Guide to the
Fannie Hurst Newsletter Collection

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives

Katherine Downton
November 2009
**MS – 110: Fannie Hurst Newsletter Collection**
(3 boxes, .81 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1989-1995

*Processed by: Katherine Downton*  
*November 2009*

**Provenance**
Given to Special Collections at Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, by Temma Berg, Professor of English at Gettysburg College and former Managing Editor of the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter*.

**Biography**

**Fannie Hurst (1889-1968)**

Fannie Hurst was born in Hamilton, Ohio on October 18, 1889 to German Jewish parents. She grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. Hurst developed an interest in writing at a young age, submitting her first manuscript for publication at the age of fourteen. Following her graduation from Washington University in St. Louis in 1909, she worked briefly as a school teacher. She then moved to New York City to pursue a writing career. Despite initial publisher rejections, she persisted and went on to become a successful writer of many novels, plays, short stories, magazine articles, movie scripts, and an autobiography. Hurst married Jacques S. Danielson, a Russian Jewish pianist in 1915, although she kept the union a secret for five years.

Hurst’s work is best remembered for her sentimental depiction of the lives of women in the first half of the 20th century, focusing on topics such as working women, poor single mothers, spousal abuse, sexual abuse, and more. Hurst’s writing was very popular during her lifetime, particularly among female readers. In the later years of her life, she became a social reformer and activist with an interest in women’s rights, poverty, and racial inequality. She died in February 1968 in New York City.

**The Fannie Hurst Society and Fannie Hurst Newsletter**

The *Fannie Hurst Newsletter* was launched by Dr. Susan Koppelman in July 1991 as a letter sent out to scholars interested in the work and life of author Fannie Hurst (1889-1968). The Fannie Hurst Society and the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter* were officially established in October 1991 by Hurst scholars at the Midwest Popular Culture Association conference. The production of the newsletter then moved to the Department of English at Gettysburg College, where Dr. Temma Berg served as Managing Editor. Susan Koppelman continued to serve as an editor and contributor to the newsletter throughout its production. The final issue of the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter* was published in spring of 1995.
**Scope and Content Notes**

Much of the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter* collection is comprised of drafts and final copies of the newsletter (published from 1991-1995), material submitted for publication, and some promotional material. The collection also includes a substantial amount of correspondence, comprised mostly of letters and a several e-mails. The correspondence has been divided into two sections. The first is miscellaneous business correspondence written to and from Managing Editor Temma Berg and Assistant Editor and Holly Lavieri ’94. Most of this correspondence is with individuals interested in membership in the society or who wish to contribute articles to the newsletter. The second section is comprised primarily of correspondence between Susan Koppelman, Temma Berg, and Holly Lavieri. This part of the collection concerns the oversight, content, production, promotion, and distribution of the newsletter. The collection also includes some administrative documents related to the distribution and financial aspects of the newsletter and copies of newsletters from other literary societies and organizations.

The newsletters and article manuscripts will be of interest to researchers studying Fannie Hurst or those interested in literary newsletters. The correspondence will be most useful to researchers interested in the development and dissolution of the Fannie Hurst Society or anyone studying literary societies and their publications.

The collection does not contain extensive information about Fannie Hurst beyond the articles published in the society newsletter, article manuscripts, and some of the correspondence between the scholars involved in the Fannie Hurst Society. The collection does not contain primary source material connected directly to Fannie Hurst.

**Series Description**

This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1**: Publications, **Series 2**: Correspondence, **Series 3**: Administrative documents

**Box 1**

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

**Series 1: Publications**

1-2 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 1

July 16, 1991 – First newsletter from Susan Koppelman, 3 pp., 2 copies.

1-3 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 2

November 1991 – Second newsletter from Susan Koppelman, 8 pp., 2 copies.
Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 3


Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 1

Fall 1992, Gettysburg College – 15 pp., 4 copies.

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 1, drafts

Newsletter final draft, 15 pp.
Newsletter draft, 15 pp., 3 copies.

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 1, drafts

Newsletter draft with handwritten notes and corrections, 15 pp.
Newsletter draft from Susan Koppelman, 8 pp.
List of Fannie Hurst Newsletter editors and advisory board, from Susan Koppelman, 1 p.

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 2

Winter 1993, Gettysburg College – 16 pp., 6 copies

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 2, drafts

Newsletter final draft, 16 pp.
Newsletter draft, 16 pp.

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 2, drafts

Newsletter draft from Susan Koppelman, 11 pp., 3 copies (two with handwritten notes and corrections).

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 2, drafts

Revised newsletter draft from Susan Koppelman with attached note about a literary calendar featuring Fannie Hurst, 12 pp., 2 copies.
“Additional material for Fannie Hurst Newsletter” from Susan Koppelman, 4 pp.
Article manuscript for newsletter, Joanna Russ on Fannie Hurst’s Short Stories, 11 pp.

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 3

Spring 1993, Gettysburg College – 15 pp., 7 copies.

Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 3, drafts
Newsletter final draft, 15 pp.
April 18, 1993 - Draft of “Hurst Updates” from Susan Koppelman, 7 pp.
Article manuscript for newsletter, The Fannie Hurst Holdings at Washington University in St. Louis, by Anne Posega, 2 pp.

**Box 2**

2-1 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 1

Spring 1993 – 15 pp., 6 copies.

2-2 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 1, drafts

Newsletter final draft, 15 pp.
Newsletter draft, 15 pp.

2-3 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 1, drafts

Draft of “Hurst Updates” from Susan Koppelman, September 10, 1993, 6 pp., 3 copies, (one with handwritten notation).
List of Fannie Hurst Newsletter editors and advisory board from Susan Koppelman, 1 p.

2-4 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 1, drafts

Note submitted for publication in Fannie Hurst Newsletter by Richard R. Centing (Ohio State University Libraries), May 17, 1993, 1 p.
Article manuscript for newsletter, untitled, by Susan Koppelman, 3 pp.
Article manuscript for newsletter, Adaptation and the Ideological Effects of Plot: The Case of Douglas Sirk’s Imitation of Life, by Barbara Mortimer, English Department, Rhode Island College, 11 pp, 2 copies.

2-5 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 2

Winter 1993, 15 pp., 6 copies.

2-6 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 2, drafts

Newsletter final draft, 15 pp.
List of Fannie Hurst Newsletter editors and advisory board from Susan Koppelman, 1 p.
List of “Films made from (or ‘suggested’ by) fiction by Fannie Hurst”, compiled by Susan Koppelman for newsletter, 7 pp., 2 copies.

2-7 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 2, drafts
Article for newsletter, *The Fannie Hurst Collection at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin*, by Jennifer B. Patterson, 4 pp.
Article for newsletter, *Fannie Hurst: Popular Success/Critical Failure?*, by Mary Beth Wimp, William Woods University, 5 pp., 2 copies.
Handwritten notes about newsletter cover artist Jennifer Kahler, 1 p.

2-8 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 3

Summer 1994 – 13 pp., 6 copies

2-9 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 3, drafts

Newsletter final draft, 13 pp.
Newsletter draft with handwritten notes and edits, 10 pp.
Newsletter draft, 10 pp.

2-10 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 3, drafts

Pages of newsletter drafts, not in order, with handwritten notes and corrections, 26 pp.
Newsletter draft with handwritten notes; includes photocopied note from Temma Berg to Delores [Phillips?], 15 pp.

2-11 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 3, drafts

Draft of “Hurst Updates” for newsletter from Susan Koppelman, 3 pp.
Article for newsletter, “Hurst’s ‘Seven Candles’: Teaching American Jewish Fiction to a Class without Jews”, by Eileen T. Bender (Indiana University-South Bend), 19 pp.

2-12 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 4, no. 1

Spring 1995 – 13 pp., 7 pages

2-13 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 4, no. 1, drafts

Newsletter final draft, 13 pp.
Draft of “Hurst Updates” for newsletter from Susan Koppelman, 2 pp.
Article manuscript for newsletter, “In Memorium: Alice Childress”, by Susan Koppelman, 5 pp.

2-14 Fannie Hurst Newsletter, vol. 4, no. 1, drafts

Article for newsletter, “Peola/Pecola: What’s in a Name?”, by Flossie Lewis, 2 pp.
Book review by Susan Koppelman of *Kate Chopin: A Life of the Author of The Awakening*, by Emily Toth, 7 pp.


**Box 3**

3-1  Fannie Hurst Newsletter, additional essays

Fannie Hurst Newsletter draft, with articles by Meg Schoerke and Belinda Carstens-Wickham (unpublished?), 9 pp., 2 copies.
Draft of “Hurst Updates” for newsletter from Susan Koppelman (unpublished?), 2 pp.

3-2  Fannie Hurst Newsletter, additional essays

Article manuscript for newsletter, “The “Bit of Khaki, Pressed”: Fannie Hurst’s World War I Fiction” by Meg Schoerke, 10 pp.

3-3  Fannie Hurst Newsletter, miscellaneous documents and notes

“Check list of Short Stories by Fannie Hurst,” prepared by Susan Koppelman, 6 pp.
List of Fannie Hurst Newsletter editors and advisory board from Susan Koppelman, 1 p.
Draft of index for Fannie Hurst Newsletter, 2 pp.
Notes about newsletter, handwritten, 2 pp.
Style sheet, handwritten, 1 p.
Note with Susan Koppelman’s address, handwritten, 1 p.
Women’s Studies Advisory Council list of members, Gettysburg College, 1992-1993. 5¼ inch floppy disk, unknown content.

3-4  Flyers and press releases for the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter*

Flyer for Fannie Hurst Newsletter, including brief history of the Fannie Hurst Society, manuscript submission information, and membership form, 1 p., 6 copies.
*Dateline Gettysburg*, Spring 1993, includes article, “Announcing the Fannie Hurst Newsletter” on page 3.
Newsletters of other organizations


*Women’s Studies Newsletter*, Gettysburg College, Vol. 4, No. 1, Fall 1992. Includes article by Holly Lavieri about Gettysburg College hosting the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter*.


Newsletters of other organizations


*The Sinclair Lewis Society Newsletter*, Illinois State University, Vol. 2, No. 1, Fall 1993; includes article about the *Fannie Hurst Newsletter*.

*Newsletter of the Margaret Atwood Society*, Miami University (Ohio), No. 11, December 1993.

*Newsletter of the Margaret Atwood Society*, Miami University (Ohio), No. 12, Spring 1994.

*Newsletter of the Margaret Atwood Society*, Miami University (Ohio), No. 13, Fall 1994.

Subscription and submission flyers for newsletters and journals

Margaret Atwood Society Membership & Directory Form, 1994, 2 copies.


Sinclair Lewis Society membership form.

*Journal of Popular Film and Television*, call for papers.

*Journal of Radio Studies*, No. 2, Fall 1993, Subscription order form and manuscript submission information.

*Journal of Unconventional History*, flyer with subscription form.


*Obsidian II: Black Literature in Review*, call for papers.

*Studies in Popular Culture*, flyer with manuscript submission information.

Articles that reference Fannie Hurst


**Series 2: Correspondence**

3-9 Correspondence, Miscellaneous: November 21, 1991 – February 26, 1993

- February 23, 1993 – E-mail from Phyllis Holman Weisbard to Temma Berg, asking for sample copy of newsletter, 1 p.
- February 23, 1993 – E-mail announcement from Temma Berg to the WMST-L listserv to announce the Fannie Hurst Society and Newsletter, 1 p.
- February 24, 1993 – E-mail from Frenzella Elaine de Lancey to Temma Berg, 1 p., 2 copies.
- February 26, 1993 – E-mail from Nancy Osborne, responding to Temma Berg’s announcement about the newsletter on 2/23/93, 1 p., 2 copies.

3-10 Correspondence, Miscellaneous: March 22, 1993 - August 30, 1993

- March 22, 1993 – Letter from Laura Hapke (Pace University) to Temma Berg mentioning a chapter about a Fannie Hurst novel in her new book, 1 p., 2 copies.
- March 24, 1993 – Letter from Janet Miller (Wynnewood, PA) to Temma Berg requesting a subscription to the newsletter and enclosing a catalog of out of print material, “An Uncommon Vision”.
- March 30, 1993 – Letter from Dr. Elizabeth Cummins (University of Missouri-Rolla) to Temma Berg, 1 p.
- March, 1993 – Handwritten card from Kathy Norris (Mt. Ida College) requesting information about the newsletter, 1 p.
- April 11, 1993 – Letter from Janet Miller to Temma Berg about the newsletter and Fannie Hurst’s membership in Heterodoxy, 1 p.
- August 26, 1993 – Letter from Jennifer B. Patterson (University of Texas at Austin) to “Fannie Hurst Newsletter, English Department, Gettysburg College” with attached description of the Fannie Hurst Collection at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, 5 pp.
- August 30, 1993 – Letter from Kate Kramer (Milwaukee, WI) to Temma Berg requesting a subscription to the newsletter and inquiring about an essay.

3-11 Correspondence, Miscellaneous: September 12, 1993 – October 24, 1994
September 12, 1993 – Handwritten letter from Rebecca Schreiber (Brooklyn, NY) regarding newsletters and membership in Fannie Hurst Society, 1 p.

September 13, 1993 – Letter to Dr. Charles Cutter (Brandeis University Library) from Temma Berg asking for a description of the Library’s Fannie Hurst Collection, 1 p. Dr. Cutter’s July 15, 1993 response is attached.

September 20, 1993 – Letter from Dr. Charles Cutter (Brandeis University Library) regarding the newsletter, 1 p. An announcement for a lecture by Susan Koppelman at Brandeis University on November 10, 1993 is attached.

January 14, 1994 – Letter from Clifford McCarty (Topanga, CA) to Temma Berg regarding films based on fiction by Fannie Hurst, 1 p.

May 17, 1994 – Letter from Brooke Kroeger (New York, NY) to Temma Berg about the newsletter and requesting contact information for Susan Koppelman, 1 p.

May 27, 1994 – Letter from Brooke Kroeger (New York, NY) to Temma Berg about the newsletter, 1 p.

October 24, 1994 – Fax ed resume from Brooke Kroeger, 2 p.

September, 1994 – Letter from Virginia Wise (St. Louis, MO) to Temma Berg with a poem that she wrote about Fannie Hurst, 2 p.

November 20, 1994 – Letter from Clifford McCarty (Topanga, CA) to Temma Berg requesting newsletter, 1 p.

November 27, 1994 – Handwritten letter from Flossie Lewis (University of California, Berkeley) to Temma Berg that mentions an article later published in the newsletter, 2 p.

February 5, 1995 – E-mail from Erin Smith (University of Wisconsin – Madison) to Temma Berg requesting copies of the Fannie Hurst Newsletter, 1 p.


April 11, 1995 – Letter from Meg Schoerke to Temma Berg about an essay submitted to the newsletter, 1 p.

May 17, 1995 – Letter from Temma Berg to Kevin Ray (Olin Library, Washington University in St. Louis) about receipt of the newsletters, 1 p. Kevin Ray’s August 26, 1994 letter requesting the newsletter is attached.

May 19, 1995 – Handwritten letter from Flossie Lewis to Temma Berg, 1 p.

November 12, 1995 – Letter from Maria Brandt (Boston College) to Gettysburg College English Department inquiring about membership in the Fannie Hurst Society and the newsletter, 1 p.

Undated handwritten note from Joan Lindgren (La Jolla, CA) requesting a newsletter subscription for a former secretary to Fannie Hurst, 1 p.

Eight completed subscription forms for the Fannie Hurst Newsletter, some with envelopes.
November 6, 1989 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to “Dear Friends” about readings and discussions in a course she taught for older adults, 3 pp.


March 12, 1991 – Unsigned letter to Susan Koppelman mentioning an essay comparing *Imitation of Life* and *The Bluest Eye* and discussing possible collaboration on a paper, 1 p.


October 28, 1991 – Unsigned letter, probably from Temma Berg, to Susan Koppelman discussing *Imitation of Life* and *Star Dust* by Fannie Hurst, 1 p.


April 9, 1992 – Letter from Temma Berg to Susan Koppelman about funding and hiring of a student assistant for the newsletter, 1 p.

September 2, 1992 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg about the newsletter with handwritten notes in margin, 1 p., 2 copies.

September 16, 1992 – Letter from Holly Lavieri to Susan Koppelman, discussing newsletter membership list and publication frequency, 2 p. Attached are eight letters from Lavieri to various journal announcing the newsletter.

September 27, 1992 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Holly Lavieri about design, content, and promotion of newsletter, 2 pp., 2 copies. Includes some handwritten notation.

October 9, 1992 – Letter from Holly Lavieri to Susan Koppelman about content and design of the newsletter, 1 p.


November 15, 1992 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Holly Lavieri and Temma Berg about editorial responsibilities and copyright issues, 3 pp. Includes handwritten notes on the reverse side.


November 29, 1992 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Holly Lavieri and Temma Berg about gift subscriptions and distribution of newsletter, with mailing list, 4 pp., 2 copies.


3-18 Correspondence, Koppelman/Berg/Lavieri: December 16, 1992 – March 20, 1993

December 16, 1992 – Letter from Holly Lavieri to Susan Koppelman about distribution of gift copies, editing, and layout of the newsletter, 1 p.

December, 1992 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Holly Lavieri regarding gift subscriptions, distribution, and content of the newsletter, 5 pp, 2 copies.

January 21, 1992 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Holly Lavieri regarding newsletter edits, with handwritten notes, 5 pp. 2 copies.

February 13, 1993 – Letter from Temma Berg to Susan Koppelman about final draft of newsletter, 1 p.

February 23, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg and Holly Lavieri mentioning content for newsletter and logo design, 3 pp.


3-19 Correspondence, Koppelman/Berg/Lavieri: April 2, 1993 – April 29, 1993

April 2, 1993 – Unsigned letter, probably from Holly Lavieri, to Susan Koppelman about newsletter content, logo, and response to the newsletter.

April 14, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg and Holly Lavieri regarding newsletter content, distribution, and announcements for journals, 3 pp., 2 copies.

April 19, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg and Holly Lavieri mentioning article for upcoming newsletter, 1 p.


April 29, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Holly Lavieri about newsletter finances, with handwritten notes on reverse, 1 p.

3-20 Correspondence, Koppelman/Berg/Lavieri: May 19, 1993 – September 17, 1993
May 19, 1993 – Letter from Temma Berg to Susan Koppelman, discussing newsletter financing and issues relating to newsletter production, 3 pp.

May 23, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg and Holly Lavieri about newsletter budget, the future of the Fannie Hurst Newsletter, book review editing, subscriptions, etc., 6 pp. Includes handwritten notes and attached draft of financial statement.

June 14, 1993 – Letter from Temma Berg to Susan Koppelman mentioning newsletter financial statements, expenses, layout, mailing list, editing, subscriptions, 3 pp. Attached are samples of financial statements from other newsletters and journals.

September 10, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg and Holly Lavieri about newsletter content and distribution, 2 pp, 2 copies.

September 17, 1993 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg and Holly Lavieri with correction for Vol. 3, No. 1 of newsletter, 1 p., 2 copies.

3-21 Correspondence, Koppelman/Berg/Lavieri: August 28, 1994 – June 30, 1995

August 28, 1994 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg mentioning the newsletter and death of a friend, 1 p.

September 20, 1994 – Unsigned letter from Temma Berg to Susan Koppelman about problems producing the newsletter, 1 p.


February 10, 1995 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg about relocation to Arizona and course that she’s teaching, 1 p.

March 22, 1995 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to “Dear Contributor of an Essay/Article to the Fannie Hurst Collection” addressing the status of a Hurst essay collection, 2 pp. Includes a handwritten note to Temma Berg at the top of first page and an attached document, “For Judges of Books Entered into the Tenth Annual Susan Koppelman Award Competition”.

June 30, 1995 – Letter from Susan Koppelman to Temma Berg regarding newsletter length, NWSA conference, and possible changes to the newsletter, 1p.

Series 3: Administrative Documents

3-22 Financial records


General ledger for June 1, 1993 – November 12, 1993.


Handwritten list of subscription payments received, 2 pp.

Invoice and reimbursement form for order of *Heterodoxy*, by Judith Schwarz, 3 pp.
Handwritten note about printing order for newsletter, including costs, 1 p.

3-23  Mailing list

Handwritten notes pertaining to mailing list, 1 p.
Mailing labels for distribution of Fannie Hurst Newsletter, 16 pp.