

**Helen Keller Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82028357>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009259>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009  
Revised 2023 June

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Helen Keller Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1842-1954

**ID No.:** MSS28357

**Creator:** Keller, Helen, 1880-1968

**Extent:** 2,000 items

**Extent:** 4 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 1.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82028357>

**Summary:** Author and lecturer. Correspondence and papers relating to the preparation of Keller's book *My Religion*, and newspaper clippings concerning her writings, lectures, and travels. Includes typescripts of several works by other blind writers.

## 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

Keller, Helen, 1880-1968.

Sperry, Paul, 1879-1954.

Swedenborg, Emanuel, 1688-1772.

Watson, Evelyn M. (Evelyn Mabel), 1886-1956.

### Subjects

Blind authors.

New Jerusalem Church.

### Places

South America--Description and travel.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Helen Keller, author and lecturer, were given to the Library of Congress by Elizabeth B. Bliss in 1932, and Josephine Sperry in 1954-1955. Additional material was transferred by the Department of State in 1955. Two items were purchased in 1992.

## Processing History

The papers of Helen Keller were arranged and described in 1963 by Allen H. Kitchens. The finding aid was revised by Patrick Kerwin and two items added in 2003. The finding aid was updated in 2023 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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Helen Keller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Helen Keller 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, Helen Keller Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Helen Keller (1880-1968), author and lecturer, span the years 1842-1954 and include correspondence, speeches and writings, clippings, printed matter, and photographs.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of files of Swedenborgian minister Paul Sperry relating to the publication of Keller's book, *My Religion*. Also included are reviews of the book. A trip by Keller to South America in 1953 is documented by newspaper clippings, State Department dispatches, and Keller's speeches. The collection also contains drafts of writings by others, in particular the author, Evelyn M. Watson, who was also blind.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<i>Book of Psalms</i> , 1842 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Clippings, 1913-1954, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1908-1927 (7 folders)
BOX 2	1928-1954, undated (6 folders)
BOX 2	Photographs, undated
BOX 2	Printed matter, 1927-1953, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Trip to South America, 1953
BOX 3	Clippings
BOX 3	Brazil
BOX 3	Mexico (2 folders)
BOX 3	Panama
BOX 3	Peru
BOX 3	Dispatches
BOX 3	Speeches
BOX 3	Writings
BOX 3	By Keller
BOX 3	Miscellaneous, 1952, undated
BOX 3	<i>My Religion</i>
BOX 3	Clippings, 1927-1928 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	By others, 1932-1939, 1948, undated (5 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	<i>Book of Psalms</i> , 1842 (container 1)