Nora Lourie Percival papers 12264294

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Percival, Nora, 1914-
Creator:	Columbia University
Title:	Nora Lourie Percival Papers
ID:	12264294
ID:	UA#0213
Date [inclusive]:	1932-2011
Date [bulk]:	1934-1938
Physical Description:	1.46 linear feet 3 document boxes and one half-size document box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A collection of correspondence between Nora Lourie Percival (BC '36) and her first husband, Herman Gund (CC '34 and Journalism MA '35) as well as copies of Columbia and Barnard College literary publications to which they both contributed.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Nora Lourie Percival Papers; Box and Folder; Columbia University; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical Note

Nora Lourie was born in Russia on October 14, 1914. In 1922, she immigrated to America and grew up in New York City. Nora attended Barnard College, graduating in 1936. It was during her college years that she met her first love, Herman Gund, who received his B.A. from Columbia College in 1934 and his M.A. degree from the Graduate School of Journalism in 1935. They married in 1936 after Nora graduated college.

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Biographical Note

Nora and Herman were front and center for Columbia's literary renaissance during the 1930s. Under the guidance of John Erskine, Mark Van Doren and other faculty members, Herman spearheaded the rejuvenation of the literary and debate group Philolexian Society (he was president in 1934-5), the Boar's Head Poetry competition, and the resulting printed poetry collections; while Nora started the Barnard Literary Club. As Herman and Nora fell in love, they became the nucleus around which the Columbia and Barnard literary groups crystallized and grew. They influenced and encouraged Robert Giroux, John Berryman, Herman Wouk, Thomas Merton, John Treville Latouche, Ad Reinhardt, and other artistic and literary giants on campus at that time - as well as influencing the next generation of Columbia literati, including Robert Lax and Ralph de Toledano. Nora and Herman played this role during the dark days of the depression, as they were struggling to balance academics, their literary lives, and their budding romance - while worrying about having enough to eat.

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Biographical Note

Herman died of leukemia in 1939, six months before their son was born. A collection of his poems, "Out of Time", with a foreword by Mark Van Doren, was published posthumously in 1980.

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Biographical Note

Nora married her second husband Jim Percival in 1943 with whom she had four daughters. Jim Percival died in 1984. Nora Lourie Percival currently lives in Carolina High Country near two of her daughters and is the proud grandmother of eleven and great grandmother of three.

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Summary

Nora Lourie was born in Russia on October 14, 1914. In 1922, she immigrated to America and grew up in New York City. Nora attended Barnard College, graduating in 1936. It was during her college years that she met her first love, Herman Gund, who received his B.A. from Columbia College in 1934 and his M.A. degree from the Graduate School of Journalism in 1935. They married in 1936 after Nora graduated college. Nora and Herman were front and center for Columbia's literary renaissance during the 1930s. Under the guidance of John Erskine, Mark Van Doren and other faculty members, Herman spearheaded the rejuvenation of the literary and debate group Philolexian Society (he was president in 1934-5), the Boar's Head Poetry competition, and the resulting printed poetry collections; while Nora started the Barnard Literary Club. As Herman and Nora fell in love, they became the nucleus around which the Columbia and Barnard literary groups crystallized and grew. They influenced and encouraged Robert Giroux, John Berryman, Herman Wouk, Thomas Merton, John Treville Latouche, Ad Reinhardt, and other artistic and literary giants on campus at that time - as well as influencing the next generation of Columbia literati, including Robert Lax and Ralph de Toledano. Herman died of leukemia in 1939, six months before their son was born. A collection of his poems"Out of Time", with a foreword by Mark Van Doren, was published posthumously in 1980. Nora married her second husband Jim Percival in 1943 with whom she had four daughters. Jim Percival died in 1984. Nora Lourie Percival currently lives in Carolina High Country near two of her daughters and is the proud grandmother of eleven and great grandmother of three.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Christopher M. Laico. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2016-12-14 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on site.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--This collection was donated by Peter Gund CC 61 (Nora Lourie Percival's son) in 2015.

Processing Information

Papers accessioned PTL 7/1/2015.

Processing Information

Papers processed Emily Felsen (BC 2018) 6/30/2016.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Jocelyn K. Wilk 12/6/2016.

Accrual

No additions are expected

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Letters (correspondence)
- Memoirs
- Poetry
- Periodicals
- Gund, Herman, -1939
- Percival, Nora, 1914-
- Barnard College
- Columbia College (Columbia University)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1934-1938

Scope and Contents

Letters between Herman Gund, CC '34 and Nora Lourie, BC '36 written between 1934 and 1939. Correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances
Letters, December 1934	box 1
Letters, June -July 1934	box 1
Letters, June -November 1934	box 1
Letters, December 1934--February 1935	box 1
Letters, 1934	box 1
Letters, July 1-July 15, 1935	box 1
Letters, July 15-31, 1935	box 1
Letters, August 1-19, 1935	box 1
Letters, August 20-30, 1935	box 1
Letters, October 1935	box 1
Letters, June 1936	box 1
Letters, February 1936	box 1
Herman to Nora, March1936	box 2

Herman to Nora, April 1936	box 2
Herman to Nora, May 1936	box 2
Nora to Herman, January 1936	box 2
Herman to Nora, August 1936	box 2
Letters, 1937-1938	box 2

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Series II: Publications, 1932-2011

Scope and Contents

This series contains copies of Columbia periodicals from the 1930s, many of which contain poems written by Herman Gund and/or Nora Lourie Percival as well as by other notables of that era. Titles include *Varsity, Columbia Review, Jester,* and *The Barnard Quarterly.* In addition to the 1930s periodicals this series contains copies of three memoirs written by Nora Lourie Percival and a book of poems written by Herman Gund which was published posthumously.

Title/Description	Instances
The Varsity Review, May 1932	box 2
The Columbia Review, 1932 October -- December	box 2
The Columbia Review, 1933 February, Apr, Nov, Dec, 1933	box 2
The Columbia Review, 1934 Apr, May, Nov, 1934	box 2
The Columbia Review, 1935 January -- May, 1935	box 2
The Columbia Review, 1936 March-- May, 1936	box 3
Palms, 1939 September, 1939	box 3
The American Criterion, 1936 January, 1936	box 3
The New Broom, 1932 February-- April, 1932	box 3
Jester, 1935 March-- May, 1935	box 3
Jester, 1936	box 3
The Barnard Quarterly, 1934	box 3
The Barnard Quarterly, 1935	box 3
Columbia Poetry, 1932-1936	box 3
Poetry Magazine, 1936-1938	box 3
Out of Time, 1980	box 4
Weather of the Heart, 2001	box 4
Silver Pages on the Lawn, 2005	box 4

The Whirligig of Time, 2011	box 4

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