Summary Information

Creator
Keller, Martha, 1902-1971

Title
Martha Keller Papers

Dates
1910 -1972, 1924-1954 (bulk)

Extent
2.5 LF ( 6.5 ms. boxes)

Arrangement
Materials are arranged into 6 series corresponding to the nature of the material: correspondence, legal and financial materials, research materials, publications, etc.

Language of Materials
All materials in English.

Abstract

Subjects
Keller, Martha, 1902-1971.
Administrative Information
Acquisition Information

Custodial History (Provenance)
All materials in this collection were donated to the Library in November 1980 by Martha R. Goppelt and Eliot Randal Marhenke, daughters of Martha Keller Rowland.

Access Restrictions
Access unrestricted.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use
Photocopying and publication may be restricted by copyright. Permission to publish must be secured from the repository and copyright holder.

Preferred Citation
Martha Keller Papers (MS 63), Archives and Special Collections, Franklin and Marshall College.

Processing Information
Processed by Michael Lear, March 2004. Description based on DACS.

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Additional Information
No additional information.

Historical/Biographical Information
Martha Keller was born in Lancaster County in 1902, the daughter of Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge and Franklin and Marshall College graduate and trustee William H. Keller, and Anna Dickey Keller. Martha Keller was a 1924 graduate of Vassar College where she was awarded the Grace Healy Poetry prize and Witter Bynner Undergraduate Poetry prize. After graduate work in English at Stanford University, Keller worked as an editor and as an advertising and publicity manager at several publishing houses including Harper and Brothers, G.P. Putnam Sons, and J.B. Lippincott Co. During this time, she published numerous poetry pieces in the Saturday Evening Post, Harpers, New Yorker, and Atlantic magazines. From 1932-1937 she worked as a poetry reviewer for the Philadelphia Ledger and the Philadelphia Inquirer. Martha Keller was married to Edmund Rowland, a chemical engineer on June 29, 1929. They had two daughters Martha and Eliot Randal (Randa). Martha Keller died in September 1971 in Ardmore, PA.

Scope and Content Note
This collection consists of the literary papers (drafts, manuscripts, research material) and personal correspondence of poet Martha Keller Rowland (1902-1971). Her major works included two books of poetry Mirror to Mortality, 1937 and Brady’s Bend and other Ballads, 1946; and a children’s book War Whoop of the Wily Iroquois, 1954.
Keller’s major published works are available in the library’s book collections:


*Brady's Bend, and other Ballads.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1946.


For more Biographical information see: Bixler, Miriam E. “Martha Keller, Poet; with Biographical Contributions by her Daughter, Martha R. Goppelt” *Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society.* 88:1 (1984); p. 32-41.

**Inventory/Contents**

**Box/Folder**

**Series I**  **Biographical material**

1/1  Newspaper clippings about Martha Keller.
1/2  Autobiographical information- Medical History, Biographical notes, wedding invitation.
1/3  Notebook of articles about MK and photograph of Martha Keller.
1/4  Cassette tape March 4, 1972 Cosmopolitan Club- tribute to Martha Keller.
OSDR  Photograph portrait of Martha Keller. (2 copies)

**Series II**  **Correspondence**

1/5  Personal correspondence.
1/6  Vassar College correspondence.
1/7  Poetry fan mail/correspondence.
1/8  Correspondence with Authors League/Author’s Guild.
1/9  Correspondence with agent McIntosh and Otis.
1/10  Correspondence re: Poetry award.

**Series III**  **Financial and Legal papers**

1/11-16  Songs/Music- Keller’s poetry to music- correspondence, copyright permissions, licensing, contracts. (5 folders)
1/17  Songs/Music- royalties.
2/1  Copyright assignments.
2/2  Copyright permissions, royalties.
2/3  Magazine submission sales.

**Series IV**  **Notes and research materials**

2/4  Antiquities
2/5  Coleman deaths
2/6  Correspondence and notes on the African American soldier in America’s wars.
2/7  Geronimo clippings
2/8  Peter Grubb
2/9  PA Dutch folklore
2/10  Gettysburg
2/11  Sam Houston
2/12  Stonewall Jackson
2/13  Korea
2/14  Abraham Lincoln
2/15  Pioneer Life
2/16 Spain
2/17 Voodoo
2/18 WWII
2/19 Notebook, 1944
2/20 Notebook containing various other poets’ poems, 1915-1919.
2/21 Notebook containing various other poets’ poems, 1919.
2/22 Notebook containing various [other poets’] poems, n.d..
3/1-2 Scrapbook of clippings of various other poets’ poems.

Series V Miscellaneous papers
3/5 Authors’ Guild and Author’s League brochures, newsletters, etc.
3/6 Dramatists Guild.
3/7 Literary award brochures.
3/10 Magazine- Yandro 214.
3/12 Songwriting flyers.
3/13 Songwriters Protective Association brochures.
3/14 Princess Alice newspaper clippings.
3/15 Publishers Address list.
3/16 Publishers announcements.

Series VI Published and Unpublished Works

Books:

Mirror to Mortality, 1937.
4/1 Mirror to Mortality correspondence.
4/2 Mirror to Mortality permissions.
4/3 Mirror to Mortality- reviews, correspondence, fan mail.

Brady’s Bend, 1946.
4/4 Brady’s Bend- Correspondence with Rutgers University Press.
4/5 Brady's Bend- copyright permissions to Martha Keller.
4/6 Brady’s Bend- copyright permissions from Martha Keller.
4/7 Brady's Bend Typescript Manuscript.
4/8 Brady's Bend Manuscript proof.
4/9 Brady’s Bend research material- East Brady Telephone directory.
4/10 Brady's Bend research/ background material- notes.
5/1 Brady’s Bend- reviews, correspondence, fan mail.
5/2 Brady’s Bend royalties.

War Whoop of the Wily Iroquois, 1954.
5/3 War Whoop correspondence.
5/4 War Whoop- reviews, correspondence, fan mail.
5/5 War Whoop royalties.
Book- War Whoop... -located at PS3521.E393 W3- Sp. Coll.
Box/Folder

Poetry:
5/6 Collection of clippings of published poems by Martha Keller.
5/7 Notebook containing handwritten poems by Martha Keller- unpublished and published, ca. 1910-1924. 1 of 2 vols.
6/1 Notebook containing handwritten poems by Martha Keller- unpublished and published, ca. 1910-1924. 2 of 2 vols.
6/5 Discarded Poems-Poems discarded from compilation Voice from the Nettles?

Other Works:
7/1 Article- The Keller Report on the Intellectual habits of the American Intellectual- political response article to McCarthyism.
7/2 Musical Program- Horse Opera-manuscript and correspondence.
7/3 Short story- The Last Wolf- manuscript.
7/4 Speeches.

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