

Marcia Davenport Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Jay Seebee
Revised and expanded by David Mathisen



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms011167>

Collection Summary

Title: Marcia Davenport Papers

Span Dates: 1932-1970

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1932-1960)

ID No.: MSS17806

Creator: Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996

Extent: 4,000 items; 35 containers; 13 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English with some in Czech.

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Author and music critic. Correspondence, drafts, galley proofs, typescripts, notes, and press clippings relating to Davenport's books and novels.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Brandt, Carol, 1904-1984.

Davenport, Marcia, 1903-1996.

Meyer, Wallace.

Perkins, Maxwell E. (Maxwell Evarts), 1884-1947.

Subjects

Authors and publishers.

Occupations

Authors.

Music critics.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Marcia Davenport, author and music critic, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1968 and 1973. The deposits were converted to a gift in 1992.

Processing History

The papers of Marcia Davenport were arranged and described in 1969. The collection was expanded in 1983. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

The Marcia Davenport Papers are described in *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress* 26, no. 4 (Oct. 1969): 247.

Related Material

A related collection in the Manuscript Division includes the papers of her husband, [Russell Wheeler Davenport](#).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Marcia Davenport in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Marcia Davenport 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, Marcia Davenport Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1903, June 9	Born, New York, N.Y.
1915-1923	Educated at Friends School, Philadelphia, Pa.; Shipley School, Bryn Mawr, Pa.; Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.; and received B.A. from Grenoble University, Grenoble, France
1923	Married Frank D. Clarke (divorced 1924)
1924-1928	Advertising copy writer, New York, N.Y.
1928-1931	Editorial staff, <i>The New Yorker</i>
1929	Married Russell W. Davenport (divorced 1946)
1932	Published <i>Mozart</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1934-1939	Music critic, <i>Stage Magazine</i>
1936	Published <i>Of Lena Geyer</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1936-1937	Commentator, Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts
1940	Active in presidential campaign of Wendell L. Willkie
1941-1945	Active in relief work for Czechoslovakia
1942	Published <i>Valley of Decision</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1945-1948	Lived in Prague, Czechoslovakia
1947	Published <i>East Side, West Side</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1950-	Lived alternately in Europe, chiefly Italy, and New York, N.Y.

1954	Published <i>My Brother's Keeper</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1957	Published <i>Garibaldi: Father of Modern Italy</i> . New York, N.Y.: Random House
1960	Published <i>The Constant Image</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1967	Published <i>Too Strong for Fantasy</i> . New York, N.Y.: Scribner
1991	Published <i>Jan Masaryk: Last Portrait</i> . Panorama
1996, Jan. 16	Died, Monterey, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Marcia Davenport (1903-1996) span the years 1932-1970, with the bulk of the material dating from 1932 to 1960. The papers are mostly in English with a typescript in Czech and are organized into the following series: [Correspondence](#), [Literary Manuscripts](#), and [Addition](#).

The [Correspondence](#) largely relates to the preparation and publication of her books and novels and there are numerous drafts and copies of Davenport's outgoing letters. A significant group of correspondence consists of letters from Maxwell E. Perkins, editor-in-chief at Charles Scribner's Sons, from 1931 until his death in 1947. Included among the more than thirty letters from Perkins is a ten-page letter, dated April 28, 1947, concerning revisions of Davenport's novel *East Side, West Side*. Other correspondents include Carol Brandt, Davenport's literary agent, Charles Scribner, Jr., and Wallace Meyer who succeeded Perkins as Davenport's editor at the Scribner publishing house. There are also individual letters from Willa Cather, Irving Kolodin, and Montrose Jonas Moses. Further correspondence is in the [Addition](#).

The [Literary Manuscripts](#) relate to her works published from 1929 to 1960 including *Mozart, Of Lena Geyer, Valley of Decision, East Side, West Side, My Brother's Keeper, Garibaldi: Father of Modern Italy*, and *The Constant Image*. Notes and early material relating to her 1967 autobiography *Too Strong for Fantasy* and the original typescript for *My Brother's Keeper* are in the [Addition](#). Included with the manuscripts are notes, typescripts, press clippings, typescripts, galley proofs, page proofs, drafts, and fragments.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1929-1959](#)
- [Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960](#)
- [Addition, 1936-1970](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Correspondence, 1929-1959</u> Incoming and outgoing letters relating to Davenport's publications. Arranged into special correspondence of Maxwell E. Perkins and general correspondence.
BOX 2-33	<u>Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960</u> Drafts, notes, typescripts, galley proofs, page proofs, and press clippings. Arranged by title of work and thereunder by type of material.
BOX 34-35	<u>Addition, 1936-1970</u> Correspondence, literary manuscripts, clippings, notes, typescripts, and fragments. Arranged by type of material or title of work.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1929-1959 Incoming and outgoing letters relating to Davenport's publications. Arranged into special correspondence of Maxwell E. Perkins and general correspondence.
BOX 1	Special correspondence, Maxwell E. Perkins, 1931-1947
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1929-1959, undated
BOX 2-33	Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960 Drafts, notes, typescripts, galley proofs, page proofs, and press clippings. Arranged by title of work and thereunder by type of material.
BOX 2	<i>Mozart</i> , 1932
BOX 2	Notes, fragments, and early drafts
BOX 3	Fragments of manuscript and typescript
BOX 4	Manuscript and typescript
BOX 5	Typescript (copy), press clippings, and preface to revised edition
BOX 6	<i>Of Lena Geyer</i> , 1936
BOX 6	Early draft manuscript and original manuscript
BOX 7	Typescript (copy) and galley proof (fragment)
BOX 8	Galley proof
BOX 9	Press clippings
BOX 10	<i>Valley of Decision</i> , 1942
BOX 10	Research notes, drafts, fragments, and working notes
BOX 11	Original manuscript
BOX 12	Cuts from original manuscript
BOX 13	Revised original manuscript
BOX 14	Revised original manuscript
BOX 14	Editorial typescript
BOX 15	Editorial typescript
BOX 16	Galley proof
BOX 17	Galley proof
BOX 18	Press clippings
BOX 19	Press clippings
BOX 20	Press clippings
BOX 21	Czech translation (typescript)
BOX 22	<i>East Side, West Side</i> , 1947
BOX 22	Notes and working material and original manuscript
BOX 23	Author's typescript
BOX 23	Press clippings
BOX 24	<i>My Brother's Keeper</i> , 1954
BOX 24	Working notes, early drafts, and original manuscript

Literary Manuscripts, 1932-1960

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 25	Editorial typescript
BOX 26	Revised manuscript and page proof
BOX 27	Press clippings
BOX 28	<i>Garibaldi: Father of Modern Italy</i> , 1957
BOX 28	Notes and original manuscript
BOX 28	"So Help Me God," fragment of drama
BOX 29	<i>The Constant Image</i> , 1960
BOX 29	Notes and fragments, original manuscript, editorial typescript, and page proof
BOX 30	Press clippings
BOX 31	Early drafts, fragments, and original manuscript
BOX 32	Editorial typescript
BOX 33	Galley proof and page proof
BOX 34-35	Addition, 1936-1970 Correspondence, literary manuscripts, clippings, notes, typescripts, and fragments. Arranged by type of material or title of work.
BOX 34	Correspondence, 1936-1969
BOX 34	Letter to the editor, circa 1947
BOX 34	Notes with clippings, 1967-1968
BOX 34	Clippings
BOX 34	Charles Scribner's Sons
BOX 34	Literary Clipping Service
BOX 34	Clippings and printed matter
BOX 35	<i>My Brother's Keeper</i> , original typescript and carbon copy, 1954
BOX 35	<i>Too Strong for Fantasy</i> , rough notes and early material, 1967
BOX 35	Fragments