

# Gladys Pitcher Collection

## Special Collections Belfast Free Library Belfast, ME

### Summary Information:

**Collection Title:** Gladys Pitcher Collection

**Collector:** Gladys Pitcher

**Date of Collection:** 1890-1991

**Box Number:** B11

### Administrative Information:

**Accession Number:** 99.39.B11

**Provenance:** Gift of Gladys Pitcher

**Processor:** Terry Cole/Seward Beacom

**Date Processed:** Dec. 1999

**Restrictions:** No Restrictions

### Biographical Information:

Gladys Pitcher was born 11 Dec 1890 in Belfast, the daughter of Elbridge and Emma (Pitcher) Pitcher. She graduated from Belfast High School in 1907. In 1910, she graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she studied cello and piano. In 1914, she married James T. Sleeper, director of the Music Department at Beloit College in Wisconsin. When her husband left to serve during World War I, Pitcher replaced him at Beloit College and additionally became dean of Women the following year. After the war, they returned to New England and taught music in public schools. The couple was divorced a few years later. In 1926, she was hired by C.C. Birchard, a music publisher in Boston, where she stayed for 31 years, retiring in 1957, as editor-in-chief. She remained in Boston until 1962, writing and editing music for the Willis Music Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. She continued editing music after moving back to Belfast in 1962 to live in the family home on Northport Avenue. In 1986, she moved to the Ginn House on High Street in Belfast. She spent the last 5 years of her life in Kennebunk and died there, at age 105, on 24 Mar 1996.

### Scope and Contents:

A small collection of personal items, clippings, photographs and other keepsakes, plus a sample of the musical composing, arranging and editing done by Miss Pitcher.

### Arrangement:

Arranged by material type and kept in original order as much as possible.

## Finding Aid:

Folder 1	Newspaper and newsletter clippings. 1949-1990
Folder 2	Photographs. Elbridge Pitcher (father of G.P.) John Hilliard (painted portrait of G.P. now in B.F.L.) Gladys Pitcher at music program in 1976 Gladys Pitcher at "Sixty Textbooks Exhibit" opening 14 Jan 1952 (2 photos)
Folder 3	<b>The Bookbuilders of Boston</b> , calendars 1951-58
Folder 4	"A Musical Adventure in Project Teaching" by Mrs. James T. Sleeper (G.P.) Reprinted from The Journal of Educational Method, Dec. 1922.
Folder 5	Letter to Woman's League of First Church, Belfast, Maine. 11 Dec 1936 (Donated by Mr. and Mrs. William O. Poor.)
Folder 6	Printed scores, written or arranged by Gladys Pitcher. 1960-64
Folder 7	Songbooks arranged by Gladys Pitcher. 1958-63
Folder 8	Handwritten scores. (1 of 3) n.d.
Folder 9	Handwritten scores. (2 of 3) n.d.
Folder 10	Handwritten scores – The Christmas Cantata. (3 of 3) 1968
Folder 11	Replica Horn-book - Printed by Otto H. Miller for the Hornbook Magazine at Thomas Todds Printing Shop in Beacon Hill in Boston, 1939 Book "A Little History of the Horn-book" by Beulah Fornsbee. Boston, 1942 Traveling exhibition label from painting of Gladys Pitcher by John Hilliard, 1935.