

**Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer 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>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2022086522>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms023006>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2023  
Revised 2024 March

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1933-2011

**Bulk Dates:** 1937-1974

**ID No.:** MSS86522

**Creator:** Mortimer, Kathleen Lanier Harriman, 1917-2011

**Extent:** 1,500 items

**Extent:** 5 containers plus 2 oversize

**Extent:** 2.3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English, with Russian and French

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2022086522>

**Summary:** Journalist and socialite. Correspondence, clippings, notes, photographs, and other papers relating to Mortimer's professional and social activities in London and Moscow during World War II. Also contains material concerning Mortimer's education at Bennington College, a 1967 trip to Pakistan and other international locations, and a 1974 return visit to the Soviet Union.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer were given to the Library of Congress by David Mortimer in 2022. Additional material was given by Mortimer in 2024.

## Processing History

The papers of Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer were arranged and described by Emily Flint in 2023. An addition was processed and the finding aid revised by Emily Flint in 2024. Some items in the Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer Papers have undergone mold remediation.

## Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of W. Averell Harriman (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003012>) and the papers of Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018013>).

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1917, Dec. 7	Born, New York, N.Y.
1940	B.A., Bennington College, Bennington, Vt.
1941-1942	Reporter, International News Service, London, England
1942-1943	Reporter, <i>Newsweek</i> , London, England
1943-1946	Accompanied her father, W. Averell Harriman, on his assignment as United States ambassador to the Soviet Union and served as embassy hostess Worked for the Office for War Information while stationed in Moscow
1944	Traveled to the Katyn Forest in western Russia to view the opening of mass graves of Polish military officers
1945	Traveled to the Yalta Conference and organized accommodations for attendees
1946-1948	Assistant editor, <i>Newsweek</i> , New York, N.Y.
1947	Married Stanley Mortimer (died 1999)
1952	Testified before Congress regarding her experience at the site of the Katyn Massacre
1967	Traveled to Pakistan with W. Averell Harriman and attended the dedication ceremony for the Mangla Dam
1974	Traveled to the Soviet Union with W. Averell Harriman and Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman
2011, Feb. 17	Died, Arden, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Kathleen Lanier Harriman Mortimer (1917-2011) span the years 1933-2011, with the bulk of the material dating from 1937 to 1974. The collection documents Mortimer's education, journalism career, social activities, and international travel with her father, W. Averell Harriman. The papers are primarily in English, with some Russian and French.

The collection features letters sent by Mortimer to her sister, Mary Averell Harriman Fisk, and her former governess, Elsie ("Mouche") Marshall during World War II. From 1941 to 1943, Mortimer lived in London working as a journalist during W. Averell Harriman's tenure as a special envoy for the Lend-Lease program. Her letters from this period discuss her work for the International News Service and *Newsweek*, her friendship with Pamela Digby Churchill (who would later become her stepmother Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman in 1971), and requests for clothing and other personal items from home. In 1943, W. Averell Harriman was appointed the United States ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Mortimer moved with her father to Moscow. She served as the embassy's hostess for social functions and also worked for the Office of War Information. Particularly noteworthy are Mortimer's letters describing her trip in January 1944 to the site of the Katyn Massacre and her attendance at the Yalta Conference in February 1945. The incoming correspondence also includes several letters from United States Army Air Forces General Ira Eaker and a condolence letter from Clementine Churchill, wife of Winston Churchill, following the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The collection also includes clippings of newspaper articles by Mortimer, a small amount of photographs, notes by Mortimer, and copies of notes on the Yalta Conference by Anna Roosevelt.

The 2024 Addition contains correspondence, engagement books, article drafts, clippings, notes, photographs, and other papers related to Mortimer's activities in London and Moscow during World War II. The addition includes a few additional letters Mortimer sent to Mary Averell Harriman Fisk and Elsie Marshall during the war. Also present are class notes and papers written by Mortimer while studying at Bennington College. The addition also features correspondence, schedules, reports, printed matter, notes, and photographs documenting two trips Mortimer took with W. Averell Harriman. In 1967, she traveled with Harriman in his capacity as United States ambassador-at-large to view the dedication ceremony for the Mangla Dam in Pakistan. This trip also included diplomatic visits to Afghanistan, Iran, Yugoslavia, and Romania. In 1974, Mortimer and Harriman returned to the Soviet Union and visited Moscow, Zagorsk, and Leningrad. Harriman also met with Soviet leader Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev during this trip. Two scrapbooks in the addition contain obituaries and other clippings compiled after the deaths of Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman and W. Averell Harriman. The other two

scrapbooks are printed copies scanned from the originals and provided by the donor. They feature clippings, printed matter, and photographs pertaining to Mortimer's life and career during World War II and shortly thereafter.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject, followed by an addition similarly arranged.

## 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

Brezhnev, Leonid Il'ich, 1906-1982.  
Churchill, Clementine, 1885-1977--Correspondence.  
Eaker, Ira, 1896-1987--Correspondence.  
Fisk, Mary Averell Harriman, 1917-1996--Correspondence.  
Harriman, Marie Norton Whitney, 1903-1970--Correspondence.  
Harriman, Pamela, 1920-1997--Correspondence.  
Harriman, W. Averell (William Averell), 1891-1986.  
Marshall, Elsie, active 20th century--Correspondence.  
Mortimer, Kathleen Lanier Harriman, 1917-2011.  
Roosevelt, Anna, 1906-1975.

### Organizations

Bennington College--Students.  
International News Service.  
United States. Embassy (Soviet Union)  
United States. Office of War Information.  
Yalta Conference (1945 : I`A`lta, Ukraine)

### Subjects

American periodicals.  
Journalism--England--London.  
Journalism--Russia--Moscow.  
Katyn Massacre, Katyn', Russia, 1940.  
Lend-lease operations (1941-1945)  
World War, 1939-1945--England--London.  
World War, 1939-1945--England.  
World War, 1939-1945--Russia (Federation)--Moscow.  
World War, 1939-1945--Soviet Union.

### Places

England--Description and travel.  
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.  
London (England)--Description and travel.  
Mangla Dam (Pakistan)--Description and travel.  
Moscow (Russia)--Description and travel.  
Pakistan--Description and travel.  
Pakistan--Foreign relations--United States.  
Pakistan--Foreign relations--United States.  
Soviet Union--Description and travel.  
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.  
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

United States--Foreign relations--Pakistan.  
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.  
United States--Politics and government--20th century.

**Titles**

*Newsweek (magazine)*

**Occupations**

Journalists.  
Socialites.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Clippings, 1941-1942, 2011
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Incoming letters, 1941-1945, 1977-1983, 1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Outgoing letters
BOX 1	Churchill, Pamela Digby, 1943-1944
BOX 1	Fisk, Mary Averell Harriman (sister), 1941-1946 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Harriman, Marie Norton Whitney (stepmother), 1941
BOX 1	Marshall, Elsie, 1935-1945 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Typed copies, 1941-1945
BOX 2	Typed copies, 1941-1945
BOX 2	Katyn Massacre, Katyn, Russia, 1944, 1952, 1992-1993, undated
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1944, 1961-1966, 1975, undated
BOX 2	Notes, 1941-1945, 1997, undated
BOX 2	Photographs, 1967, undated
BOX 3	2024 Addition
BOX 3	"A Bennington Graduate in Moscow," lecture, 1946
BOX 3	Clippings, 1936-1966, 2011, undated
BOX 3	Correspondence
BOX 3	Incoming letters, 1937-1941, 2011
BOX 3	Outgoing letters, 1941-1945
BOX 3	Engagement books, 1941-1945
BOX 3	Funeral service, 2011
BOX 3	International News Service article drafts, 1941-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Katyn Massacre, Katyn, Russia, 1952
BOX 3	Mangla Dam, Pakistan, trip, 1967 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Mangla Dam, Pakistan, trip, 1967 (3 folders)
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1937-1946, 1969, 2003
BOX 4	Notes, 1941-1945, 1986-1988, 1999, undated
BOX 4	Passports, 1941-1945, 1967
BOX 4	Photographs, circa 1941-2011
BOX 4	School papers, 1933-1938 (2 folders)
BOX 5	School papers, 1933-1938 (3 folders)
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks
BOX OV 1	Harriman, Kathleen Lanier, copies, 1941-1945
BOX OV 2	Harriman, Kathleen Lanier, copies, 1943-1946

## Container List

Container	Contents
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BOX OV 2	Harriman, Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward, 1997
BOX OV 1	Harriman, W. Averell, 1986
BOX 5	Soviet Union trip, 1974 (4 folders)