

DEERFIELD ACADEMY  
ARCHIVES



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**Orra White Hitchcock Collection, 1863-2011:  
Finding Aid**

**Summary Information**

**Location:** Deerfield Academy Archives, Deerfield, MA

**Title:** Orra White Hitchcock Collection, 1863-2011

**ID No.:** MSS010

**Creator:** Hitchcock, Orra White, 1796-1863

**Quantity:** 1 box, .5 linear ft.

**Abstract:** Collection of materials related to Orra White Hitchcock, artist and Deerfield Academy instructor from 1813-1818. Consists mainly of exhibit material, catalogs, and research.

**Administrative Information**

**Processing Information:** Processed by Anne Lozier, 2010, 2017

**Acquisition:** The Orra White Hitchcock Collection was transferred to the Academy Archives in various stages over time.

**Access:** Access to these papers is governed by the rules and regulations of the Deerfield Academy Archives. The collection is open to research without restrictions.

**Preferred citation:** [Identification of item], [Box #, folder #], in Orra White Hitchcock Collection, Deerfield Academy Archives, Deerfield, MA.

**Use Restrictions:** Deerfield Academy holds copyright on some, but not all, of the material in our collections. Researchers are responsible for identifying and contacting the persons or organizations who hold copyright. Deerfield Academy cannot provide permission to publish or distribute materials when it is not the copyright holder.

## **Biographical Note**

A scholar and artist, Orra White Hitchcock taught natural sciences, painting, and drawing at Deerfield Academy from 1813-1818. It was during this time that she created a painted herbarium, a 64-page album of watercolors depicting roughly 175 local flowers and grass specimens. The herbarium is based on her husband Edward Hitchcock's (Deerfield principal and third president of Amherst College) native plant collection, and is housed at the Deerfield Academy Archives. After moving to Amherst, she continued to provide illustrations for Edward's class lectures and books.

## **Scope and Content**

The Orra White Hitchcock Collection spans the years 1863-2011, and consists mainly of exhibit material and research articles related to Orra and her watercolor work on *Herbarium parvum, pictum*. Also included is a small number of biographical essays and articles about Orra. Material consists of 8 folders, arranged by subject.

## **Additional Index Terms**

The following entries represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection. THIS IS NOT AN INDEX.

### **People**

D'Arienzo, Daria  
Hitchcock, Orra White, 1796-1863  
Herbert, Robert L., 1929-

### **Organizations**

Deerfield Academy  
Mead Art Museum (Amherst College)

### **Subjects**

Botany  
Natural history illustration—United States  
Watercolors  
Women artists--Massachusetts  
*Herbarium parvum, pictum*. 1817-1821.

## Related materials

### [Herbarium parvum, pictum. 1817-1821.](#)

The inside cover has a notice signed by the donor, the artist's daughter Emily Hitchcock Terry (1838-1921). The leaves were detached at an unknown date and rejoined in pairs and triplets with lateral hinges; some are loose-leaf. Most of the watercolors, some with ink and pencil, are on off-white paper, 32.7 x 19.9. (Variant dimensions are listed.) Several bear the watermark "J. Green 1814." Eight of various sizes are laid down on pale blue stationery. Numbers penciled on versos (used here, preceded by "H") are by whomever reconstructed the album. There are 64 leaves with more than 100 watercolor images.

[Edward and Orra Hitchcock, Archives and Special Collections, Robert Frost Library, Amherst College](#)

# Container List

## BOX-FOLDER

## Contents

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1-1	Biographical – memorial, articles (photocopies)	1863-1992
1-2	Writings about	1989-1992
1-3	Writings about Hitchcock by D’Arienzo, Daria	2010-2011
1-4	Miscellaneous – Hitchcock research, articles, exhibit notes	1987-2010
1-5	Exhibit catalogs	1992, 2011
1-6	4x5 color transparencies of Herbarium watercolors (36 items)	1995
1-7	Photographs – lithographs, portrait, etc.	various
1-8	Printed notecards from Herbarium	1995