

Maude Adams Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79010215>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009118>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2024 January

Collection Summary

Title: Maude Adams Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1925-1956

ID No.: MSS10215

Creator: Adams, Maude, 1872-1953

Extent: 19 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 0.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79010215>

Summary: American stage actor, writer, educator. Annotated typescripts and mimeographed copies of Adams's unpublished autobiography, writings relating to the study of acting, a commencement address, notes for a proposed radio program, a religious play, and the corrected typescript of Phyllis Robbins's biography, *Maude Adams, An Intimate Portrait*.

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

Adams, Maude, 1872-1953.

Robbins, Phyllis. Maude Adams; an intimate portrait. 1956.

Saint-Gaudens, Homer, 1880-1958.

Subjects

Acting.

Actresses--Biography.

Radio programs.

Occupations

Actresses.

Authors.

Educators.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Maude Adams, actress, writer, and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by Phyllis Robbins in 1956 and by the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1985.

Processing History

The papers of Maude Adams were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009 by Karen Linn Femia. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Maude Adams is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Maude Adams 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, Maude Adams Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Maude Adams, born in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1872, was an American stage actress. Active in the years 1888-1916, she was a successful and high-paid performer known mostly for her role as Peter Pan. Adams headed the drama department at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, from 1937 to 1943. She died in Tannersville, New York, in 1953.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Maude Adams (1872-1953) span the years circa 1925-circa 1956. The entire collection is composed of writings by Maude Adams and a draft by Phyllis Robbins of her biography of Adams, *Maude Adams: An Intimate Portrait*, published in 1956. The writings of Adams include both published and typescript versions of magazine articles, a speech, a religious play, a book-length typescript and a pamphlet for teaching speech, and a proposal with scripts for a radio program with Homer Saint-Gaudens.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	By Maude Adams
BOX 1	Articles
BOX 1	"The One I Knew Least of All"
BOX 1	Published copy, <i>Ladies Home Journal</i> , 1926
BOX 1	Typescript, circa 1925 (2 folders)
BOX 1	"'Thumbs Up' for Joy and Adventure," typescript and published copy from <i>Ladies Home Journal</i> , 1927, undated
BOX 1	Book draft, "The First Steps in Speaking Verse," with an anthology, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Commencement address, Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., 1939
BOX 1	Miscellany, undated
BOX 1	"Pamphlet on English Speech and English Verse," circa 1947
BOX 1	Play, life of Jesus Christ, undated
BOX 1	Radio program proposal, with Homer Saint-Gaudens
BOX 1	Description and scripts, undated
BOX 1	Notes, undated
BOX 2	By Phyllis Robbins, <i>Maude Adams: An Intimate Portrait</i> , typescript, circa 1956 (3 folders)