

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. B50

Date processed: May 22, 1984

- I. Title **The Literary Box, Records, 1838-1841**
- II. The papers of **The Literary Box**
deposited in the Library on _____, by _____
In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3"
Approximate number of items: 142
- IV. Restrictions:
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on _____
- VII. Biographical note: The following is a quotation from the "Catalogue
of the Literary Box", which is part of this collection, dated
March 1, 1839:

"The Literary Box is the name of a society formed at Bradley House, November 15th, 1838. It is composed of thirteen members, each of whom, by the laws of the constitution, is required to write one composition, at least, every week, unless unavoidably prevented."

A note with the collection states that these papers had been the work of the Misses Bradley, aunts of F. Thornton Hunt, and other ladies and gentlemen.

From the Yale University Obituary Records of 1923 it was learned that Frederic Thornton Hunt (1846-1923) was the son of Timothy Atwater Hunt (1805-1884) and Abigail Mary Bradley (-1891). It appears that he gave various items to the New Haven Colony Historical Society, including log books and papers belonging to his father, Commodore Hunt (see Maritime Collection.) It is possible that these literary papers were also given by him at that time.

The Grove Street Cemetery Records, where Frederic Thornton Hunt was buried, yielded the following information concerning the "Misses Bradley":

Biographical note (cont.)

Abigail Mary Bradley (-1891), married Timothy Atwater Hunt
in 1836

Anna C. Bradley (-1883), unmarried

Elizabeth (-1864), married Reverend Ambrose S. Todd

Jeannette (-1846), married Charles Winthrop in 1844

They were daughters of John Bradley (1777-1825) and Elizabeth (?)
(1780-1845.)

John and Elizabeth Bradley, and later Commodore Hunt and Abigail, lived at No. 6 Wooster Street. The number was later changed to 139, and later again to 231. The house was torn down in 1932, when a newspaper article called it the Commodore Hunt House. The Dana Collection, Volume 63, pages 24, 25 and 27, contains pictures and information about the house and the Hunt family. On page 27 there is a photograph of Abigail Mary Bradley Hunt, (taken by Frederic Thornton Hunt in 1860), pouring tea in the garden for some of her friends. The tea service, clearly visible in the photograph, was later given to the New Haven Colony Historical Society, and some of it is currently on display in the museum.

It is not known who the other members of the group might have been, (with one exception), because all of the papers are signed with obviously fictitious names. There is mention of a meeting of the French group at the home of Mademoiselle Winthrop. She might have been one of the daughters of Francis Winthrop (-1841) and Elizabeth Woolsey, (Elizabeth, Laura or Sarah), who lived at 13 Wooster Street. They were sisters of Theodore Winthrop (1828-1861) (see card catalog, Life and Poems of Theodore Winthrop, eddted by his sister. Chapter I contains a delightful sketch of life in New Haven, on Wooster Street, at that time).

Analysis: The collection is housed in one box, containing 142 pieces. This consists of 126 literary pieces submitted by members, nine handwritten editions of literary selections called Multum in Parvo, and 7 handwritten editions of a French literary paper entitled On Dit. The papers are mostly in very good condition, except for some faded ink.

The literary pieces are charming and delightful to read. Some are even amazing, as in the science fiction contributions to Multum in Parvo, usually signed by Professor See-All, and which sound like something we might read today. In these articles frequent mention is made of the Yale Observatory, where the professor views his wondrous sights.

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Box 1

Folders A through M:	Literary papers submitted by members of the group for their meetings, 1838-1839.	(126)
Folder N:	Issues of <u>Multum in Parvo</u> , 1839.	(9)
Folder O:	Issues of <u>On Dit</u> , 1841	(7)
Folder P:	Valentine poem and envelope addressed to Miss Elizabeth Bradley, 1843, unsigned	(2)
	Note to the Misses Bradley refusing invitation, n.d., not signed	(1)
Folder Q:	Abigail Mary Bradley (-1891) Memory Book, entries 1824-1842	(2)
	Grace Anne Bradley, (-1831) Memory Book, entries 1800-1827	
Folder R:	Almira F. Augur Lines, n.d. Memory Book from Lucius Bradley, August 3, 1843, entries 1843-1857	(2)
	Maria L. Dickerman Humiston, n.d., Memory Book, Hamden, April 1, 1834. Entries 1834-1841 (many entries by Emily Bradley and Almira Augur Lines.)	