

Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1996

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm94083013>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001015>

Prepared by Nan Thompson Ernst

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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

Boyle, Kay, 1902-1992.

Flanner, Janet, 1892-1978.

Flanner, Janet, 1892-1978. *Darlinghissima: letters to a friend.* 1985.

Flanner, Janet, 1892-1978. *Janet Flanner's world: uncollected writings, 1932-75.* 1979.

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

McCullers, Carson, 1917-1967.

Murray, Natalia Danesi. *Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray papers.* 1940-1984.

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Copyright in the unpublished writings of Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray in these papers is claimed by William Murray.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

Date	Event
1892, Mar. 13	Born, Indianapolis, Ind.
1912-1913	Student, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1917	Drama editor, <i>Indianapolis Star</i> , Indianapolis, Ind.
1918	Married William Lane Rehm (divorced, 1926) Moved to New York, N.Y.
1921-1922	Toured Greece, Crete, Turkey, Italy, Austria, and Germany with Solita Solano, who was on assignments from <i>National Geographic</i> magazine
1922	Settled in Paris, France, among the American expatriates on the Left Bank
1925	Published first "Letter from Paris" in <i>The New Yorker</i> (Oct. 10) under the pen name Genêt
1925-1977	Contributed to <i>The New Yorker</i> and numerous other periodicals
1926	Published <i>The Cubical City</i> (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 426 pp.)
1940	Moved to New York after the German army captured Paris Published <i>An American in Paris: Profile of an Interlude Between Two Wars</i> (New York: Simon and Schuster. 53 pp.)
1940-1944	Resided with Natalia Danesi Murray, New York, N.Y.
1944	Published <i>Pétain: The Old Man of France</i> (New York: Simon and Schuster. 53 pp.) Returned to Paris, France, and resumed work as foreign correspondent
1947	Decorated, Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor for locating stolen French art in Germany
1957	Published <i>Men and Monuments</i> (New York: Harper. 297 pp.)
1958	Honorary Litt.D., Smith College, Northampton, Mass.
1965	Published <i>Paris Journal: 1944-1965</i> (New York: Atheneum. 615 pp.), edited by William Shawn
1966	National Book Award for <i>Paris Journal</i>
1971	Published <i>Paris Journal: Volume II, 1965-1971</i> (New York: Atheneum. 438 pp.), edited by William Shawn
1972	Published <i>Paris Was Yesterday</i> (New York: Viking Press. 232 pp.), edited by Irving Drutman
1972	Elevated to the rank of Grande Maître in the French Legion of Honor, the highest civilian honor

- 1975 Published last "Letter from Paris" in *The New Yorker* (Sept. 29)
Published *London Was Yesterday, 1934-1939* (New York: Viking Press. 232 pp.), edited by Irving
Drutman
Moved to New York, N.Y., to live with Natalia Danesi Murray
- 1978, Nov. 7 Died, New York, N.Y.

Natalia Danesi Murray

Date	Event
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
1979	Arranged for the publication of <i>Janet Flanner's World: Uncollected Writings, 1932-1975</i> (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 368 pp.), edited by Irving Drutman
1985	Edited, with commentary, <i>Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend</i> , by Janet Flanner (New York: Random House. 508 pp.)
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 G net, 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

Container

Series

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 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.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<p>Janet Flanner Papers, 1940-1978</p> <p>Correspondence, notes, drafts, corrected galleys, offprints, review clippings, financial records, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject, title, or type of document.</p>
BOX 1	<p>American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, 1978 Clippings, 1974-1978, undated Correspondence, 1950, 1972-1978, undated Financial records, 1974-1978 Public appearances and recognition, 1966-1970, 1978 Writings Afterword, <i>Cubical City</i> reprint, 1975, undated Introduction, <i>Colette: The Difficulty of Loving</i>, by Margaret Crosland, undated <i>London Was Yesterday</i>, 1974 Miscellaneous draft fragments and notes, 1972, undated "Moura Budberg," undated <i>New Yorker</i> articles Miscellaneous, 1940-1973 "Profile: Margaret Anderson," (3 June 1974) Correspondence and notes, 1973 Drafts, undated Galleys, edited by Flanner, 1974 Review: <i>Staying on Alone: Letters of Alice B. Toklas</i>, 1974, undated</p>
BOX 2	<p>"Oriana" [Falacci], 1973 <i>Paris Journal</i>, 1966-1972 <i>Paris Was Yesterday</i> Galleys, edited by Flanner, 1972, undated (2 folders) Publicity, 1972 Review clippings, 1972-1973 Prefaces <i>Jaime Paris</i>, undated <i>Published in Paris</i>, by Hugh Ford, 1973, undated <i>The Pure and the Impure</i>, by Colette, 1967, undated Radio scripts, 1945</p>
BOX 2-13	<p>Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, 1944-1984</p> <p>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	<p>Janet Flanner file</p>

Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, 1944-1984

Container

Contents

	Correspondence
	1944-1946
	(6 folders)
BOX 3	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	<i>Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend</i>
	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)
BOX 9	"1945"- "1952"
	(14 folders)
BOX 10	"1953"- "1963"
	(13 folders)
BOX 11	"1964"- "1972"
	(15 folders)
BOX 12	"1973"- "1975-1978"
	(4 folders)
	Death of Flanner
	Condolence letters, 1978-1979
	(3 folders)
	Memorial service and miscellany, 1978
	Obituaries, 1978
	Literary representative
	Awards sought
	French Legion of Honor, 1972
	Journalism award, Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1972
BOX 13	Posthumous publication of <i>Janet Flanner's World: Uncollected Writings, 1932-1975</i> , 1980
	(3 folders)
	Other papers
	Correspondence
	Boyle, Kay, 1946-1951
	McCullers, Carson, 1946, 1951, undated (includes poem typescripts)
	(2 folders)

Natalia Danesi Murray Papers, 1944-1984

Container

Contents

Miscellaneous, 1947-circa 1980, undated
(2 folders)
Murphy, Noel Haskins, 1962-1975, undated
(3 folders)
Interview transcript, "La Donna del Mondo," circa 1950