Virginia Moore

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293646

Unit Date 1942-1944

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Amélie Rives Troubetzky to Virginia Moore at Castle Hill

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293647

Unit Date 1935-1942

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Amélie Rives Troubetzky to Virginia Moore from Castle Hill

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293648

Unit Date 1935-1938

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Amélie Rives Troubetzky to Virginia Moore from Castle Hill

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293649

Unit Date 1935-1941

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English

Letters: Amélie Rives Troubetzky to Virginia Moore

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/293650

Unit Date 1935-1941

Mixed Materials [X032762895] 1 (box)

Language English