

Anne M. Nill's Will and Her Bequest  
To the Library of Congress  
Of Ethel Voynich's Unpublished Music

From [Voynichiana](#): documents, images, and  
research illuminating the lives of Wilfrid and Ethel Voynich and of  
Anne M. Nill, Wilfrid Voynich's assistant and Ethel's life-long companion after  
Voynich's death.)

Anne M. Nill's Will and Her Bequest  
To the Library of Congress  
Of Ethel Voynich's Unpublished Music

Anne M. Nill, Ethel Voynich's long-time companion, died September 24, 1961 in New York City. Anne, who had inherited all of Ethel's musical compositions and related articles (programs, essays, and the like) when Ethel died the year before (see [Ethel Lilian Voynich's Will](#)), bequeathed these to the Library of Congress.

The Library, under its equivalent of the Freedom of Information Act, released the following records related to Anne's bequest on September 6, 2011. The Library declined to make public its evaluation of Ethel's music or her importance as a composer.

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Page 4. Letter of attorney Samuel Weiser to the Library dated October 7, 1961, informing the Library of Anne Nill's bequest. Weiser's letter mentions her death date (September 24, 1961). Weiser was evidently hired by Anne's sister Emma Seilheimer to handle Anne's estate.

Page 5. Emma's letter to the Library dated October 23, 1961, asking that she be informed as quickly as possible whether the Library intends to accept Anne's bequest. Emma's letter also mentions Anne's death date.

Page 6. (Transcription of Emma's letter.)

Page 7. An undated, anonymous Memorandum of Call written at the Library asking someone to telephone Weiser for an estimate of the quantity of material in Anne's bequest.

Page 8. (Transcription of Memorandum of Call.)

Page 9. Letter of Nathan R. Einhorn, Assistant Chief, Gifts and Exchange Division of the Library, to Emma dated October 27, 1961 accepting Anne's bequest and instructing her how to pack and ship Ethel's music.

Page 10. Letter from Emma to Einhorn dated November 6, 1961 stating that the material was expressed to the Library on October 31, 1961 and suggesting the Library contact Herbert Davidson, Jr. if the Library did not wish to accept it. A hand-written note on the letter says, "We cannot do this" and is initialed "NE" [Nathan Einhorn].

Page 11. Letter of Robert C. Gooch, Director of Administration of the Library, dated November 7, 1961 to Weiser informing him that New York County (Manhattan) has sent the Library a copy of the notice of probate of Anne's will and requesting a copy of the will.

Page 12. Letter of Weiser dated November 8, 1961 to William J. Welsh at the Library asking for evaluation of the material for estate tax purposes.

Page 13. Memorandum from William S. Strauss, Assistant to the General Counsel of the Library, to Einhorn, dated November 15, 1961, stating that a file is attached "for further action." Written in hand on the memorandum is: "Gift – to reply that eval. would be sent."

Page 14. Library of Congress memorandum of receipt of material dated November 20, 1961.

Page 15. Memorandum dated November 20, 1961 from Einhorn to the Chief of the Order Division and to the Principal Evaluations Officer at the Library stating that the attorney for Anne's estate requests an evaluation of the Voynich material.

Page 16. Letter from Einhorn to Weiser dated November 28[?], 1961 (in response to Weiser's letter of November 8, 1961) promising to have Ethel's material evaluated.

Pages 17-18. Notice of probate of Anne's will dated October 31, 1961.

Pages 19-21. Anne's will of January 14, 1935 leaving to Ethel everything that Anne may be owed from Voynich's estate and all else to her sister Emma.

Pages 22-23. Codicil to Anne's will dated December 31, 1935 bequeathing Ethel's unpublished music to the Library.

SAMUEL WEISER  
COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
21 STUYVESANT OVAL  
NEW YORK 10011, N.Y.

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 1961  
NEW YORK

GR 5 3178

October 7, 1961

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Re: Est. of ANNE M. NILL (d. 9/24/61)

I represent Mrs. <sup>Emma</sup> Seilheimer of 117 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo 14, N. Y. Mrs. Seilheimer is the sister of Anne M. Nill, late of 450 W. 24th St., New York City. She is also the residuary legatee and the surviving designated executor under the Will of the above-named decedent.

A Codicil dated December 31, 1935, provides, in part, as follows: "Should I at the time of my death own any of the unpublished music of Ethel L. Voynich, then I give and bequeath the same to the Library of Congress of the United States."

Upon information and belief, unpublished music of Mrs. Voynich was owned by Anne M. Nill at the time of her death and was left by her at her 24th St. apartment. I haven't inspected the music and am, in fact, not qualified to appraise it. My client, too, disclaims ability to pass upon the artistic merits or the monetary worth of the said music.

Bearing in mind that the decedent's apartment is not at present under occupancy; that the apartment must be vacated before the end of the month; that the probate of the Will will be delayed because of non-residence and absence of subscribing witnesses; and that Mrs. Seilheimer can only be at the apartment on several days' notice, I write to inquire if you could furnish me the name, address, and telephone number of a representative of your library who resides in New York City whom you would authorize to examine the aforesaid music before the apartment is vacated with a view to determining whether your library would be inclined to accept the legacy.

Yours very truly

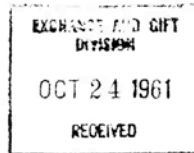
SW

*Samuel Weiser*

450's with 2 x 12 1/2

Nov. 11, 11.10.1961

Library of Congress  
Washington D.C.



Further:

Re: Est. of Louis M. Weiser & Co. 1961

In reply to your telephone conversation with Mr. Weiser, I wish to state that the firm will take a carton approximately 20x20x20". I am sorry I am not qualified to appraise this matter.

Would you advise Mr. Weiser as to myself promptly if you are willing to accept this offering? Mr. Weiser's offer will be considered the first of its kind.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

Samuel Weiser

Yours very truly

Samuel Weiser

SW

(Transcription of Emma Seilheimer letter to Library of Congress):

450 West 24<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York 11, N.Y. October 23, 1961.

Library of Congress  
Washington D.C.

Gentlemen:

Re. Est. of Anne M. Nill (d. 9/24/61).

In reply to your telephone conversation with Dr. Weiser I wish to state that the music will take a carton approximately 20x20x30". I am sorry I am not qualified to appraise this music.

Would you advise Dr. Weiser or myself promptly if you are inclined to accept this legacy? Miss Nill's apartment must be vacated the first of the month.

Thanking you for your prompt attention.

Very truly yours,

Emma Seilheimer

[Library of Congress stamp at the top of the letter:]

Exchange and Gift  
Division

OCT 24 1961  
RECEIVED

Form 63 (rev.)  
March 1959  
63-103

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

Date

Time

2:15

TO-

YOU WERE CALLED BY-

YOU WERE VISITED BY-

Mr. Spivack - 10 am

TELEPHONE:

Number or code

Extension

472

PLEASE CALL

WILL CALL AGAIN

RETURNING YOUR CALL

IS REFERRED TO YOU BY:

WAITING TO SEE YOU

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

LEFT THIS MESSAGE:

Lawyer could distribute  
items even before will is  
probated.

call mon. & ask him  
to give no extent of  
residential - the bulk

Received By-

October 7, 1961

LL (d. 9/24/61)

mer of 117 Humboldt  
eilheimer is the  
W. 24th St., New  
the residuary legatee and the  
under the Will of the

A Codicil dated December 31, 1935, provides, in part, as follows: "Should I at the time of my death own any of the unpublished music of Ethel L. Voynich, then I give and bequeath the same to the Library of Congress of the United States."

Upon information and belief, unpublished music of Mrs. Voynich was owned by Anne M. Nill at the time of her death and was left by her at her 24th St. apartment. I haven't inspected the music and am, in fact, not qualified to appraise it. My client, too, disclaims ability to pass upon the artistic merits or the monetary worth of the said music.

Re: -

RUSH

Spivack

10 am

(Transcription of Memorandum of Call):

Rush

YOU WERE CALLED BY Mr. Spivack – call 10 a.m.

Extension 472

Please call.

Lawyer could distribute  
items even before will is  
probated.

Call Mon. and ask him  
to give us extent of  
material – the bulk.



*Make Folder*

October 27, 1961

Dear Mrs. Seilheimer:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 24, 1961, and the information contained therein about the unpublished music of Ethel E. Voynich, bequeathed to the Library of Congress by the late Anne E. Mill. MILL

The Library is glad to accept this bequest. We should appreciate your packing this music into one carton and forwarding it to us express collect. I enclose an address label which may be used on the carton to direct it to the proper section. Would you please inform the express company that the carton should be shipped to us on a commercial Bill of Lading marked to be converted to government Bill of Lading upon arrival at destination?

We are grateful both to you and to Mr. Weiser for your efforts on behalf of the Library of Congress in connection with this bequest.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan R. Finhorn  
Assistant Chief  
Exchange and Gift Division

Enclosure: label

Mrs. Anne Seilheimer post 10/27/61  
c/o A. E. Hill  
10 West 24th Street  
New York 11, New York

br: Mr. Samuel Weiser post 10/27/61  
Counselor At Law  
21 Stuyvesant Oval  
New York 10, New York

br: Music Division 10/27/61  
Mail and Delivery Section

NRE:imp  
10/27/61

*Notify NRE when received*

**E & G FILE COPY**

117 Humboldt Pkwy.  
Buffalo 14, N. Y.

November 6, 1961.

The Library of Congress  
Processing Department  
Exchange and Gift Division  
Washington 25, D. C.

NOV 9 1961  
RECEIVED

Gentlemen:           Att'n Mr. Nathan R. Einhorn

The unpublished music of Ethel L. Voynich bequeathed to you by my sister, Anne M. Nill, was expressed to you on October 31st., 1961.

The packer advised me to pack this music into three cartons to make handling easier. The express company complied with your special shipping instructions but it was necessary however, to make two additional address labels. I trust the cartons will arrive properly at their destination.

If for some reason your library finds it is not interested in this music, would you be kind enough to contact -

Mr. Herbert Davidson, Jr.  
1608 North Oleander Ave.  
Daytona Beach, Florida

Mr. Davidson, as I understand, worked on this music with Mrs. Voynich and is extremely interested in it.

Sincerely,

*Emmeline Lett Keene*

We  
cannot  
do this  
NE

CLERK  
Nill, Anne M.

November 7, 1961

Dear Mr. Weiser:

The Surrogate's Court, County of New York, State of New York has sent the Library of Congress a notice of probate of the will of Anne M. Nill, late of New York. It appears from this notice that Mrs. Emma Seilheimer is the proponent of that will and the Library of Congress, on behalf of the United States, is one of the beneficiaries. We would greatly appreciate your sending us a copy of the above will so that we may determine the contents of the bequest.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

*RJW*  
for Robert C. Gooch  
Director of Administration

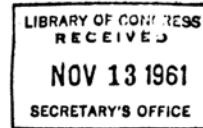
Mr. Samuel Weiser  
21 Stuyvesant Oval  
New York, New York

WSS:mrc

*HA LK*

RECEIVED 10:20  
NOV 7 1961  
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.

SAMUEL WEISER  
COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
21 STUYVESANT OVAL  
NEW YORK 9. N. Y.  
GR 5-3178



November 8, 1961

Mr. William J. Welsh  
Administrative Department  
Library of Congress  
Washington 25, D. C.

RE: Est. of Anne M. Nill, Deceased.

Dear Sir:

Complying with the request contained in your letter of November 7, I am enclosing a copy of the Will and of the Codicil of the above-named decedent. Letters Testamentary were duly issued to the sister of the above-named decedent, Mrs. Emma Seilheimer, 117 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo 14, N. Y.

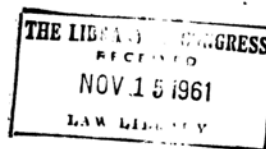
On or about October 31, 1961, Mrs. Seilheimer sent the unpublished music referred to in the Codicil by Railway Express Agency, under Receipt No. 177-026, to Mr. Nathan R. Einhorn, Exchange & Gift Division, Library of Congress, and you can determine the "contents of the bequest" by communicating with Mr. Einhorn.

For estate tax purposes, I would appreciate it if you, Mr. Einhorn, or someone else in your library would favor me with a statement, preferably in affidavit form, of the monetary value of the bequest as soon as the same has been determined.

Yours very truly

*Samuel Weiser*

SW  
ENC.  
cc Mrs. Seilheimer



*11-50*  
RECEIVED  
*WJW*  
NOV 13 1961  
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

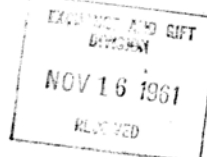
TO : Nathan R. Einhorn, Acting Chief  
Exchange and Gift Division

FROM : William S. Strauss  
Assistant to the General Counsel

SUBJECT: Estate of Anne M. Nill, Deceased.

DATE: November 15, 1961

I am sending you the attached file for  
further action in accordance with our telephone conver-  
sation.



*Left -*  
*To reply that eval. will*  
*be sent. ~~as soon as~~ as +*

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
EXCHANGE AND GIFT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM OF RECEIPT OF MATERIAL

Originally received at Library

by Exchange and Gift Division

November 20, 1961 19

Description

Three cartons containing a collection of unpublished music of  
Ethel L. Voynich (bequeathed to LC by the late Anne M. Nill)

*243 pieces by Eth 12/14/61  
201 RM 12/14/61*

Number of

Prints (fine arts) ..... Photos ..... Periodical issues .....

Microfilm (reels or strips) ..... Manuscripts ..... Maps and Charts .....

Music ..... Records ..... Volumes and Pamphlets ..... Photostats .....

Other .....

Acquired by gift, ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~

SOURCE (name and address) Mrs. Emma Seilheimer  
c/o A.M. Nill  
450 West 24th Street  
New York 11, N.Y.

Sent to Music Division

Received 12/14 1961

By ST

For Music Division

65-8 (3/53)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TO : 1. Chief, Order Division  
2. Principal Evaluations Officer

DATE: November 20, 1961

FROM : Nathan R. Einhorn, Acting Chief  
Exchange and Gift Division

SUBJECT: Evaluation of a bequest from the late Anne M. Nill

The attorney for the estate of the late Anne M. Nill has requested an evaluation of a collection of unpublished music manuscripts of Ethel L. Voynich which Miss Nill bequeathed to the Library of Congress. Would you please prepare an evaluation of this collection? The manuscripts have been forwarded to the Music Division.

Thank you.

*Ed. Hoff*

Refer to: AG  
NOV 29 1961

Dear Mr. Weiser:

As requested in your letter of November 8, to Mr. Welsh,  
I shall see that you receive an evaluation of the collection of  
unpublished music of Ethel L. Veynisch which has come to the  
Library through a bequest of the late Anne M. Mill.

With thanks for your efforts on behalf of the Library  
of Congress, I am

Sincerely yours,

Nathan K. Einhorn  
Acting Chief  
Exchange and Gift Division

Mr. Samuel Weiser  
21 Stuyvesant Oval  
New York 9, New York

DTK:gmh  
11/28/61

brc: Music Division

brc: Mrs. Emma Seilheimer  
c/o A. M. Nill  
450 West 24th Street  
New York 11, New York

S. O. CHARGE 1960-61  
WEISER, SAMUEL

*Shwa*  
**E&G FILE COPY**



State of New York  
 Surrogate's Court, County of New York

Probate Proceeding, Will of

ANNE M. NILL

Deceased.

Notice of Probate

P 3196 196<sup>1</sup>

Notice is hereby given that the Last Will and Testament of

ANNE M. NILL

late of the City of New York, County of New York and State of  
 New York has been offered for probate in the Surrogate's Court of the County of New York,  
 that the proponent of said Will is EDMA SEILHETMER  
 residing at 117 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo 14, New York

and that the following are the names and post-office addresses of the legatees, devisees and  
 other beneficiaries as set forth in the petition herein who have not been cited or have not  
 appeared or waived citation; and as to such persons as are infants or incompetents, the names  
 and post-office addresses of the persons to whom an additional copy of the Notice of Probate  
 is required to be mailed:

Name

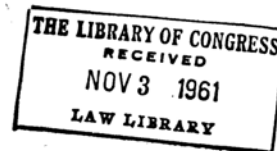
Post-Office Address

Library of Congress of  
 United States

Washington 25, D. C.

RECEIVED 4:55  
 NOV 1 1961  
 ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.

RECEIVED 10:20  
 NOV 7 1961  
 ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.



Dated, October 31, 1961

SAMUEL WEISER

Attorney for Petitioner.

Office and Post Office Address 21 Stuyvesant Oval, New York 9, N. Y.

STATE OF NEW YORK }  
COUNTY OF New York ss.:

Samuel Weiser, residing at 21 Stuyvesant Oval  
New York, N. Y., being duly sworn, says that he is over the age of 21 years,  
that on the 31st day of October, 1961, he deposited in the post office  
or in a post-office box regularly maintained by the government of the United States in the City  
of New York State of New York, a copy of the foregoing Notice of Probate contained in a  
securely closed, post-paid wrapper directed to each of the above named persons, at the places set opposite  
their respective names.

Sworn to before me this 31st day  
of October, 1961

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I, ANNE M. HILL, of the City of New York, do hereby make, publish and declare the following to be my Last Will and Testament.

FIRST: I hereby give and bequeath to Ethel L. Voynich my entire interest in and to the Estate of Wilfrid M. Voynich, deceased, including such commissions as I may be entitled to for the administration thereof and any and all legacies to which I may be entitled under the Last Will and Testament of Wilfrid M. Voynich, deceased. This gift, however, is subject to the prior payment therefrom of any and all obligations which I may have undertaken with respect to any of the assets of said Estate or with respect to any of the creditors of the said Estate or with respect to any of the legatees under the Will of the said Wilfrid M. Voynich, deceased.

SECOND: All the rest, residue and remainder of my property of every nature and wheresoever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to my sister, Emma Seilheimer, the wife of Frederick Seilheimer of Buffalo, New York.

THIRD: I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Ethel L. Voynich to be the Executor of and under this my Last Will and Testament. In the event that said Ethel L. Voynich fails to qualify as such Executor or ceases to remain as such, then I hereby nominate and appoint my sister, Emma Seilheimer, as Executor of and under this my Last Will and Testament. I further direct that no bond or other security shall be required of either of my said Executors.

FOURTH: I hereby revoke any and all other Wills and/or Codicils heretofore executed by me.

A.M.N.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
and seal at the City of New York, this 14th day of January  
in the year One thousand nine hundred and thirty-five.

WITNESSES:

Samuel M. Fisher

Alice M. Donahue

Anne M. Nill (L.S.)

The foregoing instrument was on the  
14th day of January, 1935, signed, sealed,  
published and declared by the above named  
Testatrix, ANNE M. NILL, to be her Last  
Will and Testament in the presence of us,  
who thereupon at her request and in her  
presence and in the presence of each other  
have subscribed our names as witnesses  
thereto; this attestation clause having been  
read over to said Testatrix in an audible  
voice in her and our presence and hearing  
and she thereupon signifying her assent  
thereto immediately before our subscription  
thereto.

Samuel M. Fisher . . . . . 1192 Park Ave. New York City

Alice M. Donahue . . . . . 7 Sunset Ave. Glen Cove, N. Y.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I, ARNOLD H. MILL, of the City of New York, do hereby make, publish and declare the following as and for a CODICIL to my Last Will and Testament heretofore executed by me on the 14th day of January, 1935.

FIRST:- Should I at the time of my death own any of the unpublished music of Ethel L. Voynich, then I give and bequeath the same to the Library of Congress of the United States.

SECOND:- Except insofar as it is hereby modified by this Codicil, I hereby republish and redeclare my said Last Will and Testament dated the 14th day of January, 1935.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at the City of New York this 31st day of December in the year One thousand nine hundred and thirty-five.

WITNESSES:  
Samuel M. Fisher  
Alice M. Donahue

Anne M. Will

L.S.

The foregoing instrument was on the 31st day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-five, duly signed by ANNE M. WILL, the Testatrix therein named, in our presence and in the presence of each of us, and she thereupon duly published and declared the same as a Codicil to her Last Will and Testament; and we thereupon on the same day in her presence and in the presence of each other, at her request, signed our names as witnesses thereto; this attestation clause having been first read to said Testatrix in an audible voice, in her presence and in the presence of each of us, and she having assented thereto.

Samuel M. Fisher . . . . . 1192 Park Ave. New York City .

Alice M. Donahue . . . . . 7 Sunset Ave., Glen Cove, New York