

Marcia Davenport 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/mm78017806>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011167>

Prepared by Jay Seebee
Revised and expanded by David Mathisen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Marcia Davenport Papers

Span Dates: 1929-1970

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1932-1960)

ID No.: MSS17806

Creator: Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996

Extent: 4,000 items

Extent: 35 containers

Extent: 13 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English with some in Czech.

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78017806>

Summary: Author and music critic. Correspondence, drafts, galley proofs, typescripts, notes, and press clippings relating to Davenport's books and novels.

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

Brandt, Carol, 1904-1984--Correspondence.

Cather, Willa, 1873-1947--Correspondence.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. Constant image. 1960.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. East side, west side. 1947.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. Garibaldi; father of modern Italy. 1957.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. Mozart. 1932.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. My brother's keeper. 1954.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. Of Lena Geyer. 1936.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996. Valley of decision. 1942.

Kolodin, Irving, 1908-1988--Correspondence.

Meyer, Wallace--Correspondence.

Moses, Montrose Jonas, 1878-1934--Correspondence.

Perkins, Maxwell E. (Maxwell Evarts), 1884-1947--Correspondence.

Scribner, Charles, 1890-1952--Correspondence.

Subjects

Authors and publishers.

Occupations

Authors.

Music critics.

Provenance

The papers of Marcia Davenport, author and music critic, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1968 and 1973. The deposits were converted to a gift in 1992.

Processing History

The papers of Marcia Davenport were arranged and described in 1969. The collection was expanded in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

The Marcia Davenport Papers are described in *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress* 26, no. 4 (Oct. 1969): 247.

Related Material

A related collection in the Manuscript Division includes the papers of her husband, [Russell Wheeler Davenport](#).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Marcia Davenport in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Marcia Davenport 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, Marcia Davenport Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|--------------|--|
| 1903, June 9 | Born, New York, N.Y. |
| 1915-1923 | Educated at Friends School, Philadelphia, Pa.; Shipley School, Bryn Mawr, Pa.; Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.; and received B.A. from Grenoble University, Grenoble, France |
| 1923 | Married Frank D. Clarke (divorced 1924) |
| 1924-1928 | Advertising copy writer, New York, N.Y. |
| 1928-1931 | Editorial staff, <i>The New Yorker</i> |
| 1929 | Married Russell W. Davenport (divorced 1946) |
| 1932 | Published <i>Mozart</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1934-1939 | Music critic, <i>Stage Magazine</i> |
| 1936 | Published <i>Of Lena Geyer</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1936-1937 | Commentator, Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts |
| 1940 | Active in presidential campaign of Wendell L. Willkie |
| 1941-1945 | Active in relief work for Czechoslovakia |
| 1942 | Published <i>Valley of Decision</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1945-1948 | Lived in Prague, Czechoslovakia |
| 1947 | Published <i>East Side, West Side</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1950- | Lived alternately in Europe, chiefly Italy, and New York, N.Y. |
| 1954 | Published <i>My Brother's Keeper</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1957 | Published <i>Garibaldi: Father of Modern Italy</i> . New York, N.Y.: Random House |
| 1960 | Published <i>The Constant Image</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1967 | Published <i>Too Strong for Fantasy</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner |
| 1991 | Published <i>Jan Masaryk: Last Portrait</i> . Panorama |

1996, Jan. 16

Died, Monterey, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Marcia Davenport (1903-1996) span the years 1929-1970, with the bulk of the material dating from 1932 to 1960. The papers are mostly in English with a typescript in Czech and are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Literary Manuscripts](#), and [Addition](#).

The [Correspondence](#) largely relates to the preparation and publication of her books and novels and there are numerous drafts and copies of Davenport's outgoing letters. A significant group of correspondence consists of letters from Maxwell E. Perkins, editor-in-chief at Charles Scribner's Sons, from 1931 until his death in 1947. Included among the more than thirty letters from Perkins is a ten-page letter, dated April 28, 1947, concerning revisions of Davenport's novel *East Side, West Side*. Other correspondents include Carol Brandt, Davenport's literary agent, Charles Scribner, Jr., and Wallace Meyer who succeeded Perkins as Davenport's editor at the Scribner publishing house. There are also individual letters from Willa Cather, Irving Kolodin, and Montrose Jonas Moses. Further correspondence is in the [Addition](#).

The [Literary Manuscripts](#) relate to her works published from 1929 to 1960 including *Mozart, Of Lena Geyer, Valley of Decision, East Side, West Side, My Brother's Keeper, Garibaldi: Father of Modern Italy*, and *The Constant Image*. Notes and early material relating to her 1967 autobiography *Too Strong for Fantasy* and the original typescript for *My Brother's Keeper* are in the [Addition](#). Included with the manuscripts are notes, typescripts, press clippings, typescripts, galley proofs, page proofs, drafts, and fragments.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1929-1959](#)
- [Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960](#)
- [Addition, 1936-1970](#)

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 1 | <p><u>Correspondence, 1929-1959</u></p> <p>Incoming and outgoing letters relating to Davenport's publications. Arranged into special correspondence of Maxwell E. Perkins and general correspondence.</p> |
| BOX 2-33 | <p><u>Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960</u></p> <p>Drafts, notes, typescripts, galley proofs, page proofs, and press clippings. Arranged by title of work and thereunder by type of material.</p> |
| BOX 34-35 | <p><u>Addition, 1936-1970</u></p> <p>Correspondence, literary manuscripts, clippings, notes, typescripts, and fragments. Arranged by type of material or title of work.</p> |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Correspondence, 1929-1959 Incoming and outgoing letters relating to Davenport's publications. Arranged into special correspondence of Maxwell E. Perkins and general correspondence. |
| BOX 1 | Special correspondence, Maxwell E. Perkins, 1931-1947 |
| BOX 1 | General correspondence, 1929-1959, undated |
| BOX 2-33 | Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960 Drafts, notes, typescripts, galley proofs, page proofs, and press clippings. Arranged by title of work and thereunder by type of material. |
| BOX 2 | <i>Mozart</i> , 1932 |
| BOX 2 | Notes, fragments, and early drafts |
| BOX 3 | Fragments of manuscript and typescript |
| BOX 4 | Manuscript and typescript |
| BOX 5 | Typescript (copy), press clippings, and preface to revised edition |
| BOX 6 | <i>Of Lena Geyer</i> , 1936 |
| BOX 6 | Early draft manuscript and original manuscript |
| BOX 7 | Typescript (copy) and galley proof (fragment) |
| BOX 8 | Galley proof |
| BOX 9 | Press clippings |
| BOX 10 | <i>Valley of Decision</i> , 1942 |
| BOX 10 | Research notes, drafts, fragments, and working notes |
| BOX 11 | Original manuscript |
| BOX 12 | Cuts from original manuscript |
| BOX 13 | Revised original manuscript |
| BOX 14 | Revised original manuscript |
| BOX 14 | Editorial typescript |
| BOX 15 | Editorial typescript |
| BOX 16 | Galley proof |
| BOX 17 | Galley proof |
| BOX 18 | Press clippings |
| BOX 19 | Press clippings |
| BOX 20 | Press clippings |
| BOX 21 | Czech translation (typescript) |
| BOX 22 | <i>East Side, West Side</i> , 1947 |
| BOX 22 | Notes and working material and original manuscript |
| BOX 23 | Author's typescript |
| BOX 23 | Press clippings |
| BOX 24 | <i>My Brother's Keeper</i> , 1954 |
| BOX 24 | Working notes, early drafts, and original manuscript |
| BOX 25 | Editorial typescript |

Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 26 | Revised manuscript and page proof |
| BOX 27 | Press clippings |
| BOX 28 | <i>Garibaldi: Father of Modern Italy</i> , 1957 |
| BOX 28 | Notes and original manuscript |
| BOX 28 | "So Help Me God," fragment of drama |
| BOX 29 | <i>The Constant Image</i> , 1960 |
| BOX 29 | Notes and fragments, original manuscript, editorial typescript, and page proof |
| BOX 30 | Press clippings |
| BOX 31 | Early drafts, fragments, and original manuscript |
| BOX 32 | Editorial typescript |
| BOX 33 | Galley proof and page proof |
| BOX 34-35 | Addition, 1936-1970 Correspondence, literary manuscripts, clippings, notes, typescripts, and fragments. Arranged by type of material or title of work. |
| BOX 34 | Correspondence, 1936-1969 |
| BOX 34 | Letter to the editor, circa 1947 |
| BOX 34 | Notes with clippings, 1967-1968 |
| BOX 34 | Clippings |
| BOX 34 | Charles Scribner's Sons |
| BOX 34 | Literary Clipping Service |
| BOX 34 | Clippings and printed matter |
| BOX 35 | <i>My Brother's Keeper</i> , original typescript and carbon copy, 1954 |
| BOX 35 | <i>Too Strong for Fantasy</i> , rough notes and early material, 1967 |
| BOX 35 | Fragments |