

**Anne Porter Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2016**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2011085591>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016019>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Anne Porter Papers

**Span Dates:** 1911-2014

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1931-2006)

**ID No.:** MSS85991

**Creator:** Porter, Anne, 1911-2011.

**Extent:** 1,200 items

**Extent:** 5 containers

**Extent:** 1.8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2011085591>

**Summary:** Poet. Correspondence, poems, notebooks, photographs, articles, legal papers, and other miscellany documenting Porter's life and career as a poet.

## 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

Porter family--Correspondence.

Porter family.

Porter, Anne, 1911-2011--Friends and associates.

Porter, Anne, 1911-2011.

Porter, Fairfield--Correspondence.

Porter, Laurence M., 1936- --Correspondence.

### Organizations

New York School of poets and painters.

### Subjects

American poetry.

Art--Societies, etc.

Artists--New York (State)--New York.

Christian poetry, American.

Christianity.

Faith.

Nature.

Poetry--Societies, etc.

Poetry.

Poets, American--New York (State)--New York.

### Places

New York (N.Y.)--Intellectual life--20th century.

### Occupations

Poets.

## Provenance

The papers of Anne Porter, poet, were given to the Library of Congress in 2011 by Porter. Additions were given from 2013 to 2016 by the estate of Anne Porter.

## Transfers

Audiovisual material including Rudy Burckhardt's film *A Day in the Life of a Cleaning Woman* and one sound recording has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where it is identified as part of the Anne Porter Papers.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Anne Porter is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, 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, Anne Porter Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1911, Nov. 6	Born, Sherborn, Mass.
1932	Married Fairfield Porter (died 1975)
1934-1938	Published poems in <i>Poetry</i>
1949	Moved to Southampton, N.Y.
1953	Starred in Rudy Burckhardt's film <i>A Day in the Life of a Cleaning Woman</i>
1954	Converted to Catholicism
1979-2000	Published poems in <i>Commonweal</i>
1994	Published <i>An All Together Different Language, Poems 1938-1994</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: Zoland Books
	Nominated for National Book Award for Poetry
2006	Published <i>Living Things: Collected Poems</i> . Hanover, N.H.: Zoland Books
2011, Oct. 10	Died, Hampton Bays, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Anne Porter (1911-2011) span the years 1911-2014, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1931-2006. Correspondence, poems, notebooks, photographs, articles, legal papers, and other miscellany pertain chiefly to the life and career of Porter. The papers are in English. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically.

The papers primarily consist of Porter's correspondence and poems that were assembled and inventoried by her son, Laurence M. Porter. Correspondents include Laurence M. Porter, Fairfield Porter, Katharine Minot Channing, and other Porter family members. Topics include family, friends, faith, poetry, and members of the New York School of poets and painters.

Porter published a few poems in the 1930s, and after the death of her husband, artist Fairfield Porter, she again began publishing poems in journals and books. The papers include drafts and copies of published and unpublished poems on loose pages and in notebooks. Porter's love of nature and Christian faith permeate the poems, and several include variant drafts with edits. Many of the poems appeared in Porter's books *An Altogether Different Language*, *Poems 1938-1994* and *Living Things: Collected Poems*. Articles in the collection document Porter's career and nomination for the National Book Award for Poetry in 1994.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

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

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Articles and reviews, 1994-1999, 2006, undated
BOX 1	Certificates, 1911, 1932, 2005, 2011
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Family
BOX 1	Channing, Katharine Minot (mother), 1932-1934, 1949-1954, 1960-1961 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Porter, Laurence M. (son)
BOX 1	From Anne Porter, 1955-2010 (4 folders)
BOX 2	(1 folder)
BOX 2	To Anne Porter, 1976-2009 (2 folders)
BOX 2	To Anne Porter and Fairfield Porter, 1944-1975 (2 folders)
BOX 2	General, 1955, 1961-1984, 1991-2013, undated
BOX 2	Interview transcript, 2009-2010
BOX 2	Legal papers, 1976-1978, 1993-2006
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1994, 2001, 2010-2012, undated
BOX 3	Notebooks, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	(1 folder)
BOX 4	Photographs, 1913, 1927, 1934, 1945, 1960, 1983, 1994, 2005, undated
BOX 4	Poetry, 1934-1938, 1954, 1961, 1978-2000, 2006-2014, undated (5 folders)
BOX 5	Porter, Fairfield (husband), 1931-1960, 1993-2005 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Porter, Johnny (son), 1934-1952
BOX 5	Steerforth Press and Zooland Books, 1993, 2001-2005