

May Craig Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81017103>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011100>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: May Craig Papers

Span Dates: 1929-1975

ID No.: MSS17103

Creator: Craig, May, 1889?-1975

Extent: 12,000 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 37 oversize

Extent: 7 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81017103>

Summary: Journalist. Correspondence, writings, scrapbooks, and other papers relating to her career as a the Washington and foreign correspondent for the Guy Gannett newspapers of Maine.

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

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933.

Craig, May, 1889?-1975.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

Gannett Publishing Co.

Subjects

American newspapers--Maine.

Foreign correspondents.

Foreign news.

Journalism.

Journalists--Washington (D.C.)

Presidents--United States.

Women in journalism.

Women journalists.

Occupations

Journalists.

Provenance

The papers of May Craig, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Betty Clagett in 1965 and A. A. Clagett in 1975.

Processing History

The papers of May Craig were arranged and described in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Transfers

Photographs and cartoons have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the May Craig Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of May Craig is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of May Craig 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, May Craig Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
circa 1889	Born Elizabeth May Adams, Coosaw, S.C.
circa 1901	Moved to Wahington, D.C.
circa 1908	Studied nursing at George Washington University and Casualty hospitals, Washington, D.C.
circa 1909	Married Donald A. Craig (died 1934)
1924	Began writing for Guy Gannett newspapers of Maine
1935-1965	Washington correspondent for Guy Gannett Newspapers of Maine
1943-1944	President, Women's National Press Club
1944-1946	War correspondent, European, Mediterranean, and Middle East theaters
1947	Only woman correspondent to travel with President Harry S. Truman to Brazil and, in spite of her protests, was excluded from joining the rest of the party on the return trip aboard a battleship due to lack of facilities for women.
circa 1947-1965	Made over two hundred appearances on National Broadcasting Company's <i>Meet the Press</i>
1949	Became first woman correspondent on a battleship at sea
1952	Became first woman to fly over the North Pole
1975, June 15	Died, Silver Spring, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elizabeth May Craig (1889?-1975) span the years 1929-1975 and document her career as a Washington and foreign correspondent for the Guy Gannett newspaper chain of Maine. The papers are organized into four sections: correspondence, writings, miscellany, and scrapbooks. The largest grouping of material is the scrapbooks that contain May Craig's newspaper columns and other clippings, invitations, letters, and memorabilia relating to her journalistic activities in Washington, D.C. and throughout the world from 1929 to 1964. The correspondence section contains letters from readers and copies of letters from presidents and other prominent figures. Included in the writings is a draft of an incomplete memoir that contains her impressions of Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, and Calvin Coolidge, a description of the work of a Washington correspondent, and her thoughts on being a woman reporter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1941-1966
BOX 1	1952-1953
BOX 1	1964
BOX 1	1971, 1975
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	Articles
BOX 1	African trip articles reprinted in <i>Congressional Record</i> , 1960
BOX 1	Entries for Raymond Clapper Award, 1949-1960 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Book draft, undated
BOX 2	Prologue
BOX 2	Chapters
BOX 4	1, From the Sidelines
BOX 2	2, Calvin Coolidge
BOX 2	3, The Press Galleries of Congress and the White House Correspondents
BOX 2	4, Correspondents Kindergarten
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Awards, 1946-1964
BOX 2	Biographical material, 1947-1972
BOX 2	Photograph of Robert Hale, undated
BOX 2	Printed matter, 1946, 1963
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks (Oversize)
BOX OV 1	1929-1941
BOX OV 2	1929-1945, Women's National Press Club
BOX OV 3	1939-1945, Washington Newspapers Guild
BOX OV 4	1941-1945, Mrs. Roosevelt's Press Conference Association
BOX OV 5	1942-1945
BOX OV 6	1944, Overseas
BOX OV 7	1945
BOX OV 7	General
BOX OV 8	Overseas
BOX OV 8	General
BOX OV 9	Columns only
BOX OV 10	1946
BOX OV 10	General
BOX OV 11	Overseas
BOX OV 12	1946-1951, Women's National Press Club
BOX OV 13	1947
BOX OV 14	1948, Inside Washington
BOX OV 15	1949

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX OV 15	'Round the World with May Craig
BOX OV 16	General
BOX OV 17	1950-1951
BOX OV 18	1951, Sept. 2, Far East trip
BOX OV 19	1952
BOX OV 19	Arctic trip
BOX OV 20	General
BOX OV 21	1953
BOX OV 21	Mediterranean trip
BOX OV 22	General
BOX OV 23	1954
BOX OV 23	General
BOX OV 24	Columns on Army-McCarthy hearings
BOX OV 25	European trip
BOX OV 26	1955
BOX OV 26	Europe, Middle East, Satellites USSR
BOX OV 27	Washington, D.C
BOX OV 28	Latin American trip
BOX OV 29	1956
BOX OV 30	1957
BOX OV 31	1958
BOX OV 32	1959
BOX OV 33	1960
BOX OV 34	1961
BOX OV 35	1962
BOX OV 36	1960, Africa trip
BOX OV 37	1964