Guide to the Katherine Mayo Papers

MS 345

compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

February 1984

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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Paging Instructions

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Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Sterling Memorial Library
128 Wall Street
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
Web: http://web.library.yale.edu/mssa
Email: mssa.assist@yale.edu
Phone: (203) 432-1735
Fax: (203) 432-7441

CALL NUMBER: MS 345

CREATOR: Mayo, Katherine, 1868?-1940

TITLE: Katherine Mayo papers

DATES: 1835–1968

BULK DATES: 1918–1940

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 27.5 Linear Feet (69 boxes)

LANGUAGE(S): The materials are in English.

SUMMARY: Correspondence, diaries, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, research materials, and miscellaneous documenting the personal life and literary career of Katherine Mayo, an author of several historical and investigative articles, essays, and books from 1896 to 1940. Correspondence files document the detailed literary research Mayo conducted and the strong public reaction generated by her writings. This is particularly true for such works as Justice to All (1917), The Isles of Fear (1925), and Mother India (1927). Diaries provide sporadic information on the daily activities of Mayo, while writings include drafts of many works. Photographs and research materials further detail the foreign travels (South America, India, Philippines) and subsequent literary works produced by Mayo. Scrapbooks contain reviews and commentary relating to Mayo's publications. The papers provide information on such diverse such diverse topics as life in India, the Philippine Islands, and South America; the Pennsylvania State Police; George Washington; the Y.M.C.A. during World War I; war veterans of World War I; and the narcotics trade.

FINDING AID LINK: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0345.
Administrative Information

Provenance


Information about Access

The materials are open for research.

Ownership & Copyright

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Cite As

Katherine Mayo Papers (MS 345). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Katherine Mayo was born in Ridgeway, Pennsylvania, on January 24, 1867. She died in Bedford Hills, New York, on October 9, 1940. Mayo published several articles, essays, and books based on her travels and literary investigations from 1896-1938, including works on India and World War I. Mayo published articles in the New York Evening Post, Atlantic Monthly, and Scribner's Magazine, sometimes under the pen name Katherine Prence. She assisted Oswald Garrison Villard in the preparation of John Brown (1910), and Horace White in the preparation of Life of Lyman Trumbull (1913). Mayo wrote Justice to All (1917), The Standard Bearers (1918), That Damn Y (1920), Mounted Justice (1922), The Isles of Fear (1925), Mother India (1927), Volume II (1931), Slaves of the Gods (1929), Soldiers, What Next? (1934), The Face of Mother India (1935), and General Washington's Dilemma (1938). She was researching a book on the narcotics traffic at the time of her death. Mayo travelled extensively to research her literary topics, often in the company of her close friend and collaborator, M. Moyca Newell.

Description of the Collection

Correspondence, diaries, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, research materials, and miscellanea documenting the personal life and literary career of Katherine Mayo, an author of several historical and investigative articles, essays, and books from 1896-1940.

Correspondence files document the detailed literary research Mayo conducted, and the strong public reaction generated by her writings. This is particularly true for the books: Justice to All (1917), The Isles of Fear (1925), and Mother India (1927). Diaries provide sporadic information on the daily activities of Mayo, while her writings include drafts of many works. Photographs and research materials further detail the foreign travels (South America, India, the Philippine Islands) and subsequent literary works produced by Mayo. Scrapbooks contain reviews and commentary relating to Mayo's publications. The papers provide information on such diverse topics as life in India, the Philippine Islands, and South America; the Pennsylvania State Police; George Washington; the Y.M.C.A. during World War I; war veterans of World War I; and the narcotics trade.
The Katherine Mayo Papers (27.50 linear ft.) are arranged in five series: I. Correspondence, 1898-1968; II. Diaries, 1886-1955; III. Essays and Newspaper Articles, 1890-1941; IV. Books, 1917-1940; and V. Photographs and Miscellanea, 1835-1940.

Series I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1898-1968, is arranged in chronological order and contains the incoming correspondence of Katherine Mayo (1898-1940) and M. Moyca Newell (ca. 1910-1968). The bulk of correspondence pertains to Katherine Mayo, and specifically her literary work on such books as Justice to All (1917), The Standard Bearers (1918), Mounted Justice (1922), Isles of Fear (1925), Mother India (1927), and Soldiers, What Next? (1934). Letters from publishers and individuals who read Mayo's works are included in this series.

Letters relating to Mayo's most familiar work, Mother India (1927), include correspondence from government figures in India, Great Britain, and the United States. This work elicited international comment and controversy, and both praise and condemnation, for its detailed view of Indian society. An earlier work by Mayo, Isles of Fear (1925), which examined life in the Philippine Islands, created a similar although less vocal reaction, as did her writings on the New York and Pennsylvania state police forces: Justice to All (1917), The Standard Bearers (1918), and Mounted Justice (1922). Soldiers, What Next?, published in 1934, also engendered a degree of controversy, as Mayo openly criticized the treatment of military veterans in the United States.

Prior to Mayo's success as a literary figure she was employed by Oswald Garrison Villard to conduct extensive field research for his biography of John Brown. Letters from Villard (ca. 1907-1913) detail Mayo's exhaustive research and include his encouragement regarding her own literary career. Letters from Harvard University's Peabody Museum and the Entomological News of Philadelphia (ca. 1900-1907) concern Mayo's work for those organizations. She lived with her father in South America during the early 1900s, and contracted to collect Indian relics and insect specimens.

Series II, DIARIES, 1886-1955, contains several volumes of diaries maintained by Katherine Mayo and M. Moyca Newell from 1886-1955. The diaries offer few insights into the thoughts of Mayo and Newell; rather, these volumes tend to briefly summarize the appointments and activities of a particular year or years.

Series III, ESSAYS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, 1890-1941, contains drafts and printed copies of many of Mayo's first literary works. Mayo's work was published in such popular magazines and journals of the day as: Atlantic Monthly, Scribner's, The Outlook, and Nash's. Many of these essays formed the foundation (or an actual component) of Mayo's books.

Series IV, BOOKS, 1917-1939, contains manuscripts, notes, and photographs used in the research and writing of Mayo's books. Scrapbooks containing book reviews and speaking engagements are also arranged in this series. Several scrapbooks for Mother India (1927), in boxes thirty-seven through forty-one, document the widespread attention that book received.

Series V, PHOTOGRAPHS AND MISCELLANEA, 1835-1940, contains personal photographs of Mayo, including several portraits. Miscellanea includes a variety of ephemera, such as an autograph book; an account book of James Mayo, Katherine's father, dated 1835-1838; and a piece of the rope allegedly used to hang John Brown.

The Mayo Papers were donated to Yale University Library by M. Moyca Newell, 1951-1962, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Meade, 1962.

Arrangement

## Collection Contents

### Series I. Correspondence

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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**Series I. Correspondence**

*4.5 linear feet (11 boxes)*

This series contains correspondence arranged chronologically.
This series contains the diaries of Katharine Mayo and M. Moyca Newell arranged in chronological order.

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18 | 126-127 | 1890-1900 | 1890–1900
18 | 128 | [ca. 1890-1910] | [ca. 1890-1910]
18 | 129 | 1900-1910 | 1900–1910
18 | 130 | [ca. 1900-1910] | [ca. 1900-1910]
18 | 131 | 1900-1910 | 1900–1910
18 | 132 | [ca. 1900-1910] | [ca. 1900-1910]
18 | 133 | 1906 | 1906
19 | 134-135 | 1910-1912 | 1910–1912
19 | 136 | [ca. 1913-1917] | [ca. 1913-1917]
19 | 137 | 1917-1922 | 1917–1922
19 | 138 | [ca. 1919] | [ca. 1919]
19 | 139 | 1920-1928 | 1920–1928
19 | 140 | 1923 | 1923
19 | 141 | [ca. 1927-1932] | [ca. 1927-1932]
19 | 142 | [ca. 1930] | [ca. 1930]
20 | 143 | 1930-1935 | 1930–1935
20 | 144 | 1941 | 1941
20 | 145 | undated | undated

#### Newspaper articles

19 | 146 | 1894-1907 | 1894–1907
21 | 147a-h | 1910-1935 | 1910–1935

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This series is arranged in two sections: *Essays* (1890-1941) and *Newspaper articles* (1894-1935).

Each section is arranged chronologically.
Series IV. Books

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This series contains manuscripts, notes, photographs, and scrapbooks relating to the volumes Katherine Mayo authored from 1917-1939.

Material is arranged by the title of each volume, in chronological order of publication.

- **Justice to All**, 1917
  - 22 148 Manuscript: *The Black Hussars*
  - 22 149 Minutes: Committee for New York State Police
  - 22 150-153 Photographs
  - 23-26 154-157 Scrapbooks
  - 27 158-163 *The Standard Bearers*, 1918: manuscripts

- **That Damn Y**, 1920
  - 28 164-167 Photographs
  - 28 168-169 Scrapbooks

- **Mounted Justice**, 1922: manuscript
  - 29 170

- **Isles of Fear**, 1925
  - 30 171 Clippings
  - 30 172 Photographs

- **Mother India**, 1927
  - 33 176-179 Manuscripts: final draft
  - 34-36 180-203 Notes
  - 37-41 204-213 Scrapbooks
  - 37-41 Miscellaneous

- **Slaves of the Gods**, 1929: manuscripts
  - 42-45 214-242 Notes
  - 46 243-244 Clippings
  - 46 245 Articles
  - 46 246-249 Unidentified

- **Soldiers, What Next?**, 1934

- **Manuscripts**
  - 48-49 254-278 U.S.A. section
  - 50 279-287 English section
  - 51 288-292 Italian section
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Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following access points in Orbis, the Yale University Library online catalog.

Subjects

Child marriage -- India.
Narcotics
Opium
Police, State -- New York (State)
Police, State -- Pennsylvania.
Veterans -- United States
Women authors, American
Women
World War, 1914-1918 -- War work -- Young Men's Christian Associations
Asia
India -- Description and travel
India -- Economic conditions -- 1918-1947
India -- History -- British occupation, 1765-1947
India -- Politics and government -- 1765-1947
Pennsylvania -- History, Local.
Philippines -- Description and travel
Authors.
Astor, Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor, Viscountess, 1879-1964
Aydelotte, Frank, 1880-1956
Babbitt, Edwin Burr, 1862-1939.
Baldwin, Stanley Baldwin, Earl, 1867-1947
Batchelder, Charles C., 1867-1946.
Brown, John, 1810-1882
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965
Darrow, Clarence, 1857-1938
Disney, Walt, 1901-1966
Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948
Gunther, John, 1901-1970
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972
Hughes, Rupert, 1872-1956
Kipling, Rudyard, 1865-1936
Lothian, Philip Henry Kerr, Marquis of, 1882-1940
Lutyens, Emily, Lady, 1874-1964
Lyttleton, Edith Sophy Balfour, 1865-1948.
MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964
Masefield, John, 1878-1967
Maurois, André, 1885-1967
Mayo, Katherine, 1868?-1940
Newell, Marjorie Moyca.
Osmeña, Sergio, 1878-1961
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945
Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950
Stettinius, Edward R., Jr. (Edward Reilly), 1900-1949
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950
Sullivan, Mark, 1874-1952
Villard, Oswald Garrison, 1872-1949
Washington, George, 1732-1799
Willert, Arthur, Sir, 1882-1973
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927