Guide to the Ida M. Mellen Papers
Manuscripts & Archives Division
New York Public Library
MELLEN, Ida M., 1877 - Biologist, author (noms de plume: Esmeralda de War, George Otis)

Born in N.Y.C., d. of Andrew Jackson Mellen and Mary Davis Sprague

1893 - graduated from Lockwood Academy, Brooklyn

1900 - graduated from Browne's Business College, Brooklyn

1901-16 - law reporter, N.Y.C.

1908-10 - student at Marine Biological Lab, Woods Hole

1916-29 - aquarist, New York Aquarium, engaged in care and feeding of aquatic animals in captivity

1929 - toured Europe studying public aquarium methods

1930 - engaged in authorship and independent research

Member: Alden Kindred of N.Y. City and Vicinity
International Humane Education Foundation
Thomas Paine Memorial Committee
The World Calendar Assoo.

Author: (monographs) "The Whitefishes" (with J. Van Osten), 1923
"A Table of Information Regarding Aquariums of the World", 1925 (revised, 1928)
"The Natural and Artificial Foods of Fishes", 1927
"The Treatment of Fish Diseases", 1928

(books) Fishes in the Home, 1927 (revised, 1954)
Young Folks' Book of Fishes, 1927
Roof Gardening, 1929
1001 Questions Answered About Your Aquarium (with Robt. J. Lanier), 1935 (revised, 1953)
A Practical Cat Book, 1939
The Science and Mystery of the Cat, 1940
Outstanding Members of the Mellen Tribe in America, 1941
Twenty Little Fishes (juvenile), 1942
The Wonder World of Fishes, 1961
The Natural History of the Pig, 1962

(articles) Numerous articles and book reviews esp. in fields of marine biology and fellinology

Ida M. Mellen Papers
Pre-processing Inventory

Box 1. General Correspondence (1903-59)

"A" (1929-57)
ALDEN, John (The Alden Kindred of New York and Vicinity) (1925-34)
American Humanist Assoc., The (1949)
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (1937-45)
Arthritis (personal medical problem) (1947)
Author's League of America (1937-41)
Aviation (re Ida Mellen's attempt to become an aviatrice) (1911)

"B" (1920-59)
BEAGLEY, Eleanor (1931-45)
BECKER, Gottfrid (The Becker Institute of Brooklyn) (1945)
BEDE, Dr. Frances Peele (1944-47)
BEDE, Dr. William (New York Zoological Society) (1939)
Believe It Or Not! (Robt. Ripley) (1940-41)
BENCHLEY, Mrs. Belle J. (Zoological Society of San Diego) (1945-51)
 Bikini Atoll, Atomic Tests at (1946)
Bird Protection Bills in Illinois and Maryland state legislatures (1949-55)
Blizzard Men of 1988, The (1944-59)
BODHANANDA, Swami (1914)
Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1936-37)
BROWN, Dr. Gilbert Patten — corresp. re Brown (1939-43)
BRUNS, Henry (1943-49)
BUTTERFIELD, Roger (1948)

"C" (1909-45)
CALLAHAN, Wilfred (re Packard family genealogy) (1942)
CHOW, Ying-yu (Chinese medical student at Univ. of Va.) (1912-16)
CLARK, Flora W. (1909-33)
Clubs and Organizations (1928-55)
COOPER, Viola Irene (1924-50)
CURTIS, Winterton C. (1958)
DARE, Joan (1940)
"Davis Theft" — re Gilbert I. Davis' alleged plagiarism. Corresp, 1938 with
Dodd, Mead & Co., etc.
DRAKE, Marion (1943-47)
DIDRIKSON, Mrs. N. (1920-49)
ZOKSTEIN, Dr. Gustav (College of Medicine, Cincinnatti) (1941)
Edison Institute of Technology (1931-33)
ESSOFF, Earle Armstrong (Mrs. Dmitry) (1948)
Eugene Field Society (n.d.)
Eugenics Record Office (1917-28)
EVANS, Bergen (1946) (1)

"F" (1938-53)
"Fish Corresp." — misc. problems regarding aquaria, etc. (1935-53)
FLOWER, Major Stanley S., O.R.E. (1936-46)
Freethinkers of America (Joseph Lewis) (1936-54)
"G" (1920-53)
Gifts to Libraries, Museums, etc. (by Ida Mellen) (1921-57)
GREENLY, Dr. Edward (English geologist) (1937-51) (28)
Guggenheim Award and Honorary Degree (for Ida Mellen) (1935-40)
"M" (1925-46)
Halpern Bill (dog-licensing bill in N.Y. State Leg.) (1945)
HANSON, Anne W. (1942-47)
HARBAUGH, Alice Elizabeth (1925-44)
Box 1. General Correspondence (cont'd)

HODDIGY, Ernest (1948)
HOOD, Richard Haden (1940-51)
HOOTON, Dr. Earnest A. (1943) (1)
HOUDE, Celia L. (1923-29)
HOWE, Marshall A. (1909-44)
HOWES, Thomas (1922-45)
"Information Please" (radio program) (1941-44)
Job-hunting (incl. appeals to N.Y. Zoological Soc.) (1929-44)
Jones Beach and Coney Island, proposed aquaria for (1935-43)
"K" (1932-49)
KADISON, Alexander (1939)
KIRK, Prof. H. B. (of New Zealand) (1936)
KLOE, Louise (1947-49)
"L" (1927-47)
LAGUARDIA, Fiorello (ltrs. to) (1934-44)
LAMER, Robert J. (Steinhart Aquarium, San Francisco) (1926-47)
LIFE and TIME (magazines) (1941-49)
LOVEJOY, Clarence E. (1940)

Box 2.

"M" (1923-59)
MOORE, Joseph F. (1920-45)
MacMEEKIN, S. (incl. typescript copy of narrative, "Down the San Juan" (River), by (MacMeekin), dtd. May, 1942, 13 p.) (1942-48)
MAHONEY, Hastings (1936-44)
MANGELSEN, W. F. (Amer. Museum of Public Recreation) (1931)
MARSH, Orson Swett (1914)
Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole (1935-36)
MASCATE, Emilio (Cuban aquarist) (1935)
MELLEN, Eleanor L. (1945)
MELLEN, Frank (brother of Ida Mellen) (1913-47)
Metal-Calf-Hatch Bill (animal seizure bill in N.Y. State Leg.) (1952-56)
MILLER, Theodore (1922)
MOORE, Hugh (Hugh Moore Fund) (1959)
Mourning Dove (gamebird), conservation of, in Calif. (1952-53)
Museum of the American Indian (1930)
"N" (1944-45)
Netherlands, books for the (1940-46)
New York Aquarium - corresp. arising out of Ida Mellen's association with aquarium and letters on her leaving the Aquarium (1920-32)
Nut Shovel (article of tableware invented by Ida Mellen) (1938)
O'DWYER, Wm. (Mayor of N.Y.C. - ltrs. to) (1946)
OMKAR, Sri Swami (The Mission of Peace, Santa Ashram, India) (1946-55)
"P" (1909-47)
PALMER, Nina Derby (1932-52)
PALMER, Wm. F. (1922-43)
Pension Plan for Scholars (devised by Ida Mellen) (1944-56)
PIERSON, Truman T. (The Int'l Humane Education Foundation) (1939-49)
Post Office Dept. (1934-54)
POPPER, Charles Francis (The First Humanist Society of New York) (1940-53)
Public Interests of Ida Mellen (1905-58)
"R" (1934-50)
Railways, Subways, etc., complaints against (1935-44)
ROBERTS, Ernest F. (1940-50)
ROGERS, Emma J. Winship (cousin of Ida Mellen) (1931-44)
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (T.H. Gillespie) (1939-53)
Russian Wonder Serum (1945)
RUTHERFORD, Thomas W. (1936)
Box 2. General Correspondence (cont'd)

"a" (1918-53)
Sales (of Ida Mellen's personal property) (1929-38)

SAMUELJ, Elfreda (1928-59)
SARTER, Emilie (1922-26)
SCHUURMAN, J. A. (Dutch foreign service officer) (1945-52)
SADD, Marilyn M. (1943-50)
SHAW, Harriet M. (1923-29)
SHAWLING, Mae (1935-53)

SMALL, Theodore White (1955-59)
Snowman, The Abominable (incl. article by Ida Mellen, "Must We Admit to Two Species of the Genus Homo", typescript, 5 p.) (1959)

SRAQUE, Bert (cousin of Ida Mellen) (1935-45)
SRAQUE, Dorothy Ann (1955-56)

Stern Island Nature Council (1944)
STOYE, Frederick H. (1934-35)

STAYGER, Carol (1938-44)

"b" (1922-56)

TEALE, Edwin Way (1943)
THOMAS, Charles C. (publisher) (1928-47)

THOMAS, Louise Carroll (Mrs. T. Gaillard) (1935-43)

THOMAS, P. M. (1943-45)
THOMSON, Ann E. (1922-44)
THOMSON, Mary M. (1935-58)
TOBY, Walter L. (1930)

Townsend Plan for National Insurance (Dr. Francis E. Townsend) (1934)
TUNILLY, Louise (French war orphan 'adopted' by Ida Mellen) (1918-20)

Box 3.

"c" (1919-43)

VAN PAASSEN, Pierre (1939-42) (2)

VIRKUS, Frederick Adams (The Institute of American Genealogy) (1941-46)

Vivisection (The New England Anti-Vivisection Society, etc.) (1946-64)
VON HAGEN, Victor Wolfgang (1941)

"w" (1931-60)

WAKEFIELD, Eva Ingersoll (1954-55)
WATT, Margaret L. (1938-45)

Wedding and birth notices
WEISEL, Otto Kraft (1932-46)
WESTERVELT, Alberta (1930-52)
WILKIEC, J. Wesley (1919-35)
WHITNEY, Leon F. (1928-55)
WOLKENHAUSER, Mrs. Hazel (1939)
WOOS, Anderson (1913-36)
WOOS, Mrs. Anderson (Big Sister League, Inc.) (1938-54)
WOODWORTH, Ruling (1933-42)

World Calendar (proposal) (1946-49)
World Center for Women's Archives, Inc. (Innes Haynes Irwin) (1938-45)

World Fellowship, Inc. (1943-44)

Zoological Society of London (re horseshoe crab) (1945-47)

Correspondence with Editors and Publishers (1907-58)

All-Pets Magazine (Frank E. Dittrich, Muriel S. O'Neill) (1943-54)
American Journal of Psychology (1926)

Aquarist and Pond-Keeper, The (A.E. Hodge) (1934-36)
Aquarium News (George H. Sly, Jr, Rochester Aquarium Society) (1934-38)
Aquatic Life (August M. Roth) (1935-55)
Correspondence with Editors and Publishers (cont'd)

Avon House, Publishers (1940)
Books, Inc. (L.M. Adams) (1942-46)
Brooklyn Daily Eagle (1915-42)
Collier's Encyclopedia (Wm. T. Couch, Robt. S. Mathews) (1949-57)
Conservationist (Pieter W. Fosburgh) (1953-55)
Crown Publishers (1927-36)
Dodd, Mead & Co. (R.T. Bond, Arthur M. Chase, etc.) (1927-58) - incl. royalty statements.
Encyclopedia Americana (incl. carbon typescript of Ida Mellen's article on cats, 15 p., and ltrs. from readers) (1953)
Encyclopedia Britannica (1943-44)
Exposition Press (1938)
Funk & Wagnalls Co. (1934-36)
Gorham Press, The (1928-29)
Gregg Writer, The (1938)
Grolier Encyclopedia (S. Edger Farquhar) (1947-48)
Journal of Heredity (1937-39)
Julian Messner, Inc. Publishers (1941-46)
Junior Reviewers (1943)
Lippincott, J. B. (1936)
Living Animals (maurice Burton) (1949-50)
Living Tissue (New England Anti-Vivisection Soc.) (1938-44)
Midland Press, The (1929-32)
Misc. Publishers (1926-53)
National Geographic Society (Franklin Fisher, Ralph A. Graves) - incl. corresp. with readers of her articles in the Society's Magazine) (1930-32)
National Humane Review, The (Fred Myers) (1953)
Nature Magazine (Richard W. Westwood) (1926-55)
New York Mirror (1950)
New York Times (1948-49)
Newark Evening News (1925-26)
Open Road, The (1907-08)
Orange Judd Publishing Co. (1932)
Pamphlet publishers (1954-55)
Parks and Recreation (1936-37)
Pets Magazine (1929-30)
Psychology (magazine) (1924-25)
Rural New Yorker, The (1935-47)
School Nature League (Amer. Museum of Natural History) (1931-37)
Stratford Co. Publishers (1928)
"Ten Cent" books (1935)
Tudor House (1938-39)
Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Co. (1937)
Who's Who in America (1943-56)
Who's Who in the Western Hemisphere (1943-45)
Worris I. Colodny, editor (1936-46)
World Book Encyclopedia (Georg Mann) (incl. carbon typescript with revisions of Ida Mellen's article on the cat) (1944-45)
Zoological Society of San Diego (1946)
Box 3. Correspondence, etc. re Books of Ida Mellen (1926-60)

1. ANDRE, Major John - corresp. of Ida Mellen, 1934-41 relating to her search for original source materials for a biography of Andre (chap. on Andre appears in "Charming Men"). Correspondents incl.: Ella M. Bowman (great grand niece of Capt. Samuel Bowman, one of Andre's captors); Louisa Carroll Thomas (great grand niece of Peggy Chew, friend of Andre); Carl Van Doren (5 ltrs, 1940-41). Also, misc. papers: typescript of paper on Andre by Ella M. Bowman, 27 p.; misc. notes & clippings; pos. photostats of ltrs. by contemporaries of Andre relating to the character of his captors (2 ltrs. of Benj. Tallmadge, Feb. 7 and Apr. 17, 1817; contemporary copy of ltr. of A.C. Hammond, Mar. 4, 1817; portion of an account of Andre's last hours by Capt. Bowman - material supplied by Ella M. Bowman) (1 folder)

2. "Charming Men" (also, "Twenty Famous Charmers") - corresp, 1950-58, with editors and publishers relative to the preparation and publication of Ida Mellen's biography of famous men (unpublished). (4 folders)

Box 4.

3. The Natural History of the Pig, by Ida M. Mellen (Exposition Press, New York, 1952) - corresp., 1952-57, with Exposition Press and other publishers; some corresp. with reviewers and readers; photographs of pigs and other miscellany. (4 folders)

4. 1001 Questions Answered About Your Aquarium, by Ida M. Mellen and Robt. J. Lanier ( Dodd, Mead and Co., New York, 1935 and 1961) - corresp., 1934-50, with the publisher, the authors and various authorities in the fields of ichthyology and marine biology relative to the preparation of the MS. and its publication. (2 folders)

5. A Practical Cat Book, by Ida M. Mellen (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York and London, 1939); The Science and Mystery of the Cat, by Ida M. Mellen (same publisher, 1940) - corresp., 1938-50, with the publisher and editor (Maxwell E. Perkins, etc.), comments from readers, royalty statements and miscellany. (3 folders)

6. Roof Gardening, by Ida M. Mellen (A.T. De La Mare Co., New York, 1929) - corresp., 1928-50, with the publisher, roof gardeners, reviewers, etc. (1 folder)

7. Twenty Little Fishes, by Ida M. Mellen (Julian Messner, New York, 1942) - corresp., 1936-58, with the publisher, readers, etc.; original sketches & other miscellany. (1 folder)

Correspondence Relating to Cats (1926-58)

American Feline Society (1941-53)
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (1940-45)
Anti-Cruelty Society (1945)
"B" (1926-56)
British Museum (M.I. Poocok) (1945)
Box 4. Correspondence Relating to Cats (cont’d)

"C" (1937-53)
CAMEE, Donald M. (1945)
Cat and Bird - re alleged friendship between (1936-38)
Cats Magazine (Charles A. Kenny) (1944-56)
Chicago Humane Education Society, Inc. (1934-38)
Connecticut Cat Fanciers (1944)
"D" (1936-44)
Destruction, methods of (1936-37)
"E" (1942-48)
Falling Cats Turn Over Phenomenon (1949-50)
"G" - "H" (1936-55)
National Cat Week (1947-57)
NOURSE, Lilla A. (1950)
"O", "P" (1936-58)
PARKER, Eleanor (1957-58)
"Paraguayan Cat" - re alleged existence of (1936-37)
Quarantine Regulations (1948)
"R" (1930-47)
RHINE, J. B. (Duke Univ, Parapsychology Lab.) (1951-56) (10)
Rijksmuseum Van Oudheden (1936-37)
"S" (1936-37)
SAYRE, Rockwell (anti-cat campaign) (1925)
Short Hair Cat Club (1943-44)
"T", "J", "M" (1936-57)

Box 5. Writings of Ida Mellen

1. "Charming Men" - biographical studies of twenty famous men ranging
from 7th to 20th centuries (unpublished). Original typescript
with photographic portraits, dtd. 1958, 261 p. Bound with ribbon
in paper covers. Also, carbon typescript, unbound.

2. "Country Experiment, A Page from an Autobiography" - original type-
script with photographic illustrations, dtd. 1941, 89 p. Un-
published. Bound with ribbon in paper covers.

3. "The Lady and the Turtle" - science fiction fantasy about a young
woman who swims down the Atlantic coast in the shell of a sea
with ribbon in paper covers.

4. "The Old Boy and His Museum" - original typescript of short story by
"George Otis" (pseudonym of Ida Mellen), dtd. 1942, 89 p. Un-
published. Bound with ribbon in paper covers.

5. "Outstanding Members of the Mellen Tribe in America" - carbon type-
(original typescript of this work presented to N.Y.P.L. in 1941)

6. "Tribute to the Hudson" - vignette by Ida Mellen in celebration of
80th birthday, 9 Jan, 1957. Original typescript, 5 p. with comments
and acknowledgements from friends.

7. "Vitulina the Seal; or The Life in the North Atlantic Ocean" - original
typescript with drawings and photographic illustrations, dtd.
E. "What You Do Not Know About Fishes" - mounted clippings of series of 24 newspaper articles (syndicated in Brooklyn Eagle, Newark News and Spokane Chronicle) with MS. emendations.


   e. "The Little Bone Pig" (sio), 1923, 2 p.


**Lectures and Radio Talks of Ida Mellen (1917-48)**

1920 - (Slides of the New York Aquarium), 11 p.
1924 - "As Opposed to Kaspar Hauser" - paper read at the 12th annual meeting of the Eugenics Research Assoc, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. Typescript, 8 p.
1927 - "Linulus" - paper read at the N.Y. Academy of Medicine. Typescript, 4 p.
1940 - "A Cross Section of Society as Revealed in the Writing of Cat Books", typescript, 7 p.
1944 - "What Can We Do for Cats?", typescript, 4 p.

Radio Talks, 1922-38. Typescripts of Ida Mellen's radio talks in the field of marine biology (3 folders)
Box 5. Genealogical Papers


2. Genealogical chart invented by Ida Mellen for showing direct ancestors (showing Mellen ancestry). Oversize - in pkg.

3. Mellen family miscellany: marriage certificate and newspaper (Lowell Patriot and Advertiser, Nov. 26, 1882) containing notice of wedding of Andrew Jackson Mellen and Mary Davis Sprague (parents of Ida Mellen); eugenic records of Ida Mellen; photographs of Andrew J. Mellen, Henry Berge, Jennie Mellen Berge; memorabilia (calling cards, letterheads, etc.). (1 folder)

4. Memorabilia of the Sprague and Litchfield families (calling cards, school merit awards, c.1860's) (1 folder)


Box 6. Notes

1. Notes for "Charming Men", by Ida Mellen (7 folders)

2. Notes for 1001 Questions..., by Ida Mellen (1 folder)

3. Notes taken by Ida Mellen at lectures sponsored by The First Humanist Society of New York, 1938-47 (2 folders)

Personal Miscellaneous


2. Childhood diary of Ida Mellen, 1887-91, childhood letters, 1884, and composition book; samples of her handwriting as a young girl. (1 folder)

3. Fortune, horoscope and numerology (1 folder)

4. Income tax and social security papers, 1941-59. (1 folder)


7. Photograph album - Mellen family photos, esp. Ida and Frank Mellen, at various periods.
Box 6. Miscellaneous Papers

1. Photographs, clippings and other ephemera relating to cats (2 folders)

Box 7.

2. Unsorted papers (3 folders)

3. Printed works ('desk copies') annotated by Ida Mellen:
   Heavily annotated for 'next edition'.
   Zoological Soc, 1919.
   c. New York Zoological Soc, Report of the Director of the Aquarium, 
   Jan, 1925. Reprint corrected for next printing.
   d. The Public Aquarium, by Chas. H. Townsend, Bureau of Fisheries 
   corrected.
   e. "The Treatment of Fish Diseases", by Ida Mellen. Reprint from 
   Zoopathologica, vol. 11, no. 1, Apr, 1928.

Scrapbooks - Printed References to Ida Mellen (5 vols.)

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<td>1.</td>
<td>1895-1914,  91 p. with title index - vol. f^o</td>
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<td>1957-64,    43 p.</td>
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(SEE: index to vols. 1-8 in vol. 1 (loose), 15 p.)