

Lee McCardell Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

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

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016
Revised 2024 February

Collection Summary

Title: Lee McCardell Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1867-2009

Bulk Dates: 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://lcn.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, Lee, 1901-1963.

McCardell, Lee, 1901-1963. Braddock of the Coldstream Guards. Ill-starred general: 1958.

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.

Japanese Americans--Forced removal and internment, 1942-1945.

Journalism--Europe.

Journalism--United States.

Reconstruction (1939-1951)

World War, 1939-1945--Africa, North.

World War, 1939-1945--England--London.

World War, 1939-1945--Europe.

World War, 1939-1945--Japanese Americans.

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.

Algeria--History--Revolution, 1954-1962.
Europe--Description and travel.
Mediterranean Region--Description and travel.
Middle East--Description and travel.

Titles

Baltimore evening sun.

Occupations

Editors.
Journalists.

Acquisition Information

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

Processing History

The papers of Lee McCardell were arranged and described by Amanda L. Loeb in 2016. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

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

Date	Event
1901, June 8	Born, Frederick, Md.
1919-1920	Student, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa.
1923	B.A., University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1925-1926	Reporter, <i>Baltimore News</i> , Baltimore, Md.
1926-1963	Reporter, <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> , Baltimore, Md.
1927-1928	Rewrite man, <i>New York Evening Post</i> , New York, N.Y. (on leave of absence from the <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i>)
1928	Rewrite man and copy reader, <i>New York Herald</i> , Paris, France (on leave of absence from <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i>)
1930	Married Nancy Franklin Arnold (died 1986)

1933	Pulitzer Prize honorable mention for coverage of the Bonus Army of 1932
1941	Reported on Allied occupation of Iceland
	Reported on prewar army maneuvers, New York, North Carolina, and South Carolina
1942	Reported on West Coast war industry buildup and confinement sites for Japanese Americans, 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 <i>Missouri</i> (battleship), Turkey and Greece
1947-1949	Chief, London Bureau, <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> , London, England
1949-1954	City editor, <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> , Baltimore, Md.
1954-1957	Assistant managing editor, <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> , Baltimore, Md.
1957-1960	Chief, Rome Bureau, <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> , Rome, Italy
1958	Published <i>Ill-Starred General</i> . Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press
1960-1963	Assistant managing editor, <i>Baltimore Evening Sun</i> , 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 confinement sites for Japanese Americans 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

Container	Series
BOX 1-7	<p><u>Pre-World War II, 1907-1941</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</p>
BOX 7-13	<p><u>World War II, 1940-1954</u></p> <p>Correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, and other materials from McCardell's work as a foreign correspondent.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</p>
BOX 13-18	<p><u>Post-World War II, 1945-2009</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by name of individual or topic.</p>
BOX 18-24	<p><u>Personal Writings, 1867-1970</u></p> <p>Biographies, diaries and notebooks, novels, plays, poems, and short stories written by McCardell. The majority are unpublished works and date from 1920 to 1963.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by genre and therein alphabetically by title.</p>
BOX 25	<p><u>Artifacts, circa 1938-1939 and undated</u></p> <p>Press materials and a hat and goggles likely from World War II</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-7	Pre-World War II, 1907-1941 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.
BOX 1	Correspondence Family McCardell, Edgar S. and Abby (parents), letters to 1908-1918 1928, May-Oct. McCardell, Mary Ann ("Dah"), Abby, and Sarah Susan ("Tilly") (daughters), letters to 1933, circa 1937-1940 McCardell, Nancy Arnold (wife) From 1926, Dec.-1927, Sept. 1927, Oct.-Dec. (2 folders) 1928 Jan.-Mar. (3 folders) Apr.-Oct. (6 folders) 1929, undated To 1919-1922, undated 1927, Nov.-Dec. (2 folders) 1928 Jan.-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 2	Oct. (6 folders)
BOX 3	Undated 1929
BOX 4	General 1907-1924 1925-1941 (8 folders) Undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellany Chesapeake and Ohio Canal project

Pre-World War II, 1907-1941

Container

Contents

	Chronology, undated
	Civil War research, undated
	Drafts and notes, undated (4 folders)
	"Canal Boat Days" clippings, 1937
	Handwritten notes, circa 1920s
	Identification, press credentials, and visas, 1928-1940
	Printed matter and other documents, 1919-1935, undated
	Professional writings
	Bound clippings
BOX 6	Vol. I and enclosures, 1920s (2 folders)
	Vol. II and enclosures, 1925-1926 (2 folders)
	Dispatches, London, England and Paris, France, 1928
	Loose clippings
BOX 7	General, 1926-1941 , undated (2 folders)
	Play Arts Guild, Baltimore, Md., 1927-1933 , undated
BOX 7-13	World War II, 1940-1954
	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.
BOX 7	Correspondence
	Family
	McCardell, Mary Ann ("Dah"), Abby, and Sarah Susan ("Tilly")
	1941, Sept.-Nov.
	1942, Mar.-Dec. (10 folders)
BOX 8	1943 (4 folders)
	1944 (4 folders)
	1945, Jan.-Apr.
	McCardell, Nancy Arnold (wife)
	From
	1942, Sept.-Dec. (4 folders)
	1943 Jan.-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 9	Sept.-Dec. (4 folders)
	Undated
	To

World War II, 1940-1954

Container

Contents

	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
	Bound clippings, Vol. III, Aug. 1941-Jan. 1942
	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
	<i>The Fourth Armored Division: From the Beach to Bavaria</i> , 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
	<i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , 21 Dec. 1946
	Professional writings
	1942
	Mar.-May, California war industry and internment camps

World War II, 1940-1954

Container

Contents

BOX 13	Oct.-Dec., dispatches, London, England 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 newssheet
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)

Post-World War II, 1945-2009

Container

Contents

	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.

Personal Writings, 1867-1970

Container

Contents

BOX 18	Biographies <i>Ill-starred General: Braddock of the Coldstream Guards</i> , 1936-1970 , undated (3 folders) Simpson, Wallis 1936 , undated (5 folders)
BOX 19	Diaries and notebooks 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
BOX 22	"The Bravest Are the Cazadores" (2 folders) "Community Chest" (4 folders)
BOX 23	"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"

Personal Writings, 1867-1970

Container	Contents
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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

Personal Writings, 1867-1970

Container	Contents
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William Edward Ensor, postman

BOX 25

Artifacts, circa 1938-1939 and undated

Press materials and a hat and goggles likely from World War II

BOX 25

Button, "Czechoslovakia Shall Be Free Again," circa 1939

Goggles, undated

Military uniform hat, worn by McCardell in photographs, undated

Press armband, British Royal visit, 22, circa 1939

Press button, Battle of Gettysburg seventy-fifth anniversary, 1938

Press ribbon, First Army maneuvers, 1939