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Barbara Newhall Follett papers 4078771

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Follett, Barbara Newhall, 1914-1939
Title:	Barbara Newhall Follett papers
ID:	4078771
ID:	MS#0439
Date [inclusive]:	1919-1966
Date [bulk]:	1919-1939
Physical Description:	2.73 linear feet 6.5 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Barbara Newhall Follett's papers consist primarily of personal letters, manuscripts of published and unpublished books, short stories, essays, and poems, book reviews, newspaper clippings, photographs, and notes written by her mother, Helen Follett.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Barbara Newhall Follett papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Barbara Newhall Follett was born on March 4, 1914. Her parents were Wilson Follett, an English professor and a writer, and Helen Thomas Follett, also a writer. Barbara was homeschooled by her mother, who believed that children should learn at their own pace. At the age of five, Barbara started to use the typewriter and learned how to make new words and form sentences. She also began to write letters to relatives and friends.

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Biographical / Historical

During her childhood years, she wrote numerous short stories, essays, and poems about nature. Barbara had a vivid imagination and created a make-believe world called Farksolia, in which she also developed its language and vocabulary.

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Biographical / Historical

Her first book, *House Without Windows*, was published in 1927, when she was thirteen years old. It was critically acclaimed and she wrote another book, *The Voyage of the Norman D*, that was published the following year. She was hailed as a "child genius" and "a child prodigy author" by newspapers around the country. She made the headlines again when she and her mother went on a long sailing voyage to the Caribbean and the South Seas Islands during the late 1920s. They co-authored a book about their trip together and it was published in 1932 as *Magic Portholes*.

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Biographical / Historical

After her father left the family in 1928, Ms. Follett and her mother had to find a way of bringing in steady income between their writing assignments. Starting at sixteen years of age, she worked as a typist in New York City while living with her mother. From her late teens to her early twenties, she traveled extensively in the U.S. and Europe with her boyfriend and then husband, Nickerson Rogers.

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Biographical / Historical

On December 7, 1939, after an argument with her husband, Barbara Follett left their apartment with only a few dollars. She was never seen or heard from again. She was twenty-five years old.

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Summary

Barbara Follett's papers primarily consist of personal letters, manuscripts of published and unpublished works, photographs, newspaper clippings, and research materials relating to her autobiography that was published in 1965.

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Summary

The correspondence was originally processed by year and the current arrangement reflects this order. Select letters were also catalogued and arranged by special friends of Ms. Follett.

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Arrangement

Selected materials cataloged.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in five series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. XML document instance created by Catherine C. Ricciardi EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2011-06-01 2011-06-01 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Follett, Helen Thomas. Method of acquisition--Bequest; Date of acquisition--1970. Accession number--M-70.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89.

Processing Information

Papers processed by Marilyn Chin (Queens College, 2011). Folder level control.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Marilyn Chin (Queens College, 2011) May 2011.

Accrual

No additions are expected

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

[Helen Thomas Follett Papers](#), Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Follett, Barbara Newhall, 1914-1939
- Follett, Helen

- Follett, Wilson, 1887-1963

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1919-1952

Scope and Contents

This series consists primarily of personal letters from Barbara Follett to Mr. Oberg; Alice Dyer Russell, a very close friend; and to her mother, Helen Follett.

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters from Barbara Follett to Relatives and Friends, 1919-1939 <u>Physical Description:</u> (11 Folders)	box 1	folder 1 to 11
Letters to Barbara Follett, 1918-1935	box 2	folder 12
Letters from Mr. Oberg to Barbara Follett, 1919-1932	box 2	folder 13
Letters from George Bryan to Barbara Follett, 1926-1928	box 2	folder 14
Letters from de la Mare, Walter, 1925-1927	box 2	folder 15
January 6, 1925		
January 6, 1926		
March 21, 1927		
Letters from Farjeon, Harry, 1927	box 2	folder 16
May 9, 1927		
July, 31, 1927		
Letter from Hall, Norman, 1928	box 2	folder 17
August 27, 1928		
Letters from Knopf, Blanche (Mrs. Alfred), 1926	box 2	folder 18
April 14, 1926		
November 18, 1927		
Letter from Mencken, Henry Louis, undated	box 2	folder 19
Letter from Perkins, Frances, June 20, 1934	box 2	folder 20
Letters regarding Barbara's Disappearance, 1949-1952	box 2	folder 21
Letters from Barbara Follett, undated	box 2	folder 22

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Series II: Published Materials, 1927-1933

Scope and Contents

In this series, the papers are published manuscripts in various versions. The titles are: *House Without Windows*; *In Defense of Butterflies*; and *The Voyage of the Norman D.*

Title/Description	Instances	
House Without Windows, 1927		
Manuscript with Corrections, 1927	box 3	folder 1
Galley Proofs, 1927	box 3	folder 2
Book Reviews, 1927-1968	box 3	folder 3
"I've Got to Go to Sea Again" Article, Young Wings Magazine,, June 1932	box 3	folder 4
In Defense of Butterflies, 1933		
Manuscript, undated	box 3	folder 5
Printed article in The Horn Book Magazine, February 1933	box 3	folder 6
Sail of Gold Book Review, 1927	box 3	folder 7
The Voyage of Norman D., 1927-1928		
Original Manuscript, 1927	box 3	folder 8
Manuscript with edits, undated	box 3	folder 9
Author's Proofs, 1928 (2 Folders), 1928	box 3	folder 10 to 11
Book Reviews, 1928	box 3	folder 12

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Series III: Unpublished Materials, 1919-1934

Scope and Contents

This series contains unpublished manuscripts of books, short stories, essays, and poems.

Title/Description	Instances	
Lost Island, 1932-1934	box 4	
Manuscript, Chapters I - XVIII, 1934 (2 Folders), 1934	box 4	folder 1 to 2
Manuscript Carbon Copy, Chapters I - XVI, 1932	box 4	folder 3

Short Draft of Manuscript, 103 pages, 1932	box 4	folder 4
Travel Without a Donkey Manuscript, undated	box 4	folder 5
Travel Without a Donkey - map , 1929	mapcase 15-L-1	
Short Stories and Essays, 1919-1920s	box 4	folder 6
Short Stories (Early Years), 1921-1923	box 5	folder 1
Short Stories, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)	box 5	folder 2 to 4
Poems and Prose, 1919-1927	box 5	folder 5
Christmas Poem and Song, 1924-1925	box 5	folder 6
Photocopies of Barbara's Writings, undated	box 5	folder 7
Descriptions of European Trip, undated	box 5	folder 8

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Series IV: Childhood Materials, 1922-1925

Scope and Contents

These files contain materials related to Barbara's education at home, notes and history of Farksoo, a make-believe land; butterfly drawings; and numerous notes about Barbara's interest in nature from her mother.

Title/Description	Instances	
History of Farksolia, undated	box 6	folder 1
Notes about Farksolia, undated	box 6	folder 2
Farksoo Language and Vocabulary, undated	box 6	folder 3
Home Schooling including Diary, 1920-1924	box 6	folder 4
Notes about Barbara's Love for Nature, circa, 1920s	box 6	folder 5
Wilson Follett Articles On a Child Author, 1919	box 6	folder 6
Arts & Crafts, circa, 1919-1920s	box 6	folder 7
Butterfly Illustrations by Mr. Oberg Specified by Barbara, undated	box 6	folder 8

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Series V: Barbara's Autobiography, 1919-1966

Scope and Contents

In this series, there is correspondence between Helen Follett and the writer, Mr. McCurdy, a professor of psychology; research materials about Barbara's life; photographs, and copies of her writings.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence between Helen Follett and Mr. McCurdy, 1960-1966	box 7	folder 1
Autobiography Manuscript, 1961-1965	box 7	folder 2
Timeline and Notes of Barbara's Letters and Writings, 1919-1939	box 7	folder 3
Legal Records (House Without Windows Contract and Legal Divorce Papers),, 1926-1944	box 7	folder 4
Photographs, 1920-1929	box 7	folder 5
A Copy of the Book, Barbara: The Unconscious Autobiography of a Child Genius,, 1966	box 7	folder 6
Book Reviews, 1966	box 7	folder 7
Nickerson Rogers Papers, 1949-1958	box 7	folder 8
Copies of Newspaper Clippings, 1966	box 7	folder 9

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