

Edith Wharton and Religion
A Special Issue of The Edith Wharton Review

We invite papers exploring any aspect of religion, spirituality, and the sacred in Wharton's work, including the afterlives of religion in gothic, aestheticism, or satire. How does Wharton conceptualize belief, spirituality, or religious tradition within modernity? What place does the sacred have in her writing, and where are the sacred spaces in her work? Are there distinctive features to Wharton's discussions of religious architecture or sacred art? What interactions take place between Wharton's fiction and the Bible, or religious texts and genres? How does Wharton's anthropological eye address religious movements, practices, or characters? Do recent studies in religious history illuminate new aspects of Wharton's fiction? Can Wharton's writing contribute any insights to current post-secular discourse? What does it mean to read Wharton in an age of religious terror? We welcome studies of Wharton in relation to Islam, Judaism, and alternative spiritualities addressed within her work, in addition to the Christianity most familiar to her. We encourage attention to lesser known texts, such as "The Seed of the Faith," as well as canonical novels like The House of Mirth. Essays should be 4,000-6,000 words in length and submitted online to The Edith Wharton Review with a note that it is for the "Wharton and Religion" Special Issue. Deadline: August 1, 2017.