



# CHESNEY ARCHIVES

JOHNS HOPKINS  
Medicine  
Nursing  
Public Health

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## Florence Nightingale Collection

Dates: 1854-1992

Collection Reference Code Element: NigF

The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives  
5801 Smith Avenue, Suite 235  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
4107356800  
<https://medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/>

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Processing Information: Described by Phoebe Evans Letocha in 2001, revised 2025

### Collection Overview

**Extent:** 2 cubic feet (5 boxes)

**Creator:** Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910

Florence Nightingale was a white English social reformer, statistician and the founder of modern nursing. She was born on May 12, 1820 in Florence, Italy to an affluent English family. Rather than assuming the expected role of an upper class English woman, Nightingale felt called to be a nurse. In 1850 she visited the Lutheran religious community of Kaiserswerth in Germany where she observed the work of the deaconesses in caring for the sick. Nightingale gained acclaim during the Crimean War where she earned the nickname "The Lady with the Lamp" for her efforts to improve sanitation and the hygienic conditions of British soldiers. In 1859 she published "Notes on Nursing," and in 1860 she established the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas Hospital in London to train nurses. She advocated for improved care and conditions in hospitals and for the professional training and status for nurses. As the founder of modern nursing, she influenced the establishment of nursing schools throughout Britain and North America . In 1875, Francis King, chair of the Johns Hopkins Hospital board of trustees, traveled to London to visit the nursing school at St. Thomas Hospital. While there, he conferred with Nightingale about planning the school of nursing at Johns Hopkins. Isabel Hampton Robb, the first Johns Hopkins Hospital Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the Training School consulted with Nightingale about the nursing profession. Nightingale died in London in 1910 at the age of 90. In 1912, the International Committee of the Red Cross instituted the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest award in international nursing. While she has been venerated as the founder of modern nursing, in the 21st century her legacy and writings have come under greater scrutiny for promoting British colonialism and for centering white nurses to the exclusion of other early nursing figures.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection consists of materials related to Florence Nightingale which were given to the Johns Hopkins Nurses Historical Collection over the course of many years primarily by people associated with Johns Hopkins nursing.

**Accruals Description:** 1988-028, 2000-126, 2001-006, 2001-087, 2001-093, 2001-095, 2001-181, 2003-021, 2003-155, 2008-131

**Custodial History:**

This collection consists of materials related to Florence Nightingale which were given to the Johns Hopkins Nursing Historical Collection over the course of many years primarily by people associated with Johns Hopkins nursing. Dr. Howard Kelly gave an album of Florence Nightingale letters and Nightingale's chair. Kelly also gave a collection of books, called the Nightingale Collection, which consisted of books by and about Nightingale, nursing and the history of women in general. The Nightingale book collection was housed in several locations over the years when additional books were included in the collection so that it no longer existed in its original form. Currently, any rare books once associated with the Nightingale book collection are housed at the Institute of the History of Medicine in the Welch Medical Library. Adelaide Nutting gave several Nightingale books and other items related to Nightingale. Other alumni gave materials including correspondence, both copies and originals. In 1893 Nightingale's cousin Sir Henry Bonham-Carter gave the statue of Florence Nightingale that is currently on display at Johns Hopkins University. The Isabel Hampton Robb papers contain the wedding bouquet and ribbon that Nightingale gave to Robb for her wedding. Dr. Lida O. Meredith gave Nightingale materials, including an edition of Notes on Nursing inscribed by Nightingale to the wife of Sidney Herbert. In 2023, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Chesney Medical Archives donated the Florence Nightingale wheelchair to the Florence Nightingale Museum in London after concerns were raised about Florence Nightingale's views on colonialism. The wheelchair is on display at the museum in the replica of her bedroom rejoining other items which belonged to her.

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**Series 1: Nightingale Records of Provenance**

**Folder 1/1: Letter from J. W. Miller, authenticating Nightingale chair - Nov. 29, 1920**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/2: lists of Florence Nightingale items in the Nurses' Historical Collection and old cataloguing envelopes. - 1948**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/3: Mrs. Lucy Ridgely Seymer, Correspondence and Obituary - 1932-1971**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** Includes letter from William Welch to William Buckler, Jan. 29, 1933 and correspondence on behalf of Queen Elizabeth and the White House thanking Seymer for copies of her books.

**Item 1/9: Letters to Dr. L. (Lida) O. Meredith from antiquarian bookshop Elkin Mathews Ltd., regarding Florence Nightingale pencil drawing - Jan. 28, 1947**

**Extent:** 2; 1 folder

**Archival Arrangement:** Letters are filed in folder with the drawing.

**Folder 2/1: Scrapbook page with articles and photo related to the presentation of the statuette of Florence Nightingale to the Johns Hopkins Training School - c. 1893**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item 5/1: Letter from Howard Kelly to Elsie Lawler, asking her if the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses would be ready to take charge of the material related to Florence Nightingale he had been collecting - Sept. 18, 1920**

**Extent:** 1 folder

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## Series 2: Correspondence and Handwriting

### Sub-series 2.1: Originals Nightingale Correspondence and Autographs

#### Folder 1/4: Autographs

**Extent:** 5; 1 folder

**Technical Access Element:** 5 small pieces of paper each with autograph, "F. Nightingale," 4 in pencil, 1 in ink, cut out from letters? Were found in envelope sent to Miss Vincent, St. Marylebone Infirmary, Ladbroke Grove Road, mailed from London Oct. 28, 1885, inside second envelope sent to Mrs. Seymer, 5 Copse Hill, Wimbledon, London SW 20, June 14, 1954

#### Folder 1/5: Florence Nightingale recipe for Brown Bread Pudding and Rice Shapes - 1853

**Extent:** 1; 1 folder

#### Folder 1/6: Florence Nightingale letter to Isabel Hampton, declining invitation to address International Congress meeting in Chicago - Feb. 25, 1893

**Extent:** 1 folder

#### **Item 50003: Letter from Florence Nightingale to Isabel Hampton, February 25, 1893 - 1893-02-25**

**Extent:** 1 letter

**Scope and Content:** Letter Addressed to Miss Isabel A. Hampton:  
"Dear Madam,  
Pray accept my thanks for the honor you do me in wishing me to "prepare the opening address for your first sub-sectional meeting."  
I very much regret that I am quite unable to do this, both on account of overflowing work and because much information referring to nursing in America and elsewhere would be requisite. Should I be able to contribute anything useful in a paper on the principles of Nurse training, I have promised to send the paper thro Lady Burdett-Coutts. But as you so kindly invite, I hope, if I write it, to send it with her concurrence direct to you.  
Pray accept my earnest hopes for the highest success of your object in which I am deeply interested, of the Chicago International Congress.  
I believe me yours faithfully, Florence Nightingale"

Nightingale did send a paper that was read at the meeting of the International Congress of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy held at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. Lady Burdett Coutts referenced in the letter was the wealthiest woman in England during the second half of the 19th century and a major benefactor of Charles Dickens as well as Nursing and other philanthropic causes.

**Subject - Name:** Robb, Isabel Hampton, 1859-1910

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Folder 1/7: Letter from Florence Nightingale asking for the present address of Miss Pringle - April 18, 1895**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/8: Letter on behalf of Florence Nightingale thanking Dr. Henry M. Hurd for a copy of his address delivered at the JHH Training School for Nurses graduation - July 29, 1910**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/9: Pencil drawing of Miss Nightingale reading a book, pasted on back handwritten poem, "On Miss Nightingale's Departure to the East"**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/10: Postcard to Rev. James Rupel - Dec. 13, 1881**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** "Reminiscences of the Crimean War - forwarded today with Lady Alicia Blackwoods send regards -"

**Bound volume 2/4: Blue leather album: Letters written by Florence Nightingale 1865-1885, Presented to the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses by Howard A. Kelley, MD, 1917 - 1865-1885; 1917**

**Extent:** 6 letters, 2 lithographs; 1 folder

**Use/Reproduction** Album is fragile. Do not photocopy original letters. Use copies are available.

**Item : Lithograph of a drawing by H.M.B.C. of Miss Nightingale, reading a book - 1854**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item : Lithograph portrait of Florence Nightingale**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item Letter 1: Letter to Mr. Rawlinson - May 18, 1865**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item Letter 2: Letter to Dr. James M. Cuningham - Feb. 12, 1869**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item Letter 3: Letter to Dr. James M. Cuningham - Feb. 25, 1869**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item Letter 4: Letter to Dr. F.J. Williams - March 18, 1880**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item Letter 5: Letter to Dr. James M. Cuningham - Oct. 9, 1884**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item Letter 6: Letter to Dr. James Cuningham - Feb. 13, 1885**

**Extent:** 1 folder

### **Sub-series 2.2: Copies and Transcripts of Nightingale Correspondence**

**Folder 1/11: Copies of Missing Letters - 1856-1877**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/12: Copies of 3 letters to Florence Nightingale, from Harriet Beecher Stowe, March 20, 1872; and from Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hobson, Feb. 26, 1873 and April 20, 1874**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/13: Photocopy, Florence Nightingale to Dr. W. Gill Wylie, house surgeon at Bellevue - Sept. 18, 1872**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/14: Handwritten copy of letter from Linda Richards to Florence Nightingale, describing her work at City Hospital in Boston and gratitude after her visit to the Training School at St. Thomas - Feb. 26, 1878**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/15: Transcripts and photostat of correspondence between Florence Nightingale and Isabel Hampton Robb - 1893-1896**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Technical Access Element:** Photostat is of letter from Isabel Hampton to Florence Nightingale, Jan. 31, 1893

**Folder 1/16: Photocopy, photostats, and photographs of letter from Florence Nightingale to Isabel Hampton - Feb. 25, 1893**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/17: Photograph and photocopy of Florence Nightingale letter to the Superior requesting the address of Miss Pringle - April 18, 1895**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/18: Photograph of letter from Florence Nightingale to Mrs. Taviner, thanking her for flowers and commenting on the recovery of her daughter - June 20, 1896**

**Extent:** 1 folder

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### **Series 3: Publications by Florence Nightingale**

**Folder 1/19: Florence Nightingale, Notes on the Sanitary Condition of Hospitals and on Defects in the Construction of Hospital Wards, London: Savill and Edwards - 1859**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/20: Florence Nightingale, Notes on Nursing: What It Is and What It Is Not, London: Harrison, 1860**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/21: Photocopy and photographs, "From Florence Nightingale to the Probationer Nurses in the Nightingale Fund Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital and to the Nurses who were formerly trained there, May 23, 1883" - May 23, 1883**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/21.1: Florence Nightingale, Notes on Nursing for the Labouring Classes - 1890**

**Extent:** 1 folder

#### Series 4: Publications about Florence Nightingale

**Folder 1/22: Mr. A. Bogaers, "Florence Nightingale" poem, with print - n.d.**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/23: "Miss Nightingale at Scutari" Illustrations and article - 1854-1855**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/24: Peter Dincoffs, MD, chapter 7, transcript, "Experiences of a Civilian in Eastern Military Hospitals with Observations on the English, French and other Medical Departments" - 1857**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/25: E.S. McKee, MD, Cincinnati, "Florence Nightingale and her Followers" - 1909**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/26: Mary Aldis, "Florence Nightingale: An Appreciation Based on the recent biography by Sir Edward Cook 'Life of Florence Nightingale'" - April 2, 1914**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/27: Maude E. Seymour Abbott, MD, "The Portraits of Florence Nightingale" - Sept. 14 and 21, 1916**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/28: Edwin W. Kopf, Assistant Statistician, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., "Florence Nightingale as Statistician" - Dec. 1916**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/29: "Florence Nightingale, A Sermon, Preached in St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, on Sunday, May 9, 1920, by Rev. Arthur B. Kinsolving, D.D." - Aug. 1920**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/30: Handwritten extract from Letters of Lady Augusta Stanley, A Young Lady at Court, 1849-1863,**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/31: Grace T. Hallock and C. E. Turner, "Health Heroes: Florence Nightingale" - 1928**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/32: Articles about Florence Nightingale - 1930-1938**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/33: Sir George Newman, "The Commemoration of Florence Nightingale" - July 1937**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/34: The International Nursing Review, ICN, vol. 11, no. 3, 1937, with articles related to Nightingale - 1937**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/35: Booklet, "The Writings of Florence Nightingale," A Talk Given by Mrs. Lucy Seymer - 1947**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/1: Family Doctor, British Medical Association, portrayal of Nightingale on cover - Sept. 1951**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/2: Booklet, "The Lamp: In the Name of Florence Nightingale" regarding Florence Nightingale House, London - c. 1954**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/3: Nursing Mirror and Midwives Journal, London. Florence Nightingale Commemorative issue - May 7, 1954**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/4: Catalogue of the Florence Nightingale Collection, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, Columbia University, Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing - 1956**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/5: Jean Jamieson, "The Lady of the Lamp" - 1950s**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/5.1: "Florence Nightingale Becomes a Nurse" - n.d.**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item 5/2: Poem and Print, An Address in the aid of the "Nightingale Testimonial." - 1855**

**Extent:** 1 folder, Oversized

**Item 5/3: "Two Noble Women, Florence Nightingale and Annie M. Andrews," illustrated article from Harper's Weekly - June 6, 1857**

**Extent:** 1 folder, oversized

**Item 5/4: London Times clipping about Florence Nightingale's funeral - Aug. 22, 1910**

**Extent:** 1 folder, oversized

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## **Series 5: Commemorative Items related to Florence Nightingale**

**Folder 2/2: Scrapbook: Notes Concerning Florence Nightingale, Johns Hopkins Hospital - 1891-1937**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 2/3: "Nightingale Centenary Exhibition, Great Hall, Royal College of Surgeons, London - October 26, 1954**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/6: The Florence Nightingale Pledge - 1893**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/7: Exercises in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding by Florence Nightingale of the first Training School for Nurses, at Carnegie Hall - May 18, 1910**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/8: Programs for exhibit "Writings of Florence Nightingale in the Educational Museum of Teachers College, Columbia Univ." - May 16-June 1, 1910**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/9: Pamphlet, Florence Nightingale Centenary, Maryland State Association of Graduate Nurses - May 12, 1920**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/10: "Hospital Day Visitors" guest book and clipping about Nightingale exhibit at JHH - May 12, 1938**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/11: Florence Nightingale Service, Emmanuel Church, Baltimore, program - May 11, 1945**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/12: Florence Nightingale Anniversary Dinner, Columbia University Men's Faculty Club, program, guest list, and booklet - May 12, 1954**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/13: First Day Cover Letter with British stamp to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale - April 1, 1970**

**Extent:** 1 folder

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#### **Series 6: Kaiserswerth Materials**

**Folder 3/14: Kaiserswerth Museum**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/15: 35 Photos of Florence Nightingale materials at Kaiserswerth, photos of Nightingale letters and of the grounds and museum at Kaiserswerth, obtained from the Museum of the Deaconess Nurses' School, Kaiserswerth, Germany - 1958**

**Extent:** 1 folder

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#### **Series 7: St. Thomas' Hospital Materials**

**Folder 3/16: St. Thomas' Hospital Materials**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 3/17-18: Scrapbook, St. Thomas' Hospital, London; Guy's Hospital London; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Florence Nightingale International Foundation, 15 Manchester Square, London; and Florence Nightingale School of Nursing, Bordeaux France - 1920s-1932**

**Extent:** 2 folders

**Scope and Content:** Contains photographs, brochures, postcards

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#### **Series 8, Box 4/1-4: Florence Nightingale Memorial Fund - 1969-1973**

**Scope and Content:** mostly correspondence for a scholarship fund

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#### **Series 9: Photographs, Illustrations, and Audio Visual Materials**

**Folder 4/5: Florence Nightingale**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 4/6: Nightingale exhibits at Johns Hopkins**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 4/7: Nightingale plaques and exhibits - 1929, n.d.**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Audio Tape 4/8: Audio: Anne Bienvenu Broussard, "A Legacy of Voices: The Nightingale- Nutting Record," presented at The Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association 100th Birthday Celebration Educational Program, June 12, 1992, includes a tape and transcript of a recording by Adelaide Nutting introducing Florence Nightingale**

**Item 5/5: Print, "Florence Nightingale," of FN reading with city in background**

**Extent:** 1 folder, oversized

**Item 5/6: "The Home of Florence Nightingale, Lea Hurst, Derbyshire, England"**

**Extent:** 2 oversized prints  
**Scope and Content:** 2 Currier and Ives prints  
**Technical Access Element:** very dirty, one print has a water stain

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**Series 10: Florence Nightingale Material Culture**

**Scope and Content:** This series consists of artifacts related to Florence Nightingale that were donated to the Johns Hopkins Nursing Historical Collection over many years. They are largely commemorative items. While the Florence Nightingale wheelchair that Howard Kelly had donated to the Johns Hopkins Hospital nursing school is no longer physically a part of the Nightingale collection, the Chesney Archives does maintain an artifact collection control file documenting its history of display and conservation while it was part of the Johns Hopkins collection from 1920 to 2023.

**Archival Arrangement:** Items are catalogued individually

**Related Archival Materials Element:** Additional artifacts related to Florence Nightingale can be found in other collections within the Johns Hopkins Nursing Historical Collection, including in individual personal paper collections of nursing alumni. For example, the collection include several versions of the Nightingale lamp that students used in the Johns Hopkins Hospital's candlelight ceremony.

**Artifacts Title:** Florence Nightingale

**Artifacts Number:** 2386A

**Artifacts Title:** Wheelchair

**Artifacts Number:** 2387A

**Artifacts Title:** Stained Oak and Glass Bookcase

**Artifacts Number:** 2507A

**Artifacts Title:** Florence Nightingale

**Artifacts Number:** 2584A

**Artifacts Title:** Florence Nightingale at Scutari

**Artifacts Number:** 4428A

**Artifacts Title:** Florence Nightingale

**Artifacts Number:** 7982A

**Artifacts**