Lee McCardell 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://lccn.loc.gov/mm2015086020

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016041

Prepared by Amanda L. Loeb
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016
Collection Summary

Title: Lee McCardell Papers
Span Dates: 1867-2009
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1927-1963)
ID No.: MSS86020
Creator: McCardell, Lee
Extent: 8,000 items
Extent: 25 containers
Extent: 9.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2015086020

Summary: Journalist and newspaper editor. Family and general correspondence, professional and personal writings, clippings, and other materials relate to his work as a journalist in Maryland, New York, Paris, London, Rome, Algeria, North Africa, and the Middle East. Materials also relate to his work as a foreign correspondent in Europe during World War II.

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
Braddock, Edward, 1695?-1755.
Daily, Mary Ann McCardell, approximately 1931-2015--Correspondence.
Martin, Abby McCardell, 1934--Correspondence.
McCardell family--Correspondence.
McCardell family.
McCardell, Nancy A., 1900-1986--Correspondence.
Young, Sarah Susan McCardell--Correspondence.

Organizations
Marshall Plan.

Subjects
American newspapers--Maryland--Baltimore.
Americans--France--Paris.
Generals--Great Britain--Biography.
Journalism--Europe.
Journalism--United States.
Reconstruction (1939-1951)
World War, 1939-1945--Africa, North.
World War, 1939-1945--Europe.
World War, 1939-1945--Journalists.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.
World War, 1939-1945--War work--United States.

Places
Africa, North--Description and travel.
Europe--Description and travel.
Mediterranean Region--Description and travel.
Middle East--Description and travel.

**Titles**
*Baltimore evening sun.*

**Occupations**
Editors.
Journalists.

**Provenance**
The papers of Lee McCardell, journalist and newspaper editor, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Abby Martin, in 2015.

**Copyright Status**
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Lee McCardell in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

**Access and Restrictions**
The papers of Lee McCardell 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, Lee McCardell Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901, June 8</td>
<td>Born, Frederick, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-1920</td>
<td>Student, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>B.A., University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Married Nancy Franklin Arnold (died 1986)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Pulitzer Prize honorable mention for coverage of the Bonus Army of 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Reported on Allied occupation of Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reported on prewar army maneuvers, New York, North Carolina, and South Carolina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1942       Reported on West Coast war industry buildup and Japanese internment camps, California, Oregon, and Washington
           Reporter attached to Twenty-ninth Infantry Division, basic training, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida
1942-1943  Foreign correspondent attached to Twenty-ninth Infantry Division, England
1944       Foreign correspondent with U.S. Fifth Army, North Africa and Italy
           Foreign correspondent attached to Ninth Air Force, France
1944-1945  Foreign correspondent transferred to U.S. Third Army, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg
1946       Reporter, diplomatic mission aboard Missouri (battleship), Turkey and Greece
1949-1954  City editor, Baltimore Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md.
1954-1957  Assistant managing editor, Baltimore Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md.
1957-1960  Chief, Rome Bureau, Baltimore Evening Sun, Rome, Italy
1958       Published Ill-Starred General. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press
1960-1963  Assistant managing editor, Baltimore Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md.
1963, Feb. 7 Died, Baltimore, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lee McCardell (1901-1963) span the years 1867 to 2009, with the bulk of the material dating from 1927 to 1963. The papers are in English and are organized into the following series: Pre-World War II, World War II, Post-World War II, Personal Writings, and Artifacts.

The Pre-World War II series consists of family and general correspondence, writings, clippings, and other materials from McCardell's early years as a journalist in Baltimore, Maryland, as well as his year-long stint working for newspapers in New York and Paris. The bulk of correspondence is between McCardell and then future wife Nancy Arnold during his time away from Baltimore. Letters exchanged from New York describe personal and vocational matters. Letters from abroad describe McCardell's arrival in London and crossing to Paris in 1928, and impressions of fellow American journalists and expatriates, French cuisine, museums, jazz clubs, and theaters. His last two weeks overseas spent traveling throughout Germany and Austria are also described. General correspondence consists of letters from friends and correspondence with publishers and magazines regarding his unsuccessful attempts to publish two novels: "Community Chest" and "The Bravest Are the Cazadores." Miscellany includes extensive notes and research for a series of articles on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Professional writings include dispatches from London and Paris, and various clippings, the majority of which were written by McCardell.

The World War II series includes correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, and other materials from McCardell's work as a foreign correspondent in Europe and North Africa from 1942 to 1945. Also included are materials documenting a two week assignment reporting on the occupation of Iceland in August 1941. Correspondence is primarily between McCardell and his wife and three daughters: Mary Ann ("Dah"), Abby, and Sarah Susan ("Tilly"). Correspondence with his daughters consists mostly of picture postcards from places he travelled. In letters to his wife, McCardell often expressed frustration at being away from his family, the uncertainties of his travel assignments, and the difficulty of writing stories subject to army censors. His letters from 1942 describe his experience covering basic training and combat drills with the Twenty-Ninth Infantry Division before posting overseas. Letters from England describe hardships in London during wartime, visits to the country with the air corps, and competition among reporters and the challenges of transmitting stories by cable. Letters dating from January 1944 describe moving through North Africa and Italy; the battle of Monte Cassino and refugees from the monastery; and waiting for a ship back to England at an undisclosed location. From June 1944, McCardell's letters describe the Allied invasion of Europe and his experiences with the Ninth Air Force fighting in France, including, flying passenger in a bomber over the Normandy beaches on D-Day, the fall of Cherbourg to Allied forces, and catching a ride into Paris with members of the French resistance ahead of authorized United States entry, becoming one of the first American reporters to enter the liberated city. Other letters discuss the controversy of his termination from the Ninth Air Force for failure to report exclusively on Air Force activity, and subsequent reassignment to the U.S. Third Army for the remainder of combat. Miscellany includes several photographs taken by McCardell in the field and relayed to the Baltimore Evening Sun. Professional writings consist chiefly of newspaper stories by McCardell concerning the war.
industry buildup and Japanese internment camps in California, Europe in wartime, a well-known 1942 Christmas letter to his children that was published and reprinted in Baltimore newspapers, and his homecoming.

The Post-World War II series consists of correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, and other materials from McCardell's postwar career, the bulk dating from 1945 to 1963. Included are materials from his appointments as chief of both the London and Rome bureaus of the Baltimore Evening Sun. Much of the family correspondence discusses his frequent trips throughout the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East while posted abroad. Letters dating from April 1946 recount his assignment on a diplomatic voyage to the Eastern Mediterranean aboard the Missouri (battleship), including stops in Istanbul, Athens, Piraeus, Algiers, and Tangiers. During his posting in London, his letters describe the austerity still pervasive in England following the war. Letters from March 1947 were posted during his travels through Malta, Egypt, Palestine, and Jordan. From Rome, McCardell's letters discuss setting up the Rome bureau office and reporting on the Middle East. Letters dated October to November 1957 are postmarked Amman, Tehran, Istanbul, Beirut, Ankara, Tunis, and Jerusalem. Professional writings focus on events in North Africa and the Middle East. A notable ten-part series, published in September 1957, details McCardell's week spent among Arab revolutionaries in Algeria during the Algerian War of Independence. The piece presents the war from the Arabs' point of view, and was discounted by the French authorities. Another 1949 series explores the progress of the Marshall Plan throughout Western Europe. McCardell also wrote a regular column from Rome. Miscellany consists chiefly of pamphlets, maps, programs, and other items from Rome and the Middle East.

The Personal Writings series consists of biographies, diaries and notebooks, family history, novels, plays, poems, and short stories written by McCardell and not printed in newspapers. The majority are unpublished works and date from 1920 to 1963. Ill-Starred General, a biography of Revolutionary War General Edward Braddock, is McCardell's only published monograph. Fiction pieces cover a variety of topics, and include some short stories about journalism: "Apprenticeship"; "How Newspaper Is Developed"; and "How to Be a War Correspondent."

Artifacts in the collection consist of press ribbons, armbands, and buttons, dated 1938-1939; a button reading Czechoslovakia Shall Be Free Again; a pair of goggles; and a military uniform hat, seen worn by McCardell in photographs.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- Pre-World War II, 1907-1941
- World War II, 1940-1954
- Post-World War II, 1945-2009
- Personal Writings, 1867-1970
- Artifacts, circa 1938-1939 and undated
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-7</td>
<td>Pre-World War II, 1907-1941</td>
<td>Correspondence, writings, clippings, and other materials from McCardell's early years as a journalist in Baltimore, Md., as well as his brief stint working for newspapers in New York and Paris. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7-13</td>
<td>World War II, 1940-1954</td>
<td>Correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, and other materials from McCardell's work as a foreign correspondent. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 13-18</td>
<td>Post-World War II, 1945-2009</td>
<td>Correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, and other materials from McCardell's continued career in journalism, including materials from his appointments as bureau chief in London and Rome. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 18-24</td>
<td>Personal Writings, 1867-1970</td>
<td>Biographies, diaries and notebooks, novels, plays, poems, and short stories written by McCardell. The majority are unpublished works and date from 1920 to 1963. Arranged alphabetically by genre and therein alphabetically by title.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>Artifacts, circa 1938-1939 and undated</td>
<td>Press materials and a hat and goggles likely from World War II</td>
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## Container List

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<td>Pre-World War II, 1907-1941</td>
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<td>Correspondence, writings, clippings, and other materials from McCardell's early years as a journalist in Baltimore, Md., as well as his brief stint working for newspapers in New York and Paris.</td>
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<td>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Family</td>
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<tr>
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<td>McCardell, Edgar S. and Abby (parents), letters to 1908-1918</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1928, May-Oct.</td>
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<td>McCardell, Mary Ann (&quot;Dah&quot;), Abby, and Sarah Susan (&quot;Tilly&quot;) (daughters), letters to 1933, circa 1937-1940</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1927, Oct.-Dec. (2 folders)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1928 Jan.-Mar. (3 folders)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BOX 2 Apr.-Oct. (6 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1929, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 1919-1922, undated</td>
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<td>1927, Nov.-Dec. (2 folders)</td>
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<td>1928</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Jan.-Sept. (9 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Oct. Undated 1929</td>
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<td>General 1907-1924</td>
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<td>1925-1941 (8 folders)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Undated (2 folders)</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Miscellany Chesapeake and Ohio Canal project</td>
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### Pre-World War II, 1907-1941

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Chronology, undated</td>
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<td>Civil War research, undated</td>
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<td>Drafts and notes, undated</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;Canal Boat Days&quot; clippings, 1937</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Handwritten notes, circa 1920s</td>
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<td>Identification, press credentials, and visas, 1928-1940</td>
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<td>Printed matter and other documents, 1919-1935, undated</td>
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<td>Professional writings</td>
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<td>Bound clippings</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Vol. I and enclosures, 1920s</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Vol. II and enclosures, 1925-1926</td>
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<td>Loose clippings</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>General, 1926-1941, undated</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Play Arts Guild, Baltimore, Md., 1927-1933, undated</td>
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<td>BOX 7-13</td>
<td><strong>World War II, 1940-1954</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>McCardell, Mary Ann (&quot;Dah&quot;), Abby, and Sarah Susan (&quot;Tilly&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1941, Sept.-Nov.</td>
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<td>1942, Mar.-Dec.</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>1943</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(4 folders)</td>
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<td>1945, Jan.-Apr.</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>McCardell, Nancy Arnold (wife)</td>
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<td>From</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1943</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan.-Aug.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>Sept.-Dec.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(4 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undated</td>
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<td>To</td>
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1940, Aug.
1941, Sept.-Nov.
1942, Mar.-Dec.
   (10 folders)
1943
   Jan.-Mar.
      (3 folders)
BOX 10
   Apr.-Dec.
      (9 folders)
1944
   (10 folders)
1945, Jan.-Apr.
   (4 folders)
Undated
   General
      1943-1946, undated
      1944-1945, soldiers' families

BOX 11
   Iceland
      Correspondence and other materials, Aug.-Nov., 1941
      Dispatches, Aug. 1941
      Occupation forces newspapers, July-Aug. 1941
   Miscellany
      "Beachhead Revisited" tour
      1949

BOX 12
   1949, 1954
      (2 folders)
   Christmas broadcast, 1943
   The Fourth Armored Division: From the Beach to Bavaria, by Kenneth Koyen, 1946
   Identification, press credentials, and visas, 1942-1944
   Military orders and authorizations, 1943-1945
   Photographs
      1943
         Feb., infantry units combat proficiency test, England
         Unidentified military
      1944
         Seventy-ninth Division
         U.S. Third Army
   Printed matter and other documents, 1942-1945, undated
   Report by the Supreme Commander to the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the Operations in
   Europe of the Allied Expeditionary Force, 6 June 1944-8 May 1945
   "They Wrote Their Story in Blood," article on the Seventy-ninth Infantry Division
   Background and drafts, 1945-1946
   Saturday Evening Post, 21 Dec. 1946
   Professional writings
      1942
         Mar.-May, California war industry and internment camps
World War II, 1940-1954

**Container** | **Contents**
--- | ---
Dec., Christmas letter to children
1942-1943, England
(2 folders)
1943
Nov., Marylanders in the air corps, London, England
1944
Jan.-Feb., Cassino, Italy
June
Cherbourg, France
D-Day, Normandy, France
Aug., order to leave France
1944-1945, U.S. Third Army
1945
June-Dec., homecoming
21 Oct., YD Grapevine 26th Infantry Division newsheet

**BOX 13-18**

**Post-World War II, 1945-2009**

Correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, and other materials from McCardell's continued career in journalism, including materials from his appointments as bureau chief in London and Rome.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.

**BOX 13**

Correspondence

Family correspondence

McCardell, Mary Ann ("Dah"), Abby, and Sarah Susan ("Tilly")

1946-1949
(3 folders)

**BOX 14**

1951-1958
(2 folders)

McCardell, Nancy Arnold

1946
Mar.-Apr.
July-Dec.
1947, Jan.-Aug.
(2 folders)
1948
1949, Jan.-Aug.
(2 folders)
1952, 1956
1957-1958
(2 folders)
1960, Mar.-Apr.

McCardell family, various aunts and uncles, 1958

**BOX 15**

General

1945-1951
(2 folders)
1953-1962
(4 folders)

Miscellany
Identification, press credentials, and visas, 1946-1966
Obituaries and biographical materials, 1963

Photographs
1949, Italy under the Marshall Plan
1957-1960, Rome, Italy, and the Middle East

Printed matter and other documents
1945-1960, undated
(5 folders)

BOX 16
1961-1962
Algeria, 1957

Rome, Italy, housekeeping documents, 1957-1961

Professional writings
1945-1962, general clippings
(3 folders)
1947, British Empire story
1948, Earl Warren, presidential election
1949, Marshall Plan
Feb., England
Mar.-Apr., France and Italy
(3 folders)

BOX 17
May, Geneva, Switzerland, and Germany
June, Austria, Germany, and Luxembourg
July, Germany
1956, Republican National Convention, San Francisco, Calif.
1957
Algeria
(3 folders)
Iran
Iraq
Jerusalem, Israel
Jordan
Lebanon
Syria
Turkey
1957-1961, Rome, Italy
(5 folders)

BOX 18
1958
Feb.-Mar., Tunisia
Nov., Gathland State Park, Frederick County, Md.

BOX 18-24

Personal Writings, 1867-1970
Biographies, diaries and notebooks, novels, plays, poems, and short stories written by McCardell. The majority are unpublished works and date from 1920 to 1963. Arranged alphabetically by genre and therein alphabetically by title.
Biographies

(3 folders)

Simpson, Wallis 1936, undated
(5 folders)

Diaries and notebooks

BOX 19

1920s
1940-circa 1947
(6 vols.)

BOX 20

1948-1960
(7 vols.)

BOX 21

1960

Fragments
Family history, 1867-1918, undated
Fragments and notes
(3 folders)

Novellas

"The Old Man"
(2 folders)

Novels

"The Bravest Are the Cazadores"
(2 folders)

"Community Chest"
(4 folders)

BOX 22

"Community Chest"
(2 folders)

Plays

"The Bum"
"By a Wall, a Convention"
"Don Juanna, a Musical Comedy by Lord Byron"
"The Goose"
"Th'Inevitable Hour"
"New Tricks"
"Trilogy"

Poems

Short stories

"The Age of Discovery"
"Ah, Paris!"
"Apprenticeship"
"Betwix and Between"
"The Big Push-Over"
"Bigger Game"
"A Bill of Divorcement, Part II"
"Bread for General Longstreet"
"Brief December Days"
"Burlesk"
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 24    | "Button . . . Button . . ." or "M'sieur Bertini"  
|           | "Call for a Clown"  
|           | "Dark Meat Is the Sweetest"  
|           | "David Belasco: Business Artist"  
|           | "Dear Old Oppleman"  
|           | "Dear Suzanne"  
|           | "Fiddlers Six"  
|           | Fragments  
|           | "Gentlemen Only"  
|           | "Ghostly Echo"  
|           | "Happy New Year"  
|           | "How Newspaper Is Developed"  
|           | "How to Be a War Correspondent"  
|           | "In a Corner Room"  
|           | "The Kiss"  
|           | "Lower than the Angels"  
|           | "McLane Place"  
|           | "The Mouse in It"  
|           | "The Music Master"  
|           | "Mutabor"  
|           | "News from Frederick"  
|           | "Office of the Dean"  
|           | "Old Mike"  
|           | "Passion and Triumph"  
|           | "The Pendulum"  
|           | "The Rag Doll"  
|           | "Ravelings"  
|           | "She Who Gets Left"  
|           | "Thomas Waters Griffith"  
|           | "Triple Hanging"  
|           | "Twenty Years"  
|           | "A Vanishing American"  
|           | "The Vanishing Rod"  
|           | "A Voyage to Bohemia"  
|           | "The Whore"  
|           | Untitled  
|           | Christmas fruit cake  
|           | Francisco "Pancho" Villa  
|           | Gapland  
|           | Moving day  
|           | New York World's Fair  
|           | Old house  
|           | Penitentiary  
|           | Presidential inaugurations  
|           | Sunday morning  

Lee McCordell Papers
## Personal Writings, 1867-1970

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td><strong>Artifacts, circa 1938-1939 and undated</strong>&lt;br&gt;Press materials and a hat and goggles likely from World War II</td>
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</tbody>
</table>