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Maureen Howard papers 5420020

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English

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Howard, Maureen, 1930-
Title:	Maureen Howard papers
ID:	5420020
ID:	MS#1452
Date [inclusive]:	1962-2002
Physical Description:	4.17 linear feet 10 oversized document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Maureen Howard is an American writer, scholar, and literary critic. She is best known for her second novel, <i>Bridgeport Bus</i> (1962) and her award-winning autobiography, <i>Facts of Life</i> (1982). The collection includes drafts, correspondence, and publication material for nine novels published between 1962 and 2001, as well as correspondence, essays, teaching notes, and personal material written during this time period.

Preferred Citation

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

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Biographical Note

Maureen Howard, born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was the daughter of William Kearns, an Irish immigrant and county detective for Fairfield County. Howard's early novels (*Bridgeport Bus*, and *Before My Time*) draw extensively on the influence of her own Irish-Catholic upbringing, with Bridgeport featuring prominently in subsequent works.

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Biographical Note

Howard is best known for her novels *Bridgeport Bus*, *Natural History*, and *A Lover's Almanac*, as well as her critical introductions to Virginia Woolf and Edith Wharton. Her writing often describe individuals who are "out of place" often focusing on female characters divided between the obligations of home, career, and private life. Her work is frequently compared to Virginia Woolf and Henry James, both of whom she cites as influences. Howard was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1967; her 1978 memoir *Facts of Life* won the National Book Critics Circle award.

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Biographical Note

As a self-identified "gypsy teacher," Maureen Howard has held positions at Columbia, Yale, the New School for Social Research, Brooklyn College, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. In addition to her novels, Howard wrote an op-ed column "Her" in the New York Times (1979), as well as critical introductions for Virginia Woolf, Edith Wharton, and several collections of essays and women's fiction. She currently lives in New York City and teaches writing at Columbia University.

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Biographical Note

This collection focuses primarily on her novels, beginning with the 1962 *Bridgeport Bus* and ending with her 2001 collection *Big as Life*; it also includes a broad representation of journalism, essays, and teaching materials through this period.

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Summary

The bulk of the collection consists of material for eight novels written between 1962 and 2002, as well as her autobiography and a short play ("Songs at Twilight") published in 1977. Included are publisher's correspondence, drafts, edited manuscripts, and research notes, as well as illustration and art material for some of the later novels. The majority of the revisions are Howard's own; her correspondence with her publisher appears to be limited to minor edits and proofreading. A note on the drafts: The revisions included in this collection are often fragmented. Howard apparently reused her own papers, and frequently included handwritten material interspersed with typewritten copies or new drafts written on the back of (apparently abandoned) older versions. Where there is no other apparent order, the material has been left in the order in which it arrived. The collection also includes an extensive selection of Howard's journalism and critical writing, personal correspondence, and research on Howard's activism and political work. Overall, the material is in excellent condition, with the exception of newspaper clippings and magazine articles, many of which are acidic and have been either separated or photocopied to preserve their integrity.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 5 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2011-09-03 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

Collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--George Minkoff. Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--2003.

Processing Information

Papers sent off-site PL 9/13/2005.

Processing Information

Papers processed Katie Gradowski, GSAS 2012 2009.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Katie Gradowski, GSAS 2012 06/--/2009.

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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Controlled Access Headings

- American fiction -- Women authors
- Novelists, American -- 20th century -- Biography
- Cavell, Stanley, 1926-2018
- Howard, Maureen
- McLaughlin, Anne
- Scott, Joanna

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence, 1965-2002

Scope and Contents

This series consists of correspondence from the mid-1960s through the 1990s, including a range of personal material, postcards, and correspondence from Howard's work as a literature teacher, as well as correspondence with novelists and publishers. Of particular interest is correspondence with Joanna Scott, William Pritchard, Anne McLaughlin, Richard Powers, and Matthew Stadler, which provides a rich view of Howard's literary contacts during this period. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
General, 1965-2002	box 1	folder 1 to 3
<u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)		
Authors		
Bell, Millicent, 1987-1994	box 1	folder 4
Cavell, Stanley, 1992-2001	box 1	folder 5
Demas-Bliss, Corinne, 1981-1982	box 1	folder 6
Fussell, Betty, 1988-1998	box 1	folder 7
Kirshenbaum, Binnie, 1989-1996	box 1	folder 8
Longenbach, James, 1995-2002	box 1	folder 9
Maddox, Brenda, 1986-1996	box 1	folder 10
McLaughlin, Ann, 1985-1999	box 1	folder 11
Messud, Claire, 1996-2001	box 1	folder 12
Powers, Richard, 1992-2001	box 1	folder 13

Pritchard, William, 1980-2000	box 1	folder 14
Scott, Anne, 1991-2000	box 1	folder 15
Scott, Joanna, 1993-2002	box 1	folder 16
Stadler, Matthew, 1988-1994	box 1	folder 17
Stephens, Michael, 1987-2001	box 1	folder 18
Tiberghien, Susan, 1987	box 1	folder 19
Postcards, 1975-2002 <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 Folders)	box 1	folder 20 to 23
Publishing, 1983-2000	box 1	folder 24
Teaching, 1982-2002 <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 Folders)	box 1	folder 25 to 28

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Series II: Novels, 1962-2002

Scope and Contents

This series includes correspondence, drafts, research notes, and publication material for each of Howard's eight major novels produced during this period, as well as her autobiography and her 1977 play "Songs at Twilight." The bulk of this series consists of draft material for Howard's three most recent works, *Natural History* (1992), *A Lover's Almanac* (1998), and the collection *Big as Life* (2001), excluding her most recent novel *The Silver Screen* (published in 2004). Unless otherwise noted, this material is arranged in alphabetical order.

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Bridgeport Bus</i>		
Drafts--Chapters 1-12--incomplete, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 2	folder 1 to 2
Drafts--General--incomplete 1, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)	box 2	folder 3 to 5
Journal, 1962	box 2	folder 6
Manuscript--incomplete, undated	box 2	folder 7
Notes, undated	box 2	folder 8
Notes--Editorial--Corrections, 1964	box 2	folder 9
Publishing material, 1984-1996	box 2	folder 10
<i>Not a Word About Nightingales</i>		
Correspondence, 1961-1962	box 2	folder 11

<i>Facts of Life</i>		
Correspondence, 1975-1979	box 2	folder 12
Draft -- "Sweet Memories,", undated	box 2	folder 13
Notebooks, undated (2), undated	box 2	folder 14
<i>Songs at Twilight</i>		
Correspondence, 1977	box 2	folder 15
Drafts, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 2	folder 16 to 17
Manuscript, 1979	box 2	folder 18
Manuscript, undated	box 2	folder 19
Publicity, 1977	box 2	folder 20
Scores, undated	box 2	folder 21
<i>Before My Time</i>		
Correspondence, 1974-1979	box 2	folder 22
Drafts, undated	box 2	folder 23
Script--Adapted, 1974	box 2	folder 24
<i>Grace Abounding</i>		
Correspondence, 1974-1983	box 2	folder 25
Draft--Full--Proofreading, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 2	folder 26 to 27
Drafts--General, undated	box 2	folder 28
Galleys--Annotated, 1982	box 2	folder 29
Notes--Handwritten, undated	box 2	folder 30
Notebooks, undated (5 in 2 Folders), undated	box 2	folder 31 to 32
Poem, undated	box 2	folder 33
Publicity material, undated	box 2	folder 34
<i>Expensive Habits , 1985</i>		
Correspondence, 1984-1986	box 3	folder 1
Drafts--General--incomplete, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (7 Folders)	box 3	folder 2 to 8
"Child's Play,", undated	box 3	folder 9
"Deadline,", undated	box 3	folder 10

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"Kill Fee", undated	box 3	folder 11
"Rough Cut", undated	box 3	folder 12
"Wonder Book", undated	box 3	folder 13
Notebook, undated	box 3	folder 14
<i>Big as Life</i>		
Correspondence, 1998-2001	box 3	folder 15
Drafts--General, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	folder 16 to 18	
"Children with Matches", undated	box 3	folder 19
"The Magdalene", undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 3	folder 20 to 21
"Speed of Light", undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)	box 4	folder 1 to 3
Jacket--Design, 2000	box 4	folder 4
Manuscript--Full, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 Folders)	box 4	folder 5 to 8
Mechanicals--Art, undated	box 4	folder 9
Notes--Handwritten, undated	box 4	folder 10
Research, undated	box 4	folder 11
<i>Natural History</i>		
Correspondence, 1992-1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 4	folder 1 to 2
Correspondence--Art, 1992	box 4	folder 3
Drafts--General, 1989 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 4	folder 4 to 5
Drafts--General, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (3 Folders)	box 4	folder 6 to 8
Drafts--General, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> (8 Folders)	box 5	folder 1 to 8
"Arcade", undated	box 5	folder 9
"Cover Set", undated	box 5	folder 10
"Double Entry", undated	box 5	folder 11 to 13

<u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)		
"Lives of the Saints," undated <u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)	box 5	folder 14 to 16
"Moving Pictures," undated <u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)	box 5	folder 17 to 19
"The Music Man," undated	box 5	folder 20
"Natural History Part II," undated <u>Physical Description</u> : (3 Folders)	box 5	folder 21 to 23
"Sister Brown," undated	box 5	folder 24
"The Spinster's Tale," undated	box 5	folder 25
"Statues," undated	box 5	folder 26
Galleys--Annotated, 1992	box 6	folder 1
Illustrations, undated	box 6	folder 2
Manuscript--Full, undated	box 6	folder 3
Mechanicals--Art, undated	box 6	folder 4
Notebook, undated	box 6	folder 5
Notes--Handwritten, undated	box 6	folder 6
Research, undated	box 6	folder 7
<i>Lover's Almanac</i>		
Corrections, undated	box 7	folder 1
Correspondence, 1994-1997	box 7	folder 2
Layout--Design, undated	box 7	folder 3
Manuscript--Full, undated <u>Physical Description</u> : (2 Folders)	box 7	folder 4 to 5
Publicity, 1998	box 7	folder 6
Miscellaneous Galleys and Drafts	box 10	

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Series III: Journalism, 1983-2001

Scope and Contents

Reviews, essays, and draft material for Howard's uncollected criticism, including Howard's foreword for the 1990 reissue of *Mrs. Dalloway* and introductory material for Howard's 1977 collection *Seven*

American Women Writers of the Twentieth Century. Of particular note are 14 handwritten notebooks including research for essays, interviews, and lecture material. The materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1976-1994	box 7	folder 7 to 8
Essays--General, 1979-2001 <u>Physical Description:</u> (8 Folders)	box 7	folder 9 to 16
"Bachelor and the Baby", 1994	box 7	folder 17
"Fashion Plates", undated	box 8	folder 1
"You are There", undated	box 8	folder 2
Essays--Corrections, undated	box 8	folder 3
Lectures, undated	box 8	folder 4
Notebooks, undated (14 in 6 Folders), undated	box 8	folder 5 to 10
Notes--Handwritten, undated	box 8	folder 11
Research, undated	box 8	folder 12
Reviews, 1982-1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> (4 Folders)	box 8	folder 13 to 16

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Series IV: Personal Material, 1964-2001

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence, notes, and teaching material from Howard's time as a visiting professor at Columbia and Yale, as well as notes on various political causes that she supported during this period. Of particular interest are a set of handwritten journal entries, dated 1964, that provide insight to the beginning of her novelistic career. The materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1977-2001 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 9	folder 1 to 2
Correspondence--Teaching, 1998	box 9	folder 3
Diary--Handwritten, 1968	box 9	folder 4
Notebooks--Teaching, undated (2), undated	box 9	folder 5
Personal--Ephemera, 1970-1992	box 9	folder 6
Poems, 1964-1994	box 9	folder 7
Plays, undated	box 9	folder 8

Publicity, 1978-1992	box 9	folder 9
Notebooks--Teaching, undated (2), undated	box 9	folder 10
Research--Activism, 1997-1999 <u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)	box 9	folder 11 to 12

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Series V: Printed Material

Title/Description	Instances
Journals and Published Books	box 11

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