

Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75024049>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013015>

Prepared by David Mathisen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Collection Summary

Title: Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers

Span Dates: 1918-1942

ID No.: MSS24049

Creator: Greenewalt, Mary Elizabeth Hallock, 1871-1950

Extent: 1,000 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: .8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75024049>

Summary: Musician, inventor, and author. Correspondence, speeches, legal and financial records, draft of a book, biographical data, printed matter, and annotated photographs primarily relating to Greenewalt's invention of an art form called Nourathar (also Sarabet, Light-Score) that harmonized projected patterns of colored light with concert music.

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

Greenewalt, Mary Elizabeth Hallock, 1871-1950.

Greenewalt, Mary Elizabeth Hallock, 1871-1950. Nourathar, the fine art of light color playing. 1946.

Organizations

Busser & Harding--Correspondence.

Howson & Howson--Correspondence.

Subjects

Music and color.

Music.

Occupations

Authors.

Inventors.

Musicians.

Provenance

The papers of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt, musician, inventor, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Greenewalt from 1941 to 1943.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Transfers

A photograph of a portrait of Greenewalt with biographical sketch and a printing plate of an unidentified woman have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt 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, Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1871, Sept. 8 | Born, Beirut, Lebanon, then part of Syria |
| 1882 | Arrived in Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1893 | Graduated, Philadelphia Musical Academy, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1897 | Studied piano with Theodore Leschetizky, Vienna, Austria |
| 1898 | Married Frank L. Greenewalt |
| 1905 | Began investigation of how gradated colored lighting might enhance the emotional expression of music |
| 1918 | Published <i>Light: Fine Art the Sixth; A Running Nomenclature to Underly the Use of Light as a Fine Art</i> . Philadelphia: Westbrook Publishing Co. Filed her first patent, "Illuminating Means" |
| 1920 | Columbia records released her performance of Chopin's <i>Preludes in E Minor, C minor, A Major</i> and <i>Nocturne in G Major</i> |
| 1920-1934 | Sued for and won infringement of patent cases relating to her invention of a color organ device named "Sarabet" after her mother |
| 1946 | Published <i>Nourathar, the Fine Art of Light Color Playing</i> . Philadelphia: Westbrook Publishing Co. |
| 1950, Nov. 26 | Died, Wilmington, Del. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt (1871-1950) span the years 1918-1942 and relate primarily relating to Greenewalt's invention of an art form called Nourathar (also Sarabet, Light-Score) that harmonized projected patterns of colored light with concert music. Included in the collection are correspondence, speeches, legal and financial records, drafts of her book *Nourathar, the Fine Art of Light Color Playing*, biographical data, printed matter, and annotated photographs. Correspondents include Greenewalt's attorneys in Philadelphia, Howson & Howson and Busser & Harding, and various government agencies.

Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are organized by type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Correspondence, 1918-1942, undated (12 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Speeches, 1935-1941 |
| BOX 1 | Financial papers, circa 1918-1941 |
| BOX 1 | Patent and copyright material, 1918-1931, undated |
| BOX 1 | Agreements, annotated photographs, notes, biographical material, etc. |
| BOX 2 | Writings |
| BOX 2 | <i>Nourathar, the Fine Art of Light Color Playing</i> |
| BOX 2 | First draft, Oct. 1939 |
| BOX 2 | Drafts, 1940 |
| BOX 2 | Mimeograph copy, 1942 |
| BOX 2 | Book draft |
| BOX 2 | Notebook |
| BOX 2 | "Biggest Steal of the Ages" |
| BOX 2 | "The Inventor Lets a Few Cats Out of the Bag," draft |
| BOX 2 | Printed matter |
| BOX 2 | Clippings, with folio of newspapers and carbon copy of an article |