Collection Summary
Title: Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray Papers
Span Dates: 1940-1984
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1944-1975)
ID No.: MSS83013
Creator: Flanner, Janet, 1892-
Creator: Murray, Natalia Danesi
Extent: 4,500 items
Extent: 13 containers
Extent: 5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm94083013
Summary: Papers of Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray, journalists, writers, and editors. Correspondence, writings, notes, reviews, printed material, financial records, photographs and other papers relating primarily to the last decade of Flanner's writing career and to the relationship between Flanner and Murray.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Flanner, Janet, 1892-1978.
Flanner, Janet, 1892-1978. Paris was yesterday. 1972.

Subjects
Americans--France--Paris.

Places
Rive gauche (Paris, France)--Intellectual life.

Titles
New Yorker (New York, N.Y.: 1925)

Occupations
Authors.
Editors.
Journalists.

Provenance
The papers of Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray, journalists, writers, and editors, were conveyed to the Library of Congress in 1994 by William Murray as the bequest of his mother, Natalia Danesi Murray.

Related Material
Related collections in the Library of Congress include the Janet Flanner - Solita Solano Papers in the Manuscript Division.
Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray in these papers is claimed by William Murray.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Janet Flanner-Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note
Janet Flanner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1892, Mar. 13</td>
<td>Born, Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-1913</td>
<td>Student, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Drama editor, Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Married William Lane Rehm (divorced, 1926)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moved to New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-1922</td>
<td>Toured Greece, Crete, Turkey, Italy, Austria, and Germany with Solita Solano, who was on assignments from National Geographic magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Settled in Paris, France, among the American expatriates on the Left Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Published first &quot;Letter from Paris&quot; in The New Yorker (Oct. 10) under the pen name Genêt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-1977</td>
<td>Contributed to The New Yorker and numerous other periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Published The Cubical City (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 426 pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Moved to New York after the German army captured Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Published An American in Paris: Profile of an Interlude Between Two Wars (New York: Simon and Schuster. 53 pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1944</td>
<td>Resided with Natalia Danesi Murray, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Published Pétain: The Old Man of France (New York: Simon and Schuster. 53 pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Returned to Paris, France, and resumed work as foreign correspondent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Decorated, Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor for locating stolen French art in Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Published Men and Monuments (New York: Harper. 297 pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>National Book Award for Paris Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Published Paris Was Yesterday (New York: Viking Press. 232 pp.), edited by Irving Drutman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Elevated to the rank of Grande Maitre in the French Legion of Honor, the highest civilian honor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1975
Published last "Letter from Paris" in *The New Yorker* (Sept. 29)
Moved to New York, N.Y., to live with Natalia Danesi Murray

1978, Nov. 7
Died, New York, N.Y.

**Natalia Danesi Murray**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1901, Dec. 14 | Born, Rome, Italy
| 1924        | Immigrated to the United States; married William B. Murray (d. 1949), American music critic and agent (divorced, circa 1935) |
| 1938-1944   | Wrote, directed, produced, and announced a radio program of news and interviews broadcast to Italy for NBC |
| 1940-1944   | Resided with Janet Flanner, New York, N.Y.                             |
| 1944        | Director, press bureau, Office of War Information, Rome, Italy         |
| 1945        | Head, Special Projects Division, United States Information Service, Rome, Italy |
| 1946        | Freelance correspondent, Italy                                        |
| 1951        | Moved to New York, N.Y., to head the American office of the Italian publisher Arnoldo Mondadori of Milan |
| 1966        | Appointed vice president, Rizzoli Editore Corp., New York, N.Y.       |
| 1972        | Decorated, Order of Cavaliere al Merito by the Italian Republic       |
| 1994        | Died, San Diego, Calif.                                               |

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Janet Flanner (1892-1978) and Natalia Danesi Murray (1901-1994) span the years 1940-1984 with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1944-1975. The collection includes correspondence, writing notes, drafts, corrected galleys, and off prints, review clippings, financial records, photographs, and printed material. The papers are organized in two series: Janet Flanner Papers and Natalia Danesi Murray Papers.

*Janet Flanner's papers* largely concern the last decade of her writing career. Her books were compiled from *New Yorker* essays, selected and edited by William Shawn and Irving Drutman. Files are scant for *Paris Journal*, volumes one and two (1965, 1971), and *London Was Yesterday* (1975). Files for *Paris Was Yesterday* (1972) are more comprehensive and include corrected galleys and publicity files. Flanner's original essays for *The New Yorker* during this period look back to her early literary efforts and life among the writers, publishers, artists, and personalities on the Left Bank in Paris during the interwar years, figures such as Colette, Pablo Picasso, Margaret Anderson, Sylvia Beach, Gertrude Stein, and Alice B. Toklas. A notable exception is the small file of radio scripts dated 1945 and written in Rome as Flanner reported to an American audience on the war's end and aftermath in Europe.

*Natalia Danesi Murray's papers* concern her relationship with Janet Flanner. Their correspondence, 1944-1977, is almost entirely composed of Flanner's letters to Murray, although copies of a few of Murray's letters to Flanner are included. Flanner's letters to Murray provide a detailed and personal record of those thirty years, a contrast to the detached reporting in the "Letters" by Génet, Flanner's *New Yorker* pseudonym/persona. The letters trace the course of Flanner's health and emotions and are full of observations on friends, family, acquaintances, and comments about her writing assignments, entertainments, politics, and current news events.

Murray published about half of Flanner's letters in *Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend* (1985). She selected and edited the letters and wrote introductions, commentaries, and footnotes. Documentation for *Darlinghissima* includes annotated exact copies and transcripts of the letters, early and revised drafts of the text, and notes, with lists of letters considered for...
publication. A final chapter by Murray, not published in the book, concerns the three years they lived together in New York until Flanner's death in 1978.

Murray had a memorial service for Flanner, received condolence letters and collected a file of obituaries which are preserved in the Flanner file. On occasion, Murray acted as literary representative for Flanner, which accounts for a small file of publicity records. After Flanner's death, Murray arranged for the publication in 1979 of Janet Flanner's World: Uncollected Writings, 1932-1975, records of which are in Murray's Flanner file.

Murray's papers also include miscellaneous correspondence, some in Italian and French, from family, associates, and friends such as Kay Boyle and Carson McCullers. The McCullers file includes a typescript of her children's poems, eventually published in the book Sweet as a Pickle and Clean as a Pig (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1964) and other poetry, 1951 and undated. Murray's correspondence with Noel Haskins Murphy concerns their shared responsibility in attending to the aging Flanner's health and well being.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:
- Janet Flanner Papers, 1940-1978
- Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, 1944-1984
# Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-2</td>
<td><strong>Janet Flanner Papers, 1940-1978</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, notes, drafts, corrected galleys, offprints, review clippings, financial records, and printed matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by subject, title, or type of document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2-13</td>
<td><strong>Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, 1944-1984</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, drafts, notes, photographs, clippings, and additional printed matter.</td>
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| BOX 1-2   | **Janet Flanner Papers, 1940-1978**  
Correspondence, notes, drafts, corrected galleys, offprints, review clippings, financial records, and printed matter.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject, title, or type of document. |
| BOX 1     | American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, 1978  
Clippings, 1974-1978, undated  
Correspondence, 1950, 1972-1978, undated  
Financial records, 1974-1978  
Writings  
  Afterword, *Cubical City* reprint, 1975, undated  
  Introduction, *Colette: The Difficulty of Loving*, by Margaret Crosland, undated  
  *London Was Yesterday*, 1974  
  Miscellaneous draft fragments and notes, 1972, undated  
  "Moura Budberg," undated  
  *New Yorker* articles  
    Miscellaneous, 1940-1973  
    "Profile: Margaret Anderson," (3 June 1974)  
    Correspondence and notes, 1973  
    Drafts, undated  
    Galleys, edited by Flanner, 1974  
| BOX 2     | "Oriana" [Falacci], 1973  
*Paris Journal*, 1966-1972  
*Paris Was Yesterday*  
  Galleys, edited by Flanner, 1972, undated  
  (2 folders)  
  Publicity, 1972  
  Review clippings, 1972-1973  
Prefaces  
  *J'aime Paris*, undated  
  *Published in Paris*, by Hugh Ford, 1973, undated  
  *The Pure and the Impure*, by Colette, 1967, undated  
Radio scripts, 1945 |
| BOX 2-13  | **Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, 1944-1984**  
Correspondence, drafts, notes, photographs, clippings, and additional printed matter.  
Organized in two groupings, Janet Flanner file and other papers, and thereunder, alphabetically by subject or type of document. |
<p>| BOX 2     | Janet Flanner file |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| BOX 3     | Correspondence  
            1944-1946  
            (6 folders)  
            1947-1952  
            (13 folders)  
| BOX 4     | 1953-1960  
            (12 folders)  
| BOX 5     | 1961-1964  
            (9 folders)  
| BOX 6     | 1965-1968  
            (10 folders)  
| BOX 7     | 1969-1977  
            (12 folders)  
| BOX 8     | Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend  
            Biographical notes, undated  
            Book proposal, undated  
            (3 folders)  
            Correspondence, 1981-1984  
            Lists of letters (1944-1950) used and not used, undated  
            Notes, undated  
            Text, by chapter, undated  
            "1944"  
            (2 folders)  
            "1945"-"1952"  
            (14 folders)  
| BOX 9     | "1953"-"1963"  
            (13 folders)  
| BOX 10    | "1964"-"1972"  
            (15 folders)  
| BOX 11    | "1973"-"1975-1978"  
            (4 folders)  
| BOX 12    | Death of Flanner  
            Condolence letters, 1978-1979  
            (3 folders)  
            Memorial service and miscellany, 1978  
            Obituaries, 1978  
| BOX 13    | Literary representative  
            Awards sought  
            French Legion of Honor, 1972  
            Journalism award, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1972  
            (3 folders)  
| Other     | Other papers  
            Correspondence  
            Boyle, Kay, 1946-1951  
            McCullers, Carson, 1946, 1951, undated (includes poem typescripts)  
            (2 folders)  

Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray Papers
Miscellaneous, 1947-circa 1980, undated
  (2 folders)
Murphy, Noel Haskins, 1962-1975, undated
  (3 folders)
Interview transcript, "La Donna del Mondo," circa 1950