



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Constance D'Arcy MacKay papers

1915-1939

*T Mss 1992-033

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Summary

Creator: Mackay, Constance D'Arcy

Title: Constance D'Arcy MacKay papers

Date: 1915-1939

Source: Gift, Nina Jeanne Nourse, 10/20/1992

Abstract: The Constance D'Arcy MacKay Papers consist of correspondence, clippings, photographs, programs and writings pertaining to her career as a writer and director of pageants and plays. Included as well are articles written by her husband, Roland Holt. The collection spans the years 1912-1939.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Access:

Photocopying prohibited.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: [Item], Constance D'Arcy MacKay papers, *T Mss 1992-033, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Creator History

Constance D'Arcy MacKay was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, the daughter of Robert and Anne (D'Arcy) MacKay. She was educated at Boston University (1903-1904) and began her writing career in 1905. She is most famous as a writer of pageants and children's plays. Some of her works include: *The Pageant of Patriotism* (Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N.Y.: 1911) *The Historical Pageant of Schenectady*,

N. Y.(Schenectady, N.Y. : 1912), *The Historical Pageant of Portland, Maine* (Portland, Me. : 1913), and *The Pageant of Sunshine and Shadows*, also known as *The Child Labor Pageant* (New York, N.Y. 1916). Her writings for children include: *The Silver Thread*, *The Magic Mirror*, and *The Boy Franklin*. She married publisher and writer Roland Holt in 1923.

Custodial History

The papers of Constance D'Arcy MacKay were discovered in 1992 in The Billy Rose Theatre Division as a result of a survey of the division's holdings. At that time the collection was reprocessed and a finding aid created. The materials were in good condition, though some conservation of newspaper items was required. The papers were most probably the gift of Nina Jeaane Nourse but the date of the acquisition and positive identification of the donor is not available.

Scope and Content Note

The Constance D'Arcy MacKay papers consist of correspondence, clippings, programs, and writings documenting the life and career of Ms. MacKay and her husband, Roland Holt. The papers span the years 1902-1955, though most of the materials range from 1910-1940.

Arrangement: The papers of Constance D'Arcy MacKay are arranged in seven series. They include: I. Correspondence II. Ephemera III. Organizations IV. Photographs V. Pageants and Plays VI. Writings VII. Clippings

Key Terms

Subjects

Children's plays, American
Pageant of Sunshine and Shadow
Pageants -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Photographic prints
Postcards
Programs
Scripts (documents)

Geographic Names

Quillcote (Hollis, Me.)

Names

Mackay, Constance D'Arcy
Hale, Edward Everett, Jr., 1863-1932
Holt, Roland, 1867-1931
Langdon, William Chauncy, 1871-1947
Mansfield, Beatrice
Skinner, Otis, 1858-1942
Smith, Nora Archibald, 1859-1934
Wiggin, Kate Douglas Smith, 1856-1923
Historical Pageant of Schenectady
National Child Labor Committee (U.S.)

Container List

Series I - Correspondence 1902-1955 (.2 lf.)

The Correspondence Series consists of letters primarily to Constance D'Arcy MacKay concerning her career as a writer of pageants and children's plays. There is a small number of letters belonging to her husband Roland Holt. Correspondents include: Beatrice Cameron Mansfield, Kate Douglas Wiggin (Mrs. Roggs), and Nora Archibald Smith. There is also a letter from Otis Skinner and one from Edward Everett Hale.

Arranged alphabetically then chronologically

- b. 1 f. 1 Hale, Edward Everett 1913 (1 letter)
- b. 1 f. 2 Holt, Roland 1918-1921 (9 letters)
- b. 1 f. 3 Jewett, Frances 1923 (2 letters)
- b. 1 f. 4 Langdon, William Chauncy 1911-1913 (2 letters)
- b. 1 f. 5 McClure, Phillips Co. 1905-1906 (3 letters)
- b. 1 f. 6 Mansfield, Beatrice 1928-1938 (16 letters)
- b. 1 f. 7 Ould, Hermon 1931 (1 letter)
- b. 1 f. 8 Park, Eleanor H. 1918 (2 letters)
- b. 1 f. 9 Sax, Carol M. 1916-1918 (3 letters)
- b. 1 f. 10 Charles Scribner's Sons 1919 (2 letters)
- b. 1 f. 11 Skinner, Otis 1922 (1 letter)
- b. 1 f. 12 Smith, Nora Archibald 1920-1934 (11 letters)
- b. 1 f. 13 Sutherland, Evelyn G. 1904 (2 notes)
- b. 1 f. 14 Wiggin, Kate Douglas 1913-1923 (26 letters)
- b. 1 f. 15 Woollcott, Alexander 1931 (2 copies)
- b. 1 f. 16 Correspondence "A - L" 1917-1955 (14 letters)
- b. 1 f. 17 Correspondence "M - Z" 1902-1936 (16 letters)

Series II - Ephemera (.1 lf.)

The Ephemera Series consists of postcards, invitations, biographical material, a tribute to George Bernard Shaw, miscellaneous programs and Ms. MacKay's wedding announcement.

Arranged alphabetically by form

- b. 1 f. 18 Biographical Materials
- b. 1 f. 19 Roland Holt Memorial
- b. 1 f. 20 Bernard Shaw Town Hall Tribute
- b. 1 f. 21 Postcards and Drawings
- b. 1 f. 22 Theatrical Postcards (11 postcards)
- b. 1 f. 23 Tickets and Programs
- b. 1 f. 24 Wedding Announcement for Constance D'Arcy MacKay and Roland Holt

Series III - Organizations ca. 1907 (2 folders)

The Organization Series consists of a membership list from the American Pageant Association and the constitution and by-laws for the Pen and Brush Club.

Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 1 f. 25 American Pageant Association
- b. 1 f. 26 The Pen and Brush Club 1907

Series IV - Photographs (.1 lf.)

The Photograph Series consists of both personal photographs of Ms. MacKay and friends and photographs from pageants. There is also postcard photographs of Quillcote in Hollis, Maine, which was the summer home of Kate Douglas Smith Wiggin.

Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 1 f. 27 Mansfield, Beatrice (2 images)
- b. 1 f. 28 Constitutional Centennial (New York, N.Y.) (1 image)
- b. 1 f. 29 Quillcote, Hollis, Maine (15 images)
- b. 1 f. 30 Pageants (13 images)
- b. 1 f. 31 Personal Photographs (7 images)
- b. 1 f. 32 Scenery (6 images)

Series V - Pageants and Plays ca. 1911-1916 (.1 lf.)

The Pageants and Plays Series consists of programs, announcements, scripts and outlines from various pageants and children's plays written by Constance D'Arcy MacKay. Of special note is the material on *The Pageant of Sunshine and Shadow* (child labor pageant), *The Historical Pageant of Schenectady* and *The Memorial Day Pageant*.

Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 2 f. 1 *Court of Remembrance (Pageant)*
- b. 2 f. 2 *Historical Pageant of Portland 1914*
- b. 2 f. 3 *Historical Pageant of Schenectady (published script) 1912*
- b. 2 f. 4 *Memorial Day Pageant (published script)*
- b. 2 f. 5 *Pageant of Sunlight and Shadow (Child Labor Pageant) (script)*
- b. 2 f. 6 *The Pioneers (Pageant)*
- b. 2 f. 7 *The Beau of Bath or The Lady of the Portrait (Play)*
- b. 2 f. 8 *The Boy Franklin (script)*
- b. 2 f. 9 *The Magic Mirror (Play)*
- b. 2 f. 10 *On Christmas Eve (Play)*
- b. 2 f. 11 *The Silver Thread*

Series VI - Writings (.05 lf.)

The Writings Series consists of materials other than plays and pageants written by Constance D'Arcy MacKay, Roland Holt, and other friends. Of special note is an autographed copy of *The Old Peabody Pew* written by Kate Douglas Smith Wiggin.

Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 2 f. 12 Writings of Constance D'Arcy MacKay
- b. 2 f. 13 Writings of Roland Holt
- b. 2 f. 14 Writings of Nora Archibald Smith
- b. 2 f. 15 *Writings of Kate Douglas Wiggin, The Old Peabody Pew (autographed copy)*
- b. 2 f. 16 Collected Articles
- b. 2 f. 17 Miscellaneous Writings

Series VII - Clippings (.05 lf.)

The Clippings Series consists of material about the life and career of Constance D'Arcy MacKay and her personal and professional associates. Included are newspaper articles about various pageants she wrote and which were performed in New York State and New England. Of special note are clippings related to the Town Hall Club Dinner in honor of George Bernard Shaw. Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 2 f. 18 Roland Holt
- b. 2 f. 19 Beatrice Mansfield
- b. 2 f. 20 Pageants and Plays of Constance D'Arcy MacKay
- b. 2 f. 21 Bernard Shaw - Town Hall Dinner
- b. 2 f. 22 Kate Douglas Wiggin and Quillcote