

Book-of-the-Month Club Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013219>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009324>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Collection Summary

Title: Book-of-the-Month Club Records

Span Dates: 1939-1967

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1939-1960)

ID No.: MSS13219

Creator: Book-of-the-Month Club

Extent: 15,600 items

Extent: 61 containers

Extent: 24.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013219>

Summary: Editorial and publishers' correspondence and preliminary readers' reports consisting of book reviews and evaluations relating primarily to books that were submitted by publishing houses for consideration by the Book-of-the-Month Club but were not selected for distribution by the club.

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

Bates, Graham.

Benét, Rosemary, 1900-1962.

Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950--Correspondence.

Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950.

Brown, John Mason, 1900-1969--Correspondence.

Canby, Henry Seidel, 1878-1961--Correspondence.

Davenport, Basil, 1905-1966--Correspondence.

Davenport, Basil, 1905-1966.

Easton, Elizabeth Wynne.

Fadiman, Clifton, 1904-1999--Correspondence.

Fisher, Dorothy Canfield, 1879-1958--Correspondence.

Highet, Gilbert, 1906-1978--Correspondence.

Johnson, Gerald W. (Gerald White), 1890-1980.

Loveman, Amy--Correspondence.

Loveman, Amy.

Marquand, John P. (John Phillips), 1893-1960--Correspondence.

Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957--Correspondence.

Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971.

Thompson, Ralph, 1904-

White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.

Organizations

Book-of-the-Month Club.

Subjects

American literature.

Book clubs (Bookselling)--United States.

Books--United States--Reviews.

Provenance

The records of the Book-of-the Month Club were given to the Library of Congress by Ralph Thompson, editor of the Book-of-the Month Club, in 1963-1968.

Processing History

The records of the Book-of-the Month Club were arranged and described circa 1955-1970. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

The collection was described briefly in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 23, no. 21 (25 May 1964), pp. 232-233, and in the *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*, vol. 21, no. 3 (July, 1964).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the records of the Book-of-the Month Club is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Book-of-the Month Club 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, Book-of-the Month Club Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Book-of-the-Month Club span the years 1939-1967, with the bulk from 1939 to 1960. The collection consists of editorial and publishers' correspondence relating to books submitted by publishing firms for consideration for selection by the club, along with preliminary readers' reports in the form of reviews and evaluations of the suitability of books for distribution by the club. Nearly all of the reports are on books that were not selected by the club. The records are organized into the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Preliminary Readers' Reports](#), and [Addition](#).

Correspondents include William Rose Benét, John Mason Brown, Henry Seidel Canby, Basil Davenport, Clifton Fadiman, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Gilbert Highet, Amy Loveman, John P. Marquand, Christopher Morley, and William Allen White.

Preliminary readers include Graham Bates, Rosemary Benét, William Rose Benét, Basil Davenport, Elizabeth Wynne Easton, Gerald W. Johnson, Amy Loveman, Allan Nevins, and Ralph Thompson.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence, 1947-1950](#)
- [Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958](#)

- Addition, 1939-1967

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-18	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1947-1950</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year or span of years and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent or publishing firm.</p>
BOX 19-56	<p><u>Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958</u></p> <p>Book reviews and evaluations. Arranged chronologically by years and alphabetically thereunder according to the title of the book to which the report refers.</p>
BOX 57-61	<p><u>Addition, 1939-1967</u></p> <p>Correspondence with publishers and authors, evaluations and reviews of books, and publicity material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-18	General Correspondence, 1947-1950 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year or span of years and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent or publishing firm.
BOX 1	1947-1948
BOX 1	A-B
BOX 2	C
BOX 3	D-Fa
BOX 4	Fi-Ha
BOX 5	He-J
BOX 6	K-L
BOX 7	M-N
BOX 8	O-R
BOX 9	S-T
BOX 10	U-Z
BOX 11	1949-1950
BOX 11	A-Ch
BOX 12	Co-D
BOX 13	E-F
BOX 14	G-H
BOX 15	I-Ma
BOX 16	Mo-R
BOX 17	S-V
BOX 18	W-Z
BOX 19-56	Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958 Book reviews and evaluations. Arranged chronologically by years and alphabetically thereunder according to the title of the book to which the report refers.
BOX 19	1939
BOX 19	A-E
BOX 20	F-L
BOX 21	M-R
BOX 22	S-Z
BOX 23	1946
BOX 23	A-E
BOX 24	F-L
BOX 25	M-R
BOX 26	S-Z
BOX 27	1947

Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958

Container	Contents
BOX 27	A-C
BOX 28	D-H
BOX 29	I-M
BOX 30	N-R
BOX 31	S-V
BOX 32	W-Z
BOX 33	1948
BOX 33	O-S
BOX 34	T-Z
BOX 35	1949
BOX 35	A-F
BOX 36	G-M
BOX 37	N-S
BOX 38	T-Z
BOX 39	1950
BOX 39	A-E
BOX 40	F-L
BOX 41	M-R
BOX 42	S-Z
BOX 43	1951
BOX 43	A-E
BOX 44	F-K
BOX 45	L-Q
BOX 46	R-Z
BOX 47	1958
BOX 47	A-G
BOX 48	H-O
BOX 49	P-Z
BOX 50	Undated
BOX 50	A-B
BOX 51	C-E
BOX 52	F-K
BOX 53	L-O
BOX 54	P-Sa
BOX 55	So-V
BOX 56	W-Z
BOX 57-61	Addition, 1939-1967 Correspondence with publishers and authors, evaluations and reviews of books, and publicity material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 57	Applications for positions 1942-1953
BOX 57	General correspondence
BOX 57	1939-1948
BOX 57	1950-1960
BOX 57	A-B

Addition, 1939-1967

Container	Contents
BOX 58	C-H
BOX 59	K-O
BOX 60	P-W
BOX 60	1962-1967
BOX 61	Obituary, Basil Davenport, 1966
BOX 61	Publicity, author's questionnaires, 1948, 1958-1962
BOX 61	Reader's reports and reviews of books, 1952-1967