Thetford Historical Society
M38

CHARLES HUBERT FARNSWORTH
Collection, 1887-1936

2 file drawers of folders with papers; books in library,
photographic prints and glass plate negatives

Provenance: Gift of the family, c. 1948

Processed by Martha H. Wiencke, March 2006

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of 93 folders of Farnsworth's manuscripts (essays, books, reviews, articles, lecture notes, correspondence, printed material collected by him; as well as many of his glass plate negatives taken throughout his life, prints from these and other snapshots; and some of his publications, kept in the historical library.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Hubert Farnsworth (1859-1947) was born Nov. 29 in Kayseri, Turkey, son of the Rev. Wilson A. Farnworth and Caroline E. (Palmer) Farnsworth, missionaries. Wilson Farnsworth, who came to Thetford as a child, graduated from Thetford Academy, Middlebury College, and Andover Seminary, and married Caroline Palmer of Thetford in 1852. She too was a graduate of Thetford Academy. They went to Turkey as missionaries in 1854 and raised their children there. Charles had his early education at home, as there were no other English-speaking children there at first. On a home leave in 1868 he had a brief experience of district school in Thetford, and continued his education in Turkey with a missionary teacher. His musical training began under his mother, with the help of a parlor organ. At 15 he studied for a year at Roberts College in Istanbul, and then had his first opportunity to visit Europe on the way to the United States.

Charles spent a brief time in the Newtonville MA high school, but continued to suffer from eye trouble and headaches. For eight months he traveled as a ship's boy on a sailing vessel to Chile, came back and continued to pursue his education privately in Massachusetts, much of it in music with Benjamin D. Alien, whose daughter Charlotte he later married, in 1890. He acquired piano pupils, became an organiist in Worcester, and continued to read widely.

In 1887 he traveled out to Boulder CO in the hope that the climate there might improve his health. There he found opportunities for music in that new mining town: he taught piano, began teaching music in the public schools, learned piano tuning on a visit east, organized a high school orchestra, a ladies' chorus, a choral society, and was invited to teach harmony at the University. In 1899 on a visit to New York he met the Dean of Columbia Teachers College, and in 1900 he was asked to teach in the Horace Mann School and the Teachers College.

He taught also for a time at the experimental Speyer School. His work at Teachers College continued until his retirement in 1924. He wrote extensively: books, articles, reports for educational conferences, essays on many topics both musical and philosophical. He

developed many new courses at Teachers College, in harmony, history, appreciation, sight-singing, elementary and high school teaching; and he constantly revised and improved them. In the 1920's and 1930's he took an interest in radio and phonograph music. He and his wife Charlotte founded Camp Hanoum in Thetford, in 1949, as a summer camp for girls, at which they both continued to work well into the 1930's.

Charles W. Hughes came to Columbia to study under Farnsworth, in the courses on Music Literature, Music History, and Musical Art. He later became Farnsworth's assistant, at Teachers College and at Camp Hanoum. Hughes' essay on Charles Farnsworth (in School Music. XXXIII, 1933) emphasizes the breadth of Farnsworth's interests and learning, and the range of his innovations in music teaching.

Farnsworth was given the honorary Doctorate of Music by Oberlin College in 1922. He and his wife made their home in Thetford after his retirement, although they also traveled extensively. He died in 1947.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Printed essays on music appreciation, 1908,1917,1927; typed versions of one.

Folder 2: Printed essay on "the Teaching of Elementary Music", 1904; and on "the Judgment of Paris", 1915.

Folder 3: Printed essays, n.d. "The Middle Ground in Standardization"; "The Relation of Music to the Child"; "Education through Music"; The Nature of the Musical Experience and its Relation to Teaching"; "Music in the High School"; The What, When, What and How of School Music"; "Musical Clubs and School Music"

Folder 4: Typed essays, on School Music, and Aesthetics; one Tapper talk 1919; another 1931.

Folder 5: Typed essays, on music and education: 1901,1903,1906,1918,1919,1920,1921, 1931.

Folder 6: Tapper Talk program: Essays, summaries, correspondence: 1919,1922,1923

Folder 7: Essays on music teaching, mostly n.d., including "Aim of Public School Music Teaching", 1930; "Beginning Music" (Clef Club, 1901); "Music in the Private School" 1923; etc.

Folder 8: Essays on music teaching, n.d. including "First Lecture in Music Course", Columbia Univ., 20 pp., and outline summary of the same, handwritten.

Folder 9: Essays, correspondence, on "Music and the Returning Soldier", 1918. Letter to Felix Lamond, Naval Base Hospital, Brooklyn, suggesting uses of music for disabled soldiers.

Folder 10: Early papers from Boulder, CO, 1887-1900. Handwritten paper on Pottery,

for Thursday Club, before 1880. Another on Dante, before 1890. "Some Thoughts on the Musical Season in Boulder Colorado", 1899,4 pp. Etc. See also in Folders 37 (1898), 52, and 62.

Folder 11: Typed essays on music teaching, 1904-1928. Includes one letter printed in the Oriole. Feb. 1922

Folder 12: Talks or outlines for talks, mainly on teaching music, 1905-1925. Includes True Worth of Music1", talk to Graduate Club, 1905.

Folder 13: Essays and notes on Aesthetics and Philosophy. Some pencilled notes made in Buenos Aires, Feb. 1925. Several versions of papers on The True, the Beautiful, and the Good"

Papers relating to Camp Hanoum. Folders 14-18

Folder 14: Outlines and essays relating to talks at Camp Hanoum, 1930-1932. E.g. "How to Know Ourselves"

Folder 15: some early talks at Camp Hanoum, often in pencil on small sheets: The Value of the Beautiful", 1914(?). also an account of the start of Camp Hanoum, given as a talk in NYC at Teachers College, 1919; others 1917,1920-1922. Also an address "How can the Summer Camp Satisfy the Spiritual Needs of Boys and Girls", 1928, and a printed essay by A.E. Hamilton, "Summer Camp as Education for Leisure".

Folder 16: Notes for short talks at Camp Hanoum, in pencil on small sheets, 1925-1935, including "What does Chelibi believe any how", 1930, and "Educational Possibilities of a Summer Camp", 1933. Also some Sunday School Thetford talks.

Folder 17: Notes on talks at Camp Hanoum, 1929,1931

Folder 18: Talks at Camp Hanoum, 1934,1936. Mostly typed, some pencil outlines. "What is the Future of Camp Hanoum?"

Folder 19: Talks at Thetford Academy, 1933,1935,1936. 'The value of Liking One's Work" 1935. Thetford Academy Commencement Address, June 9,1936, typed, and a copy and draft.

Folder 20: Copy of rules for a Musical Society in Thetford and Lyme, in 1781.

Folder 21: Essays on general topics, n.d., including one on "The Caravan Routes of Asia Minor", 1904.

Manuscripts for Books and Articles. Folders 22-29

Folder 22: MS of the book "Play Thinking, or, How we Choose to Live", 1933. Includes introduction, 18 pp. on Types of Thinking, Part II on The Way we Live, Part III A Study of Examples. The rest is in pencil, and 4 small pp. of pencil

outline.

Folder 23: Prefaces for books; outlines for papers. On teaching of music, 1902-1917.

Folder 24: Outlines for four lectures, on "Mind and Music", March 1910, at Music Settlement, NY.

Folder 25: MSS of chapters for a book on teaching Music: "What to Teach", "Musical Thought for Children", 'The Notation of Rhythm", "Pitch Relationships".

Folder 26: MS outlines for essays, philosophical topics.

Folder 27: MSS for Tonal Phrase Book

Folder 28: MSS on Tone Thinking: Its Value, Nature and Practise. Folder 29; MSS Birchard Music Series, vol. II, Tone Notation.

Folder 29: MSS, "The Combination of Words and Tunes", "The Feeling for Tonality"; outline "The Feeling for Right and Wrong ...in Music Teaching"

Folder 30: Birchard School papers and correspondence, 1926-1930

Folder 31: Birchard Series: Annotated draft of Vol. I on Rhythm; Draft of Birchard Social Song Series, 1929.

Folder 32: Pre-School Music: "Music for Mother and Child", plan for a book. "Laurel School Music Books";"Miss Hill's Class", "Kindergarten Songs" 1910; "Talk to Mothers, H. Mann School", 1922; "Music in the Home", 1924.

Folder 33: Speyer School papers, 1902. Horace Mann School, talks, essays, 1922 Material for the Teaching of Courses at Columbia Teachers College. Folders 34-49

Folder 34: Musical Art course, outlines for, 1902-1903-1905, printed brochures, programs. In 1910, numbered Music 57-58.

Folder 35: Musical Art course, 1911 -1924. Much on the Nature of Rhythm. Some numbered Music 41-42, and 168-170.

Folder 36: Music course material; Essay on Sight Singing I. Singing Tone 1908, some earlier (1902,1903)

Folder 37: Pencil outlines for Music History, thought to be from Boulder CO, 1898.

Folder 38: Teaching Music: essays on "Music in Secondary Schools" and "Purpose of Music". Outline for music 170, Music Appreciation in High School.

Folder 39: Outlines for courses 35a, 1920-1922, Teaching Music in Secondary School.

Folder 40: Lectures and outlnines for Teaching Music in Elementary School, course 62, 1915-1921.

Folder 41: Education 161 -162, Teaching School Music, and Supervisors Course,1918-1924

Folder 42: Bibliography for courses: Conducting Course 66, School Music, Music 163-164, Appreciation.

Folder 43: "Education through Music", a course based on the book, elementary level, n.d.

Folder 44: Course material n.d. for Musical Form for the Listener.

Folder 45: Programs of music for Musical Literature class, not by CHF, 1923-1924

Folder 46: Song material": "What Qualifies a Text for a Musical Setting", 1930; "Permanent Song Material", 1923; Essay on Folk-Songs, Chanteys.

Folder 47: History of music, outlines for course (21 -22), 1913-1930.

Folder 48: Same, 1921 -1924

Folder 49: Same, outlines, undated, for the course.

Folder 50: "Sunday School Hymn Tunes", address 1904. Papers on "Selecting a Hymn Tune", 1909, and "Memorizing Hymns", n.d.

Folder 51: Hymn analysis, technical, scores, n.d.

Folder 52: Handwritten paper, 1898, "Music in the Secondary School,", and "Study in the Practical Classification of Music", n.d.

Folder 53: Reports on experimental work: Teachers' College, and Camp Hanoum, 1920. Folder 54: Edison Phonograph work, 1921, and E. Gatewood papers, 1921. Folder 55: Papers on "Audiographic roll Music", 1928.

Folder 56: NBC Music Appreciation Hour, CHF's Essays on, 1933-1934. Essay on "Radio in Education", 1932.

Folder 57: NBC, Music Appreciation Hour, student notebooks, 1931-1936.

Folder 58: Talks on Radio Speech, not by CHF. Educational Conference Material. Folders 59-67

Folder 59: Round Table Meetings, CHF chairman of Survey Committee, report, 3 versions, n.d. Natlional conference of Music Supervisors, St. Louis, reply to addresses of welcome. Suggestions on advance work of Survey Committee, 1918-1920, referring to past St. Louis meeting.

Folder 60: NY State Music Teachers Association, material, 1904-1920; programs, bylaws, memberships, letters.

Folder 61: Eastern Educational Music Conference, reports, programs, corresondence 1906-1916

Folder 62: Papers for various conferences: 1895, Boulder, "Partials and Key Perception; 1905,1914 Music Teachers National Association; 1914 National Conference of Music Supervisors, paper, letter, printed material; 1921 Music Supervisors Journal, article; 1922 Report of Chair of Educational Council; 1928 Letters on work of conference, CHF and R.D. Hughes. 1929 NWMS Conference, outline for "Beauty in Music". Other papers, n.d. for MTNA, EMS Conference, article for Musical Digest 2 copies; handwritten 3 pp. on "Organic Form"

Folder 63: MSNC: programs, correspondence, printed notices, 1917-1922 Folder 64: Music Supervisors' Bulletin, 1915-1920

Folder 65: School Music Survey Committee (NMSC) 11918. Descriptive essays, oulines of requirements, achievement, correspondence, reports, graphs.

Folder 66: School Music Supervisors Conference, reports of Chair, correspondence, 1919-1923. Printed Survey of Public School Music. Essays on Standardization, 3 printed essays by CHF

Folder 67: 'The Value of Tests in Music Education", 1922,3 copies, 2 printed, in Eastern Music Supervisors Bulletin.

Folder 68: Festivals, papers on: "Occasional Value of a Festival, 1915,2 published copies; "Plan for Festival Association", and others, one dated 1915.

Folder 69: Reviews of books, by CHF Correspondence. Folders 70-81

Folder 70: Letters on an article by CHF 1904, in College Record. "Teaching of Elementary Music"

Folder 71: Letters on the book How to Study Music. 1920-1921

Folder 72-80, all from 1930's, Alphabetically by writer:

Folder 72: A-C; Folder 73: Birchard letters; Folder 74: D-E; Folder Folder 75: F, mainly Fowle; Folder 76: G, H, J; Folder 77: K, L; Folder 78: M, N, O, P; Folder 79: S-V; Folder 80: W.

Folder 81: correspondence with Prof. D. Snedden, 1917-1918, and incomplete letters to ?

Miscellaneous

Folder 82: Presser Foundation for Relief of Deserving Musicians, material on, 1933

Folder 83: Ancient Instruments, illustrated, ca. 1910, from dealer in Florence

Folder 84: Music supplies for teaching

Material from Others

Folder 85: Articles on Music in Public Schools, collected by CHF, 1916-1920

Folder 86: Articles on Music, 1904-1924, collected by CHF

Folder 87: Articles on Folk Music, collected by CHF, 1917-1919

Folder 87A: Words and Music for Songs, collected from others.

Folder 88: Sol-Fa Method, pamphlets and programs, printed, 1883,1905,1908Folder 89: paper by A.S. Garbett, of NBC, 'The New Psychology in American Music"

Folder 90: handwritten notes on Bergson, The Two Sources of Morality and Religion", 55 PP-

Folder 91: Student Vitae, 1920's, some handwritten, some typed, including C.W. Hughes. List of students 1921 -1922 wth short bio's.

Folder 92: Alumni: Association programs, correspondence, lists of, 1910-1922

Folder 93: Biographical material on CHF.
Article in School Music. 1933, by C.W. Hughes.
Notes on his life by CHF, in outline, 3 pp.
Biography, from Groves Dictionary, 1918,2pp.

"A Description of my Breathing Exercises", 1935.
Bibliography, 4 pp. list
Life of his mother, Caroline Palmer, pp, 2-7
Statement of work done in Music Department, 4 pp., 1900-1901
Contemporary tributes, 8 pp.
Memorabilia

Books

In Thetford Historical Society Library, by CHF:

Education Through Music. 1909
Folk Sonas. Chantevs and Sinaina Games, with Cecil Sharp Jr., n.d. 2 copies
Tonal Phrase Book. 1919
How to Study Music. 1920
The Whv and How of Musical Study. 1927
Short Studies in Musical Psychology. 1930