

# Grey Friars, Colchester

## *Postcards from the Convent era 1903-1919*



*(with translations)*



Note of thanks on a post card from Adrienne Herbert, one of the senior nuns, to a parent, signing on behalf of the Ladies of Nazareth. August 11<sup>th</sup> 1912





14<sup>th</sup> August 1912 We send all three of you, as well as my little (?) ... lots of love, and best wishes to (Maurice?) ... We are finishing this week in England. The weather is dry but very cold. (A.?)

*The mature hand may suggest that this card was written by one of the nuns. A number, including the mother superior of the convent, Adrienne de Neckere, have names beginning 'A'.*



"Grey Friars," Convent, Colchester: High Altar.

Best wishes to you and yours, my dear aunt. I often think of you and pray for you all, but I shall do so even more especially at the beginning of this new year.

How is Albert? And the little ones?

Give Marguerite my love, but my very best love I send to you.

Your niece who loves you, Jeanne







How is my English progressing? It's getting better. I'm starting to read(?) a few sentences. There's a lot I don't understand. After Christmas, I hope it will be more interesting. The cold weather isn't snowy, often it's just grey skies like we have at home. Frosts are rare and snow hasn't fallen yet. Do you know, or at least, have you learnt any new songs like the ones you sang at Marquise(?). Lots of love.



9<sup>th</sup> October 1910

Dear Loulou I am very pleased to know you have so much enjoyed yourself at the ??; I am sorry not to have been with you  
Many kisses from your sister. Suzanne

*In the 1911 census Suzanne Rondot is listed as a 16-year-old student boarder*



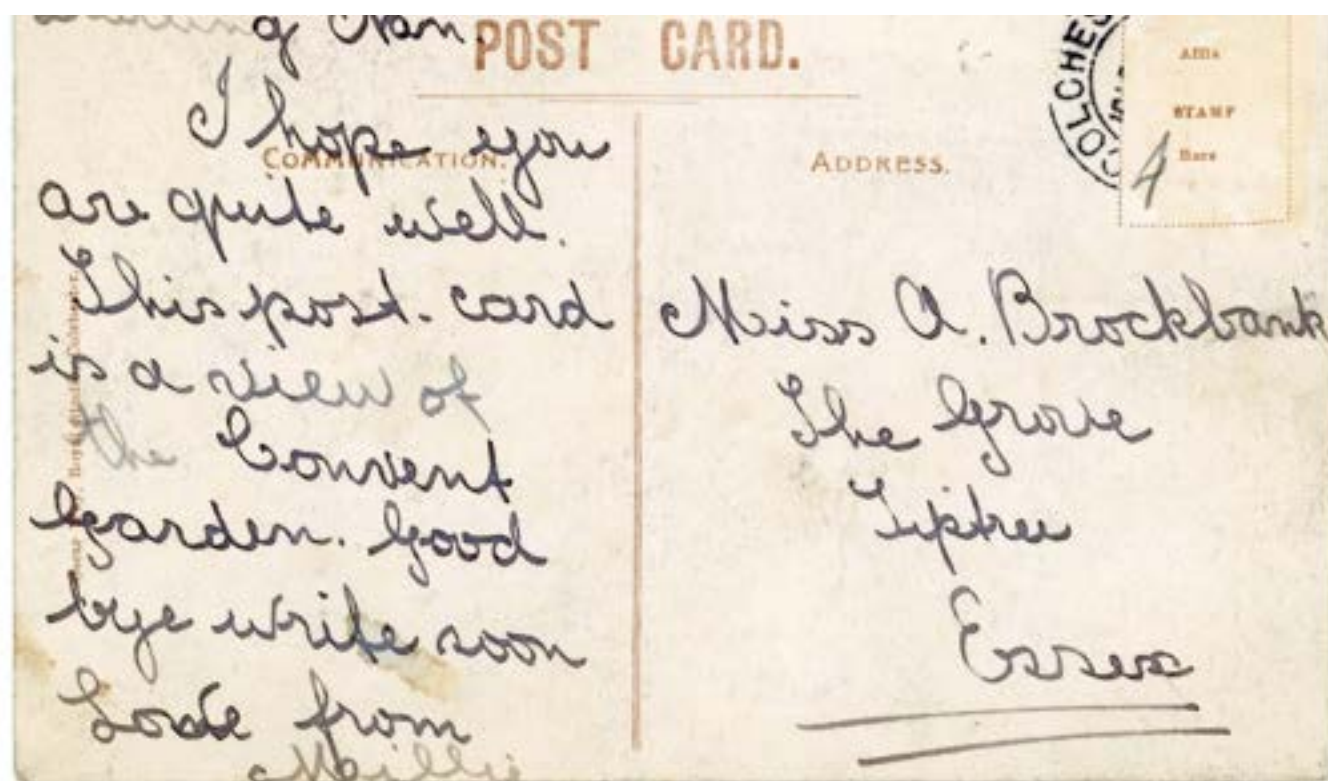


Posted July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1911

Sunday. My dear Anne-Marie. Just a short note to give you my news. Yesterday was a delightful day which I will tell you about. All the Manier family arrived. When are you leaving for Boulogne? Yesterday I received your lovely letters; thank you. The (jobs/tasks) will be done. I was very annoyed to hear that poor Charlotte has not looked after this photo carefully for me. See you soon. The children are leaving tomorrow at 2 o'clock, after (prayers). With love, Suzy.

*In the 1911 census, Suzanne Dailly is listed as a 17-year-old student boarder  
 "Suzy" may have been Suzanne Bondot, a 16-year-old student boarder*





Dear Nan. I hope you are quite well. This post card is a view of the convent garden. Good bye write soon Love from Meillie

*The houses in the background are located in Roman Road.*





*posted March 9<sup>th</sup> 1908*

My dear Genevieve.

Thank you so much for your letter which I was delighted to receive.

This card shows a little corner of the Convent garden.

Please give my best wishes to my big brother and lots of love to you.

From your sister-in-law, Agnes.

1999



### THE STUDY ROOM



## THE REFECTORY

*Sent 1st June 1908*

My dear  
Genevieve. I am  
still waiting for  
your news and I  
haven't given up  
hoping to see  
you here one  
day, as you  
were supposed  
to be coming to  
England in May.  
You will see the  
seats where I  
study in the  
classroom and  
where I sit in  
the dining room;  
they are shown  
with an x.

Please give my love to Maurice and ask him to write to me in English. Lots of love from your sister Agnes.





*A postcard not believed to be issued by the Convent, but depicting Hillcrest (far right) which was the dwelling house for the nuns.*

*It shows the doorway (bottom right) to a passageway which originally led through the Hillcrest building itself, directly to the rear garden of Grey Friars House.*

*This doorway was filled in and replaced by a window when grey Friars and Hillcrest were joined-up by the building of the west wing in conversion to the convent school.*

*There is no tramway infrastructure so the photo must be pre-1904.*





I am sending you this card showing the street where I am staying; you can see part of it on the right.

Have all my cards from Clacton arrived?

Is there any news from Reims?

Yesterday I went for a walk in Colchester; I visited the castle where there are Roman (remains/ruins). Very interesting.

Is it hot in Reims? Here the weather isn't very good. For two days the wind has been quite strong at night and it is quite cold.

I was looking forward to hearing from you today with replies to my questions.

With much love to you and Jean and everyone.





My dear Aunt, I chose this postcard to send you my thanks because this Christ (previously in our house in England) is now in Boulogne. Perhaps you have seen it; it will remind you of Anne-Marie.

Thank you for your long letter and the photos, I'm returning the ones that I enjoyed seeing. Thank you also for the book of stamps.

I'm delighted at the prospect of your visit and thanks you for that in advance.

I received a note from Claire and from Anne-Marie to whom I have also written, something I do not often do! But we know that we often meet at the Tabernacle.

I am praying for Jean. With much love, your little niece, Yvonne.

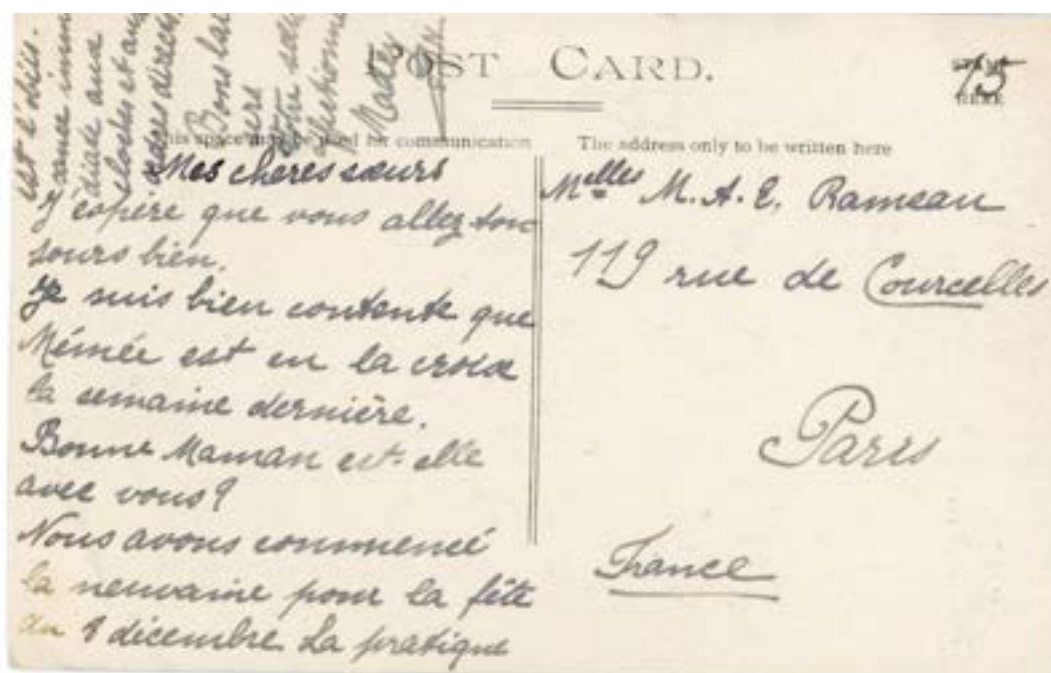
*This card appears to have been written after 1919 when the nuns left Grey Friars and returned to the Continent. Their belongings reputedly filled two barges at the Hythe.*



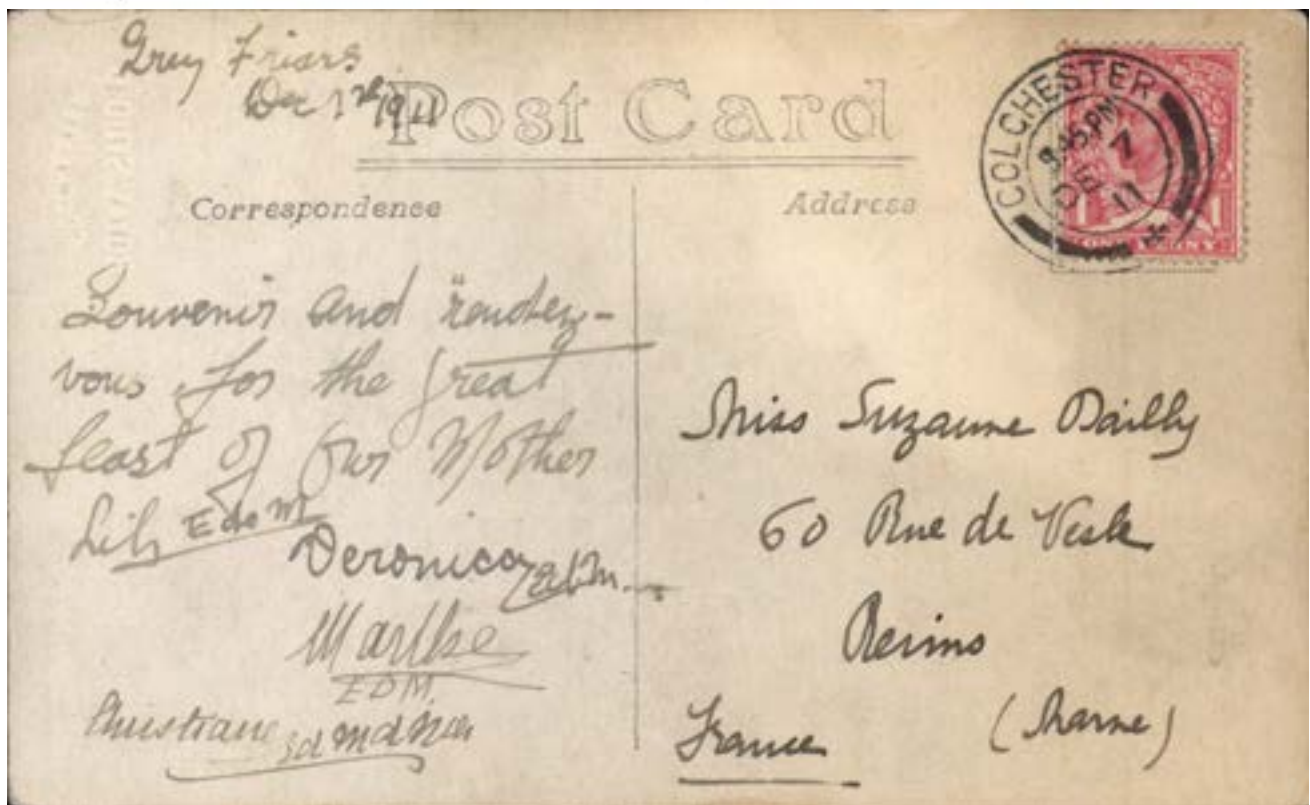
My dear sisters  
 I hope you are well.  
 I'm very pleased that  
 Granny was in the  
 ...(?).. last week. Is  
 mother still with you?  
 We have started the  
 novena for the  
 celebration of  
 December 8<sup>th</sup>. In  
 practice this means  
 immediately obeying  
 the bells and direct  
 orders.  
 Lots of love from your  
 loving sister.

*Margueritte and Marie  
 Rameau are listed in the  
 1911 census as 14 and 15-  
 year-old boarding pupils.*

*A novena is a nine-day  
 period of prayer to implore  
 special favours, petitions or  
 graces. Novena is derived  
 from the Latin novem,  
 meaning nine. Many  
 Novenas are set by the  
 liturgical calendar and are  
 tied to specific feast days.*







Suzanne Dailly is listed in the 1911 census as a 17-year-old boarding student.

Lily McCarthy is a 17-year-old boarder from Cork, Ireland.

Veronica is a 16-year-old boarder from London.

Marthe is a 16-year-old boarder from France.

There is no listing for Christianne in 1911.

*“E de M” probably refers to “Enfants de Marie” a movement who dedicate themselves to the Blessed Mother and wear a medal attached to a broad blue ribbon.*



Top of EAST HILL. CHESTER.

# POST CARD.

The Postal Postage this Space, as well as the Back, may now be used for Communication.

For Foreign Postage the Back only. (Post Office Regulations).

The addresses only to be written here.



Monsieur Gustave  
 11, rue du Champ de Mars  
 Reims  
 (Marne)  
 France



The study room where I keep my things.



You can't see my seat; my table is right next to the window.



*Probably meant to read:*

“Good morning my cousin.

Five more days and we shall be at Grey Friars.

Camille.”

*(sent from France to Miss Faucillon who is obviously already in England)*





Dear Madeleine ... (?) the (separation? *poss. refers to Christmas break?*) won't be too long now. In a dozen days I shall be back in St.Omer, ... I am really looking forward to my return – it's (ineffable/indescribably/inexpressible?) We can take up again our post card (collection/exchange?) I hope you will do the same as me and that (.....) This week the term exams begin. I leave you with love and kisses and regards to (...) and (...).

*Sent on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1909, twelve days before Christmas*





"Lots of love to you, little Me'e(?), and to Claude. I've marked our bedroom with a cross."

The census of 1911 lists 15-year-old Marguerite Rameau as a boarding pupil.





F. ARTIS.

Convent of Nazareth, Grey Friars, Colchester.

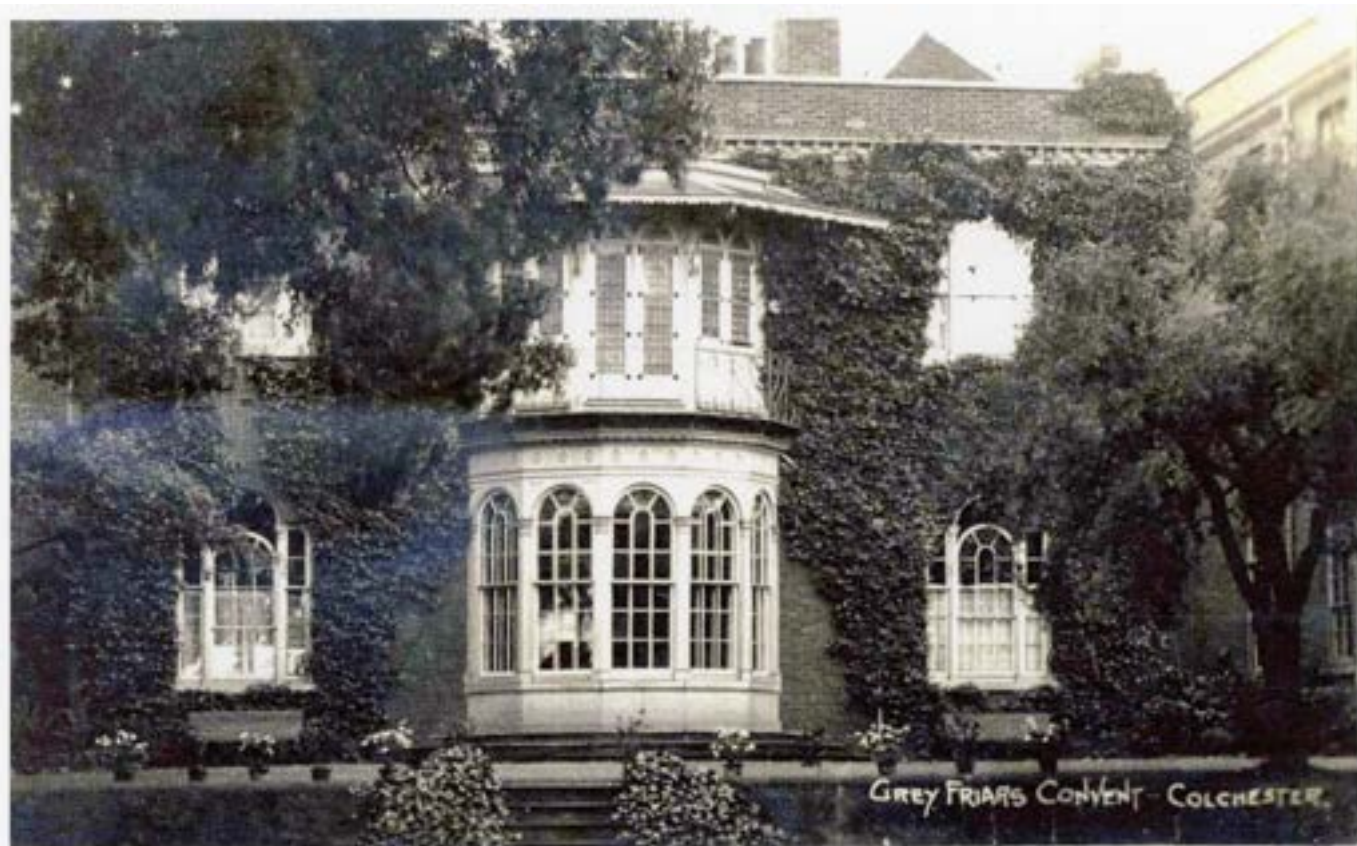
DEDHAM.







*Grey Friars Convent, Colchester*



GREY FRIARS CONVENT - COLCHESTER.





*Grey Friars Convent, Colchester. Grounds*

*The location of the view on the next card has not yet been identified:*



*Grey Friars Convent, Colchester. Chapel of the Children of Mary*









*"Grey Friars," Convent, Colchester: Corridor and Staircase.*



*"Grey Friars" Convent, Colchester: Conservatory from Grounds.*



