

Kansas Memory



Clifford W. Beers papers

Section 19, Pages 541 - 570

Beers' papers, largely, consist of handwritten and typed incoming and outgoing letters, as well as some correspondence about Beers. Correspondents include some family members, such as his wife Clara's parents and Clifford's brother George, but mostly include friends and acquaintances, such as Erua Geuil Perriu, Marie O.Ley, Paul "Mac" McQuaid, Elizabeth Warner, Louise Gaffney, Dr. and Mrs. Toulouse, Mary Louise Bok, William and Alice James, and others. The subjects of the letters mostly concern Beers' efforts toward bettering the lives of patients with mental illnesses and the publication of his book, *A Mind that Found Itself*. The materials also include Beers' courtship letters to Miss Jepson (parts of which were removed by Clara before she donated them to the Menninger Foundation, as she deemed them too personal) and letters he wrote to her after they were married. Some letters are in French.

Creator: Beers, Clifford Whittingham, 1876-1943

Date: 1903-1955

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Beers, Box 1-4

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 223254

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Post Card

S. THIS SPACE FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Father bought this card
among others. Mother
handed it to me, saying
"Don't you want to send
this to some one?" I
really don't think
she had you in mind.
Mother is so blind.
Or am I blind?

The sentiment however,
on the card, makes it

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| PLACE | STAMP HERE |
| DOMESTIC | CUBA |
| CANAL ZONE | HAWAII, etc. |
| PHILIPPINES | PORTO RICO |
| CANADA | ONE CENT |
| FOREIGN | TWO CENTS |

~~for substitute~~ that longer
message which
I had in mind,
but have not
had a chance
to write.

N.

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Cowgate, New York
March 9 - 1911
9. A.M.

Dearest!

A commuter can do a lot of work on the train - if he will. I have assembled and paged two sets of my reviews - and arranged another set of Tax. Com. documents as well. And now I turn to you for a little rest.

Whenever I assemble evidence of progress in my work I am impressed by how much you have helped me. Scarcely a page of manuscript, no matter what its character, has not been improved by your loving and skillful touch. And, best of all, what remains is my own. Thus I am able to develop an individual style which in time, will include your style without expenditure of effort by yourself - except as you continue to inspire and guide me - and that really requires effort.

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as inspirers of men's work,
for the most part unconsciously.
You are the dearest and
greatest boss any man ever
served - and loved.

Having turned to you for
rest - I must now turn away
from you, so far as writing goes,
if I am to conserve my energy
for the day's work.

Till tomorrow night, and always,
Truly, your very own lover,

Clifford

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CHIEF OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE: To work for the protection of the mental health of the public at large; to help raise the standard of care for those threatened with mental disorder or actually ill; to promote the study of mental disorders in all their forms and relations and to disseminate knowledge concerning their causes, treatment and prevention; to obtain from every source reliable data regarding conditions and methods of dealing with mental disorders; to enlist the aid of the Federal Government so far as may seem desirable; to co-ordinate existing agencies and help organize in each State in the Union an allied, but independent Society for Mental Hygiene, similar to the existing Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene.

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DR. LEWELLYS F. BARKER

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DR. WILLIAM H. WELCH DR. CHARLES P. BANCROFT

TREASURER
OTTO T. BANNARD

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1909

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CLIFFORD W. BEERS, SECRETARY, Pro Tem., 39 CHURCH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

April 5. 1911
v. 45 P. 15.

Dearest!

I am writing to you now the first of our new letter heads, which show that the National Committee for Mental Hygiene is completely organized. You who have had unshakable confidence in my ability to carry my plan through to success are responsible, in part, for my success. I really think that you kept me from wavering during the years of my difficult collaboration with Dr. Meyer, and so protected my health and our happiness.

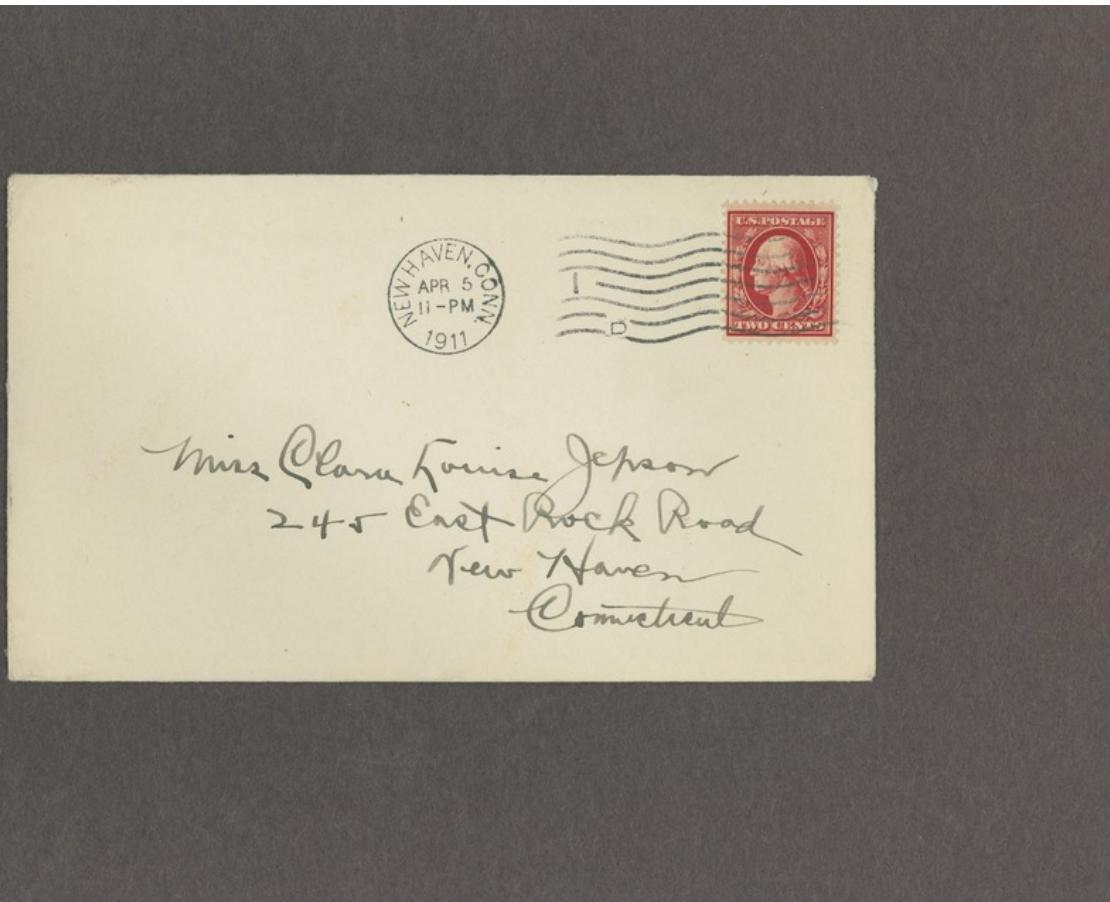
May I do as much through the coming years to make you happy - and to make your life a complete success!

Lovingly and unselfishly yours ever Clifford

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In route New York -
June 1. 1911.

Dearest!

As I have no seat-mate, this is not an ideal place for long-letter writing.

I have felt so much better since deciding to travel a little that I am forced to conclude that earlier habits w^g wandering about still control part of my brain. I am in tugs which stagnate unless transplanted now and then. And, I think you are, too. So when we are able to move about together and establish little "Gardens w^g Eden wherever inclination dictates we shall thrive as never before.

I don't believe you fully appreciate what a sense w^g security your "mothering" gives me. You are, in fact, my "Guardian Angel" — ever watchful and generous. If I find it easy to accept your kindness, it is in part due to my confidence in the future, when I in coming into my own, shall be able to watch over and protect you — and make you completely happy.

Lest I wander on and write about business, I shall write no more now. This is a message from my heart to yours — the truest and most flowing heart in the world.

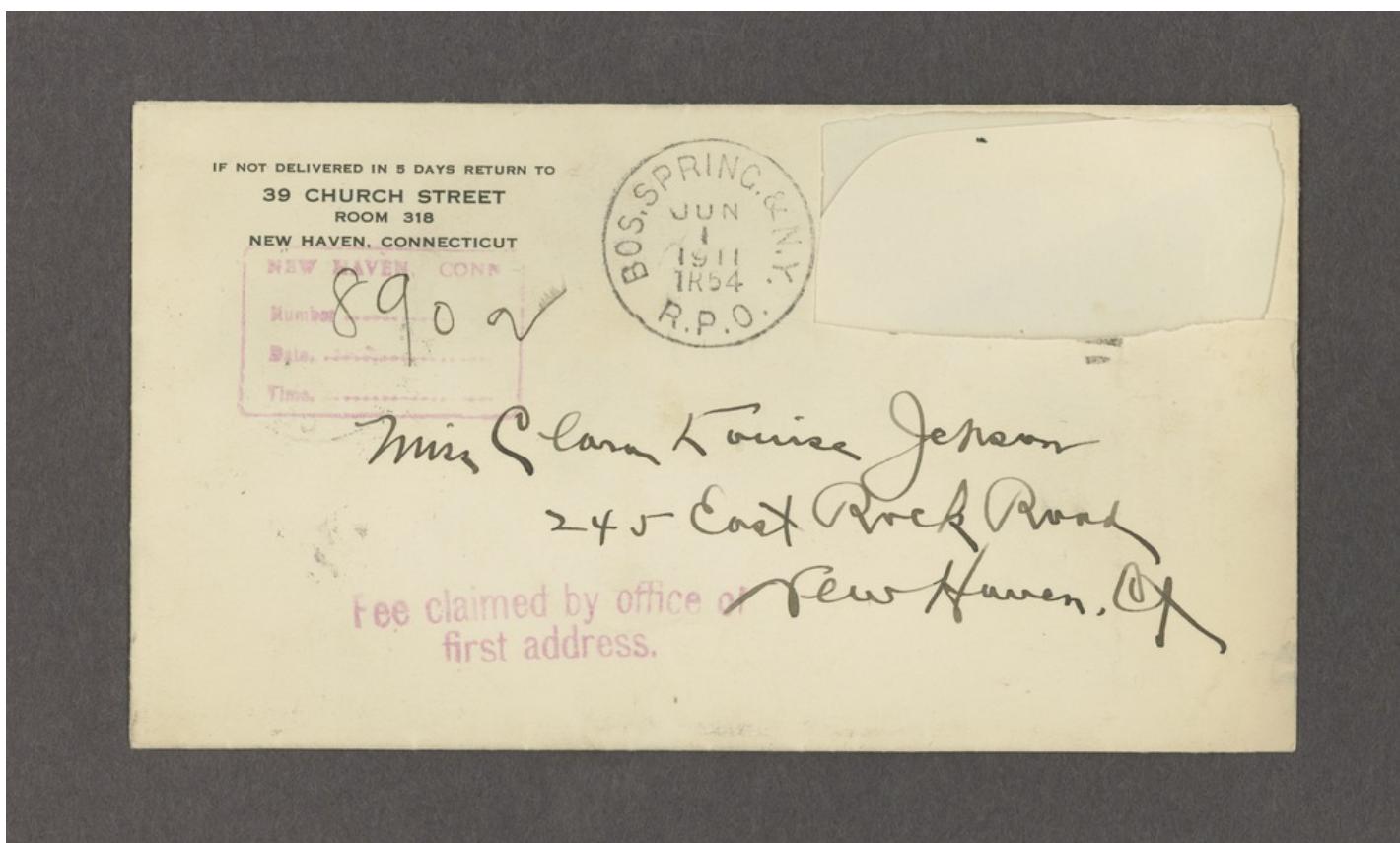
Comingly and always
your very own lover,
Clifford

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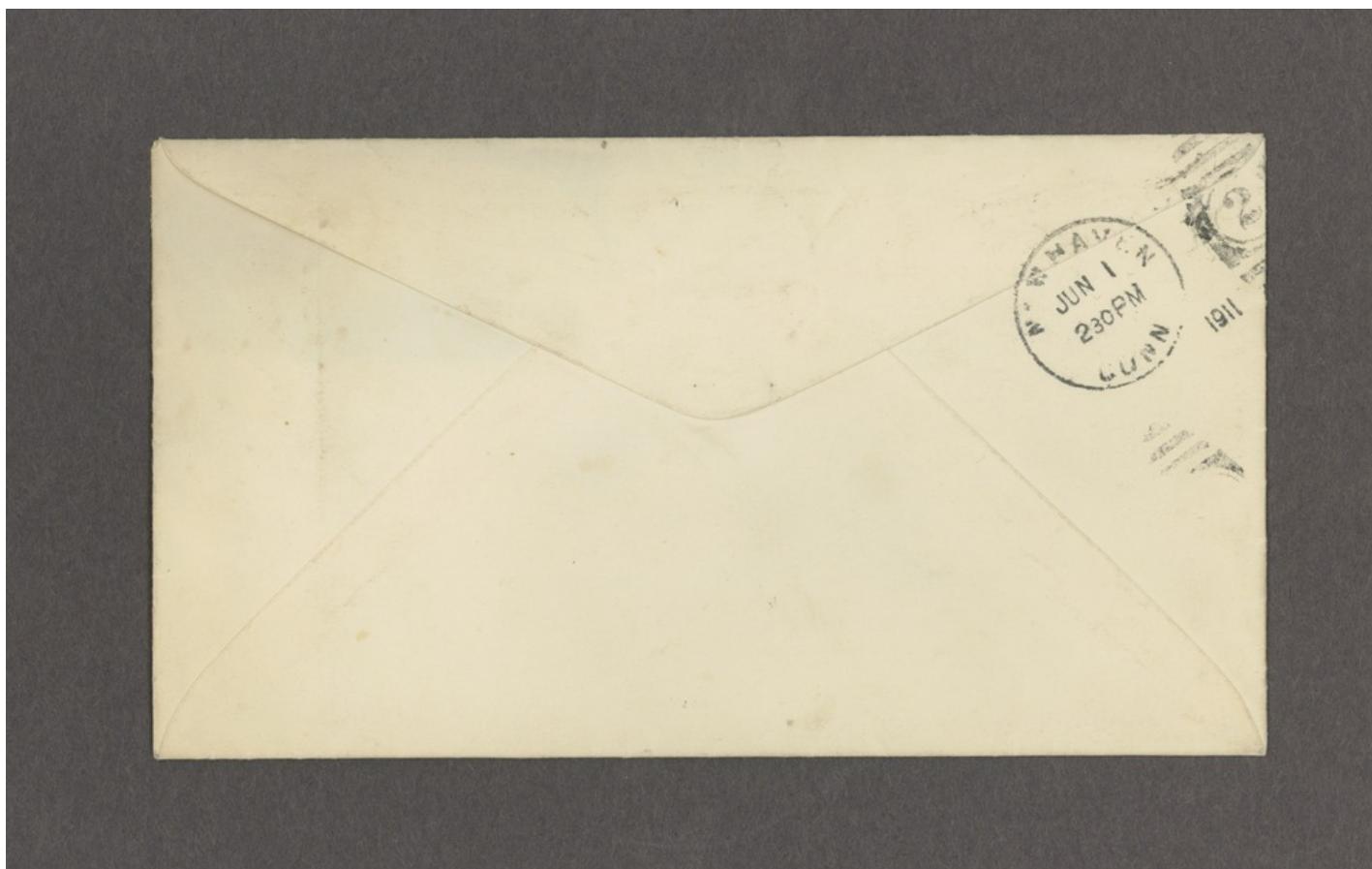


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The past two days have been unusually happy ones. You are such a perfect little lover, with so many endearing ways, my slowness in arriving financially has had its compensation advantages. We at least know the pleasures of courtship to the full, many pleasures which we could not have known had we been able to plunge into the greater joys of married life a year or two ago. And having thoroughly necessity been lovers so long we shall find it easy to continue as lovers always. It is rather interesting to think that marriage will not well be an incident, rather than an event in our lives. This is as it should be. Two who are not calumniated before marriage cannot become completely so afterwards. The foundation for complete happiness has been laid. Now for the superstructure, which even at this moment is being raised by Mr Stokes — if my prophetic eye does not deceive me.

6.20 P.M.
At Hotel Fenox — and in a

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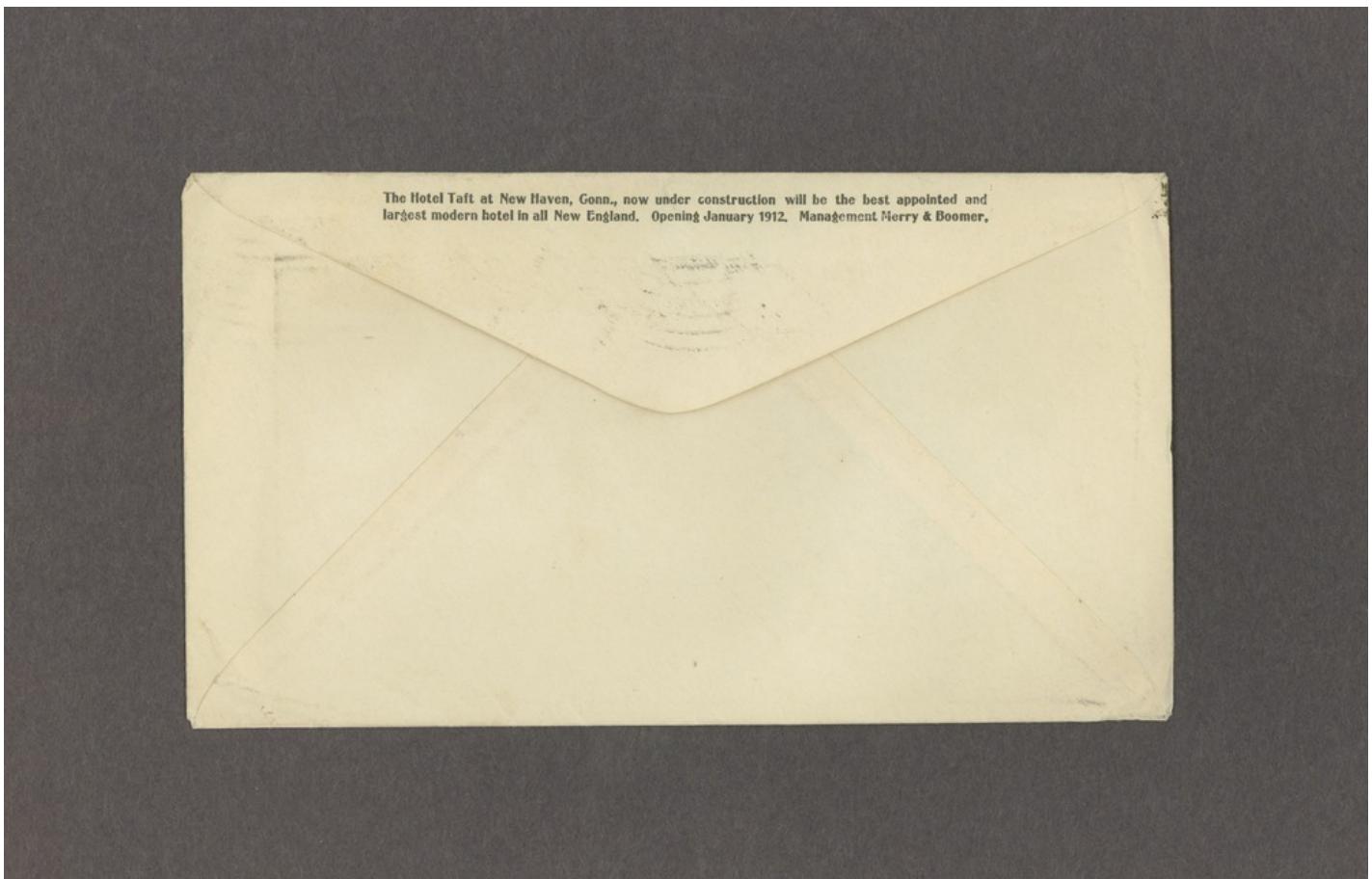
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The Hotel Taft at New Haven, Conn., now under construction will be the best appointed and largest modern hotel in all New England. Opening January 1912. Management Merry & Boomer.

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Dearest!

My first long-hand letter on our new New York letter-head goes to you. I might give it to you tonight, but prefer to have it come to you unexpectedly tomorrow. Four years and three months from the first acceptance of membership in Mr. James's - to this happy day, with the organization completed, an office all but opened in New York, "under medical direction", and \$50,000 in the treasury, more promised, and almost no personal debts standing between us and our hearts' desire!

I wish I might tell the world, or in much of it as would listen, where and when the source of my inspiration has been and is!

You are the dearest comrade and lover a man ever had.

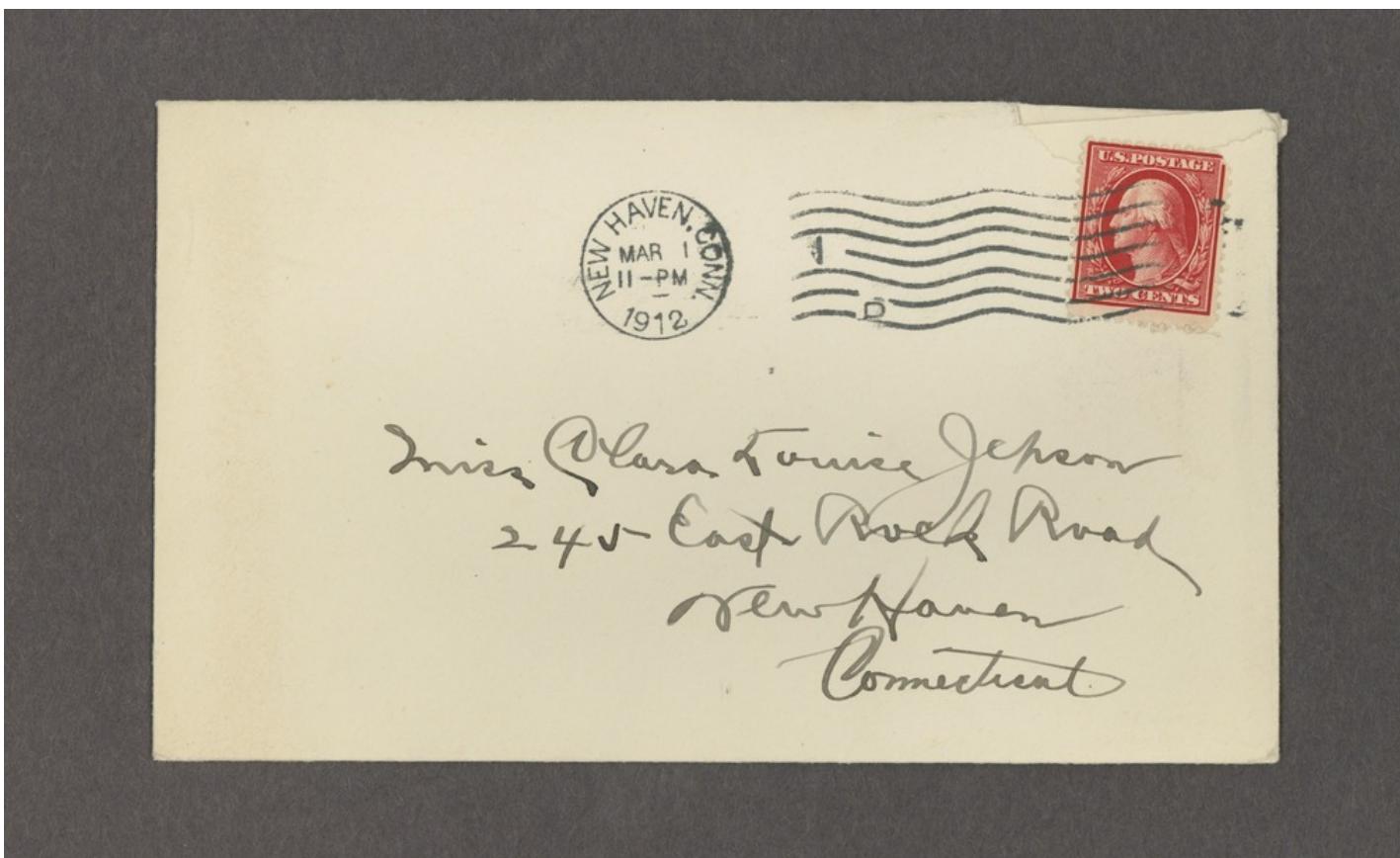
Fondly and ever
yours very own lover
Beers

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Box #3

THE HOLLY INN
PINEHURST, N. C.

Dec. 28 th.

Dear Clara -

A Christmas note just received from Paul McQuaid tells me that he learned recently from Victor Tyler that you wanted my address as you had encouraging news about Clifford. This may explain why you and he have been so much in my thoughts for the past several months.

I have been on the point of writing you many times but always have thought of our understanding that you would write to me whenever there was any real news.

So - whether I am correctly informed or not - will you not be good enough to bring

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THE HOLLY INN
PINEHURST, N. C.

me up to date. I shall send this to your Englewood address in the hope that it will find you wherever you may happen to be. We are here for the winter and are liking it despite the disappointing weather.

I often think of that happy time we had with you and Clifford at the little hotel in Washington Square.

Anne joins in affectionate regards and all good wishes for the new year.

Sincerely
John Ditch

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VOL. I.

The

No. 1

Perig.

Franklin

Maxim:

Work
lives Time
and you
will have
time.

Works
lives
Hell
and
to
Heaven

In order
to operate
Virtue
live
a whole
earth.

vice.

Mid day man

Meddler.

Edited
by
as
Meddler
Marie

Owned
and
Published

as
Machine
-velian
rite
of
Meddler

a
Machine
of
Mesmeric
Master
Queen

Fridgy.

- February - 23 -

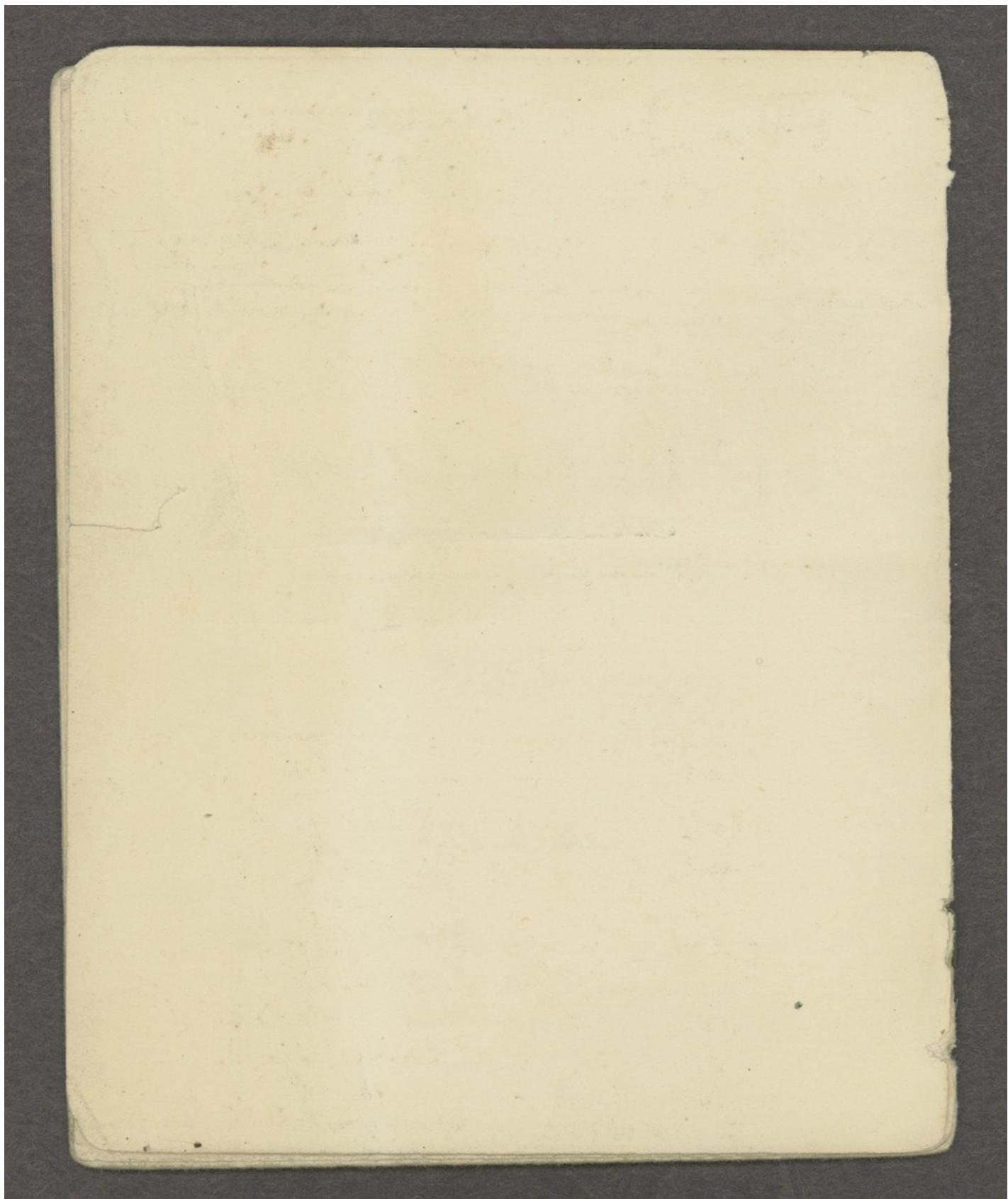
1903.

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The Middleton Meddler -

A serio-comic weekly,
issued in the interests
of suffering Humanity.

VOL. I. January 23-1903 - #, 1 -

The Meddler.

Established -
Friday - January
- 23-1903 - at
12 M.

All communications
should be sent to
Whittingham C. Beresford
= Editor - Proprietor
and Publisher of
this Paper - Cell #3
- Ward #5 - South
(Violent or Prison Ward)
Connecticut Hospital
for the Insane - et al.
Middleton Conn. W.A.

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A word
or two regarding
the purposes
and policy of
this little sheet.
Issued as it is,
in an Insane
Asylum, it necessarily
will differ in
many ways from
most other periodicals
now in existence.
The physical
 restraint one
 experiences in
 such a place as
 this, is at times
 unpleasant; - but

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the freedom of thought, permitted within the walls of a "Bughouse", is delightful. Here one can say what he thinks, and think anything this side of Hell's remotest boundary. It is a privilege which kings might envy. Emperor Wm. of Germany and President Roosevelt would have the times of their lives, if they would condescend to be my guests, on Ward 5.

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(Violent Ward). my! what
Deviltry they would
raise, if they were
where one is obliged
to do "queer" things,
in order not to lose
~~Caste~~. Had William
and Theodore been
fortunate enough
to have been born
in this small little
state, I think they
would have matriculated
at this great
Institution of
Learning long ago.

To place an Emperor
or President under
lock and key, like
any ordinary ~~insane~~

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person, is not necessary, as the Secret Service Surveillance is even stricter than the espionage of the attachés of an Insane Asylum.

We - the Editor and his several personalities, intend to issue every week a paper, which will not only furnish a little fun and perhaps a few laughs for the inmates of this asylum, but also every other institution of the kind in the Country.

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The picture on opposite page is supposed to look like Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of New York and Connecticut, who will soon be a protege of mine and be permitted to back some of my schemes, which are now wilder than some of the ones he has successfully launched.

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There are in the State of Connecticut about 1,000,000 inhabitants. Of this number at least 3000 are inmates of Insane Asylums. The population of the United States is about 80 million.

$80 \times 3000 = 240,000$
persons confined in asylums.

Add to this the persons in private institutions etc - and the number would foot up to at least 300,000.

There are over 100,000 Epileptics - 40,000 Convicts - and about

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3 persons in each
hundred are paupers.
Now let us re-
ciprocate,
 $240,000 + 60,000 =$
 $100,000 + 40,000 = 140,000$
Throw in 60, more
paupers for luck,
and you can
readily see that
there is a reading
public (though
mostly behind iron
bars) of a half
a million.
Who ever heard of
a magazine of any
kind or style starting
with a circulation
of 500,000 copies?
Well if you haven't,

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you will soon, as
the middletown
meddler, or perhaps
"The Funny
Factory
Figaro,"
will. This ^{I think}
latter title I think
would fit better,
as the word
"middletown" before
the word "meddler,"
localizes the
paper to an extent
which would not
be advisable in
a paper, whose
scope will in

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time be limited
only by space
itself.

The "Funny"
factory program
will occupy a
position in the
literary field
as good - if not
better than that
now held by "Life".
The contents of
same will be
the best of the
many bright things
said and written
by those whose
brains are, or have
been diseased.
The illustrations

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will be drawn by
Insane artists - the
Poems written by
Lunatics at the
full of the moon.
Poems on Love
by maniacs who
once had the wife-
beating habit.
Epigrams: jokes
etc - by insane
and impudent
inmates whose
stock of sass is
only limited by
other people's ignorance.

To Be
Continued: