



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Ethel Watts Mumford papers**

1900-1934

MssCol 2080

Processed by Laura Bailey.

## Summary

**Creator:** Grant, Ethel Watts Mumford, 1878-1940

**Title:** Ethel Watts Mumford papers

**Date:** 1900-1934

**Source:** Gift of Mrs. George M. Watts October, 1966

**Abstract:** Collection contains Mumford's writings, legal papers, correspondence, art work, and printed matter. Writings consist primarily of manuscripts of her plays with some short stories, poems, musical lyrics, and clippings of a literary column she wrote for the New York Evening World during 1913-1914. Also, contracts and royalty agreements, 1904-1934; letters, 1900-1924, concerning the sale of her works; clippings of reviews; and sketches and a watercolor.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Ethel Watts Mumford Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Laura Bailey; machine readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

## Creator History

Ethel Watts Mumford (1878-1940), New York born playwright, poet and novelist, was the daughter of Dickson Given Watts and Mary Atwater Hughes. She married George Dana Mumford in 1894 and had a son, George. The union ended in divorce, allegedly because of the husband's jealousy of her devotion to literature and art. Ethel later married Peter Geddes Grant. Mumford studied art in Paris at the Julian Academy, and while in Paris she also took lessons from Benjamin Constant. She also studied with Merie Guise in New York. Her first listed work was "Dupes," published in 1901 by Putnam. Others include "Whitewash," 1903; "The Hundred Love Songs of Kamal," 1905; "The Wedding Song" and "Hand Reading Today," 1925. Her plays include "The Young Idea," "Good Night Nurse," "The Scenario" and "Easy Money."

## **Scope and Content Note**

Ethel Watts Mumford's papers, 1900-1934, consist primarily of manuscripts of her plays. Among other writings are short stories, poems, musical lyrics and clippings of a column she wrote for the *New York Evening World* during 1913-1914, entitled *Novelettes of the New York Streets*. Also included are a few contracts and royalty agreements, 1904-1934; letters received relating to the sale of her works, 1900-1924; clippings of reviews; sketches and a watercolor.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

American drama  
American literature -- 20th century  
American poetry -- 20th century

### **Occupations**

Authors  
Dramatists  
Lyricists

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Sketches  
Watercolors

### **Names**

Grant, Ethel Watts Mumford, 1878-1940

## Container List

- b. 1 Contracts and Agreements 1904-1934
  - Letters Received 1900-1924
  - Miscellaneous Clippings, etc.
  - Writings
    - Newspaper Column
- b. 1 *Novelettes of the New York Streets in the New York Evening World* 1913-14
  - Lyrics
- b. 1 *Bernadette of Lourdes (Cantata)*, Music by Lily Strickland - (G. Schirmer, N.Y.)
- b. 1 *Fairy Moon (Musical Playlet)*, Music lyrics by Lily Strickland - G. Schirmer, N.Y.)
- b. 1 *Little Lights of Home (Song)*, Music by Florence Methven - (G. Ricordi, N.Y.)
- b. 1 *Merlin and Vivian (Lyric Drama)*, Music by Henry Hadley, op. 52 - (G. Schirmer, N.Y.)
- b. 1 *The Nightingale and the Rose (Cantata)*, Music by Henry Hadley, op. 54 - (G. Schirmer, N.Y.)
- b. 1 *Out of the Sen (Operatta)*, Music by Lily Strickland - (Theodore Presser, Phila.)
- b. 1 *Star Over Bethlehem (Christmas Cantata)*, music by Lily Strickland - (Chappell, N.Y.)
  - Articles (?)
- b. 2 *Francis Hodgson Burnett*
  - Poetry
- b. 2 Poetry (1 folder)
- Short Stories
- b. 2 *Benjie*
- b. 2 *The Fourth Angle*
- b. 2 *The Ghost of Harn*
- b. 2 *His Price*
- b. 2 *Lions*
- b. 2 *The Lobster*
- b. 2 *The Mark*
- b. 2 *The Peacemaker*
- b. 2 *Poor Little Mrs. Ames*
- b. 2 *The Queen Speaks No English*
- b. 2 *The Shadow of Molokai*
- b. 2 *Toodles*
- b. 2 *Wild Propositions I had Had Made to Me*
- b. 2 Unidentified (1 folder)
- Short Stories (Clipped copies)

Writings (cont.)

Short Stories (Clipped copies) (cont.)

- b. 2 *An Angle of the Triangle* (*Western Story Magazine*, 1 Oct, 1921)
- b. 2 *The Arabian Days of Jimmy Jennette*, (*Century*, Jun, 1916)
- b. 2 *Callahan*, (*The Association of Sunday Magazines*, 26 Jul, 1914)
- b. 2 *The Dead Past*, (*Live Stories*, Dec, 1914)
- b. 2 *Does Your Left Hand Know What Your Right Hand Has Done?*, (*Pictorial Review*, Apr, 1929 )
- b. 2 *The Drums of Heiau*, (*The Metropolitan Magazine*,)
- b. 2 *Everything Money Can Buy*, (*Hearst's International*, Aug, 1924)
- b. 2 *The Exploit of Puaa Nui*, (*The Metropolitan Magazine*,)
- b. 2 *The Girl and the Governor*, (*The National Sunday Magazine*, (*The New Orleans Item*), 25 Jun, 1916)
- b. 2 *The Golden Web*, (*Women's Stories*, Aug, 1914)
- b. 2 *In the Blood*, (*Delineator*, Mar, 1928)
- b. 2 *The King's Calabash*, (*The Metropolitan Magazine*,)
- b. 2 *The Martyrdom of Rensdale*, (*The Red Book*,)
- b. 2 *Mine*, (*Everybody's Magazine*, Feb, 1924)
- b. 2 *Off-Color Whitemail*, (*Pictorial Review*, Oct, 1928)
- b. 2 *A Polynesian Borgia*, (*Munsey's Magazine*,)
- b. 2 *The Second Sight of Hepsey McLean*, (*Collier's Weekly*, 28 Jul, 1917)
- b. 2 *The Son of the Shark God*, (*Delineator*, Mar, 1904)
- b. 2 *The Tactfulness of Mr. Gene*, (*Red Book Magazine*, Oct, 1908)
- b. 2 *The Tangled Web*, (*The New Broadway Magazine*, Jun-Jul, 1908)
- b. 2 *Two Letters*, (*Liberty*, 11 May, 1929)
- b. 2 *When He Dreamed Her Dream*, (*Delineator*, Feb, 1914)

Plays

- b. 2 *Alone at Last*
- b. 2 *Back to Acadie*
- b. 2 *Behind the Veil*
- b. 2 *The Bitter Tea of General Yen*
- b. 3 *Betty*
- b. 3 *The Blue Ostrich*
- b. 3 *The Californians*
- b. 3 *Calvain Hall*
- b. 3 *Change Without Notice*
- b. 3 *Colonel Chabert*
- b. 3 *The Countess Rose*
- b. 3 *The Dead of Night*
- b. 3 *Deliver the Goods*
- b. 3 *Designing Men*
- b. 3 *A Divorce Settlement*
- b. 3 *The Donnybrook Colleen*
- b. 4 *The Drom*

Writings (cont.)

Plays (cont.)

- b. 4 *Easy Money*
- b. 4 *Emily*
- b. 4 *Every Dog - His Day*
- b. 4 *Everybody*
- b. 4 *Faust*
- b. 4 *First Ladies*
- b. 4 *F'rever F'rever Sweetheart*
- b. 4 *At the Gate of Justice*
- b. 4 *The Go-Getter*
- b. 5 *The Gringo*
- b. 5 *The Gypsy Road*
- b. 5 *Inconstant Constance*
- b. 5 *The Judgment*
- b. 5 *Juliette...*
- b. 5 *The Lass Who Loved a Sailor*
- b. 5 *Let's Elope*
- b. 5 *The Little House in Mayfair*
- b. 5 *His Majesty the Queen*
- b. 5 *The Mamoloi*
- b. 6 *Mardi Gras*
- b. 6 *The Masque of the Red Death*
- b. 6 *Night Work*
- b. 6 *The Night Before Christmas*
- b. 6 *The Odd Trick*
- b. 6 *It Pays to Smile*
- b. 6 *Philopena*
- b. 6 *Prince Marco and the Daughter of the Moorish King*
- b. 7 *Quints on Strike*
- b. 7 *The Red Pavillion*
- b. 7 *Reincarnation*
- b. 7 *The Return*
- b. 7 *Riley and Circus Day*
- b. 7 *Say It With Flowers*
- b. 7 *The Scenario*
- b. 7 *The Servants in the House*
- b. 7 *Sick A Bed*
- b. 7 *Spare Tire*
- b. 7 *On Strike*
- b. 7 *Tar Baby*
- b. 7 *The Wages of Sin*
- b. 7 *Warm, Weak and Willing*

Writings (cont.)

Plays (cont.)

- b. 8 *The Wedding Song*
- b. 8 *What's a Lady?*
- b. 8 *White Mail*
- b. 8 *The Vision of the Young Joan*
- b. 8 *The Young Idea*
- b. 8 Unidentified
- b. 9 Sketches
- b. 9 Pencil, charcoal, water color sketches