Reference number: ZMLMSS 202

Guide to the Papers of Catherine Helen Spence

Mitchell Library,
State Library of New South Wales

Sydney
2000

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**Summary**

**Creator:** Spence, Catherine Helen, 1825-1910  
**Title:** Papers of Catherine Helen Spence, 1856-1909  
**Date range:** 1856-1909  
**Reference number:** ZMLMSS 202  
**Extent:** 0.3m (5 volumes & 1 box) of ms., typescript, newscuttings, printed.  
**Repository:** Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales  
**Abstract:** The collection comprises talks, articles and research notes, 1861-1907; poems, n.d.; correspondence, 1856-1909; newscuttings and proofsheets, 1876-1907; and printed material concerning the South African War, 1899-1902.

**Biographical Note**  
Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910), writer and reformer, migrated with her family to South Australia in 1839. She wrote five novels, 1854-1868, and social and political newspaper articles, 1865-1907. She advocated an electoral system of proportional representation called the Hare-Spence system, published books and pamphlets and spoke on this and other topics, 1891-1910. She was a delegate to an international conference on charity in the United States of America, 1893, and was involved in various charitable organisations in South Australia mainly connected with children.

**Administrative Information**

**Access**  
Collection is open to research.

**Restrictions on Use**  
A microfilm copy will be issued. Copyright of materials described in this guide is governed by copyright law in Australia.

**Preferred Citation**  
[Name of item], Papers of Catherine Helen Spence, 1856-1909, ZMLMSS 202, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.
Provenance
The papers were presented by Mrs J.P. Morice in 1937.

Access Terms

Personal Names
• Spence, John

Corporate Names
• Unitarian Church of South Australia

Subjects
• Charities -- South Australia
• Child welfare -- South Australia
• Education -- South Australia
• Poets, Australian -- 19th century
• Proportional representation
• South African War, 1899-1902
• Women authors, Australian -- 19th century

Series List and Descriptions

A. Talks, articles and research notes, 1861-1907

i. Literary talks, 1891-1901 (Volume ZMLMSS 202/1 )
   (Reel CY 253)
   Includes material on early Australian poets. Ms. and typescript.

ii. Miscellaneous political papers, 1861-1897?(Volume ZMLMSS 202/2 )
   (Reel CY 253)
   Includes draft chapters of *Ethics of political economy*. 
iii. Miscellaneous sermons, etc., 1893-1907 (Volume ZMLMSS 202/3) (Reel CY 254)

Contents list in volume.

iv. Talks, ca.1891-ca.1907 (Volume ZMLMSS 202/4) (Reel CY 254)

Mainly concerning education and politics.

v. Talks, ca.1900-ca.1907 (Volume ZMLMSS 202/5) (Reel CY 255)

Addresses to women's organisations.

vi. Research notes, ca.1878-ca.1907 (Volume ZMLMSS 202/5) (Reel CY 255)

Some in other handwriting.

vii. Drafts of newspaper articles, 1878-ca.1900 (Volume ZMLMSS 202/5) (Reel CY 255)

B. Poems, n.d.

Volume ZMLMSS 202/5 (Reel CY 255)

Ms.

C. Correspondence, 1856-1909

Volume ZMLMSS 202/5 (Reel CY 255)

Includes letters to John Spence, written from the United States of America, 1893-1894.

Contents list in volume.
D. Newscuttings and proofsheets, 1876-1907

Box ZMLMSS 202/6
(Reel CY 256)

Mainly from *The register*. With ms. annotations.

Contents lists in volumes.

E. Printed material concerning the South African War, 1899-1902

Box ZMLMSS 202/6
(Reel CY 256)