

Yale University Library Digital Collections

Title	[Scrapbook page from spiral bound notebook containing photograph of Edith Wharton with dog and postscript to a letter from Iris Origo to Louis Auchincloss 1965]
Call Number	YCAL MSS 42
Published/Created Date	1925-38
Collection Title	Edith Wharton collection
Rights	Copyright to material created by Edith Wharton may be held by her estate. To learn more, consult the WATCH file (http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/watch/).
Container information	Box 65 Folder 1793
Generated	2021-06-17 14:14:41 UTC
Terms of Use	https://guides.library.yale.edu/about/policies/access
View in DL	https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/2013856

An anecdote about Edith Wharton: postscript
to a letter from Iris Origo to Louis
Auchincloss 1965

TEL: 851-924

MONTE SAVELLO, 30
ROMA

P.S. I must add another EAC story about Edith Wharton for you since, a rather unexpected one. It was told me by my aunt, Justice Ward, who (as perhaps you know) has given up most of her life to the study of teaching of Gregorian Chant. One day, when she was still a schoolgirl, I was practicing in the drawing-room piano. It was against her mother's consent that Edith Wharton, I think she is forgetting, Justice naturally stopped playing & stood up, but in an additional word to her. As Mrs Wharton was going, however, she turned to her husband & remarked in a clear voice: "Well, Teddy, it may be just as well that we never had any children. Just think, one of them might have been musical!"

This seems to me, for a woman who had inherited from a very superior social education in possession of her own wit, a very odd, as well as an odd, remark. But my aunt maintained that music was much more important, socially, than education. "Having a child that was musical," it would tell me, was at least an opportunity in the house. My parents were to be grateful for their inheritance. This attitude changed towards the turn of the century. But that comes too late for me."

