



# ArchivesSpace

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## Marie Read Smith papers 6915026

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.  
Description is written in: English.

### 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  
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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Smith, Marie Read
<b>Title:</b>	Marie Read Smith papers
<b>ID:</b>	6915026
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1616
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1934-1938
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.42 linear feet 1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Marie Read Smith Papers are comprised of a scrapbook, a 1934 issue of Fortune magazine, a letter to Smith's parents, and a photograph of a friend. Smith was a zealous proponent of Benito Mussolini, and the material thus reflects her enthusiastic support and high opinion of the Italian dictator.

### Preferred Citation

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

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## Biographical / Historical

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Marie Read Smith was an avid supporter of Benito Mussolini, the Italian dictator and leader of the National Fascist Party. Likely affiliated with the women's division of the No Foreign War Committee, she was staunchly opposed to American involvement in World War II. In 1938, she was granted a fellowship by Casa Italiana and Barnard College to study in Italy. While there, she had a brief encounter with Mussolini, which is the subject of the letter in this collection.

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## Summary

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The collection is comprised of a scrapbook, a July 1934 issue of Fortune magazine, a photograph of a woman Smith met while in Italy, and a letter to Smith's parents. The scrapbook is a thorough documentation of Mussolini's adult life and tenure as Prime Minister, and includes both photographic clippings and news articles. As Smith was an ardent proponent of the dictator, the scrapbook also serves as a tribute. The issue of Fortune magazine includes a special section on Italian fascism, which can be found between pages 46 and 126. The collection also features a handwritten letter addressed to Smith's parents, dated May 21, 1938. The letter describes Smith's encounter with Mussolini while studying in Italy, and is accompanied by a photograph of her friend, Daisy, also a friend of Mussolini, who facilitated the meeting. Albeit brief, the encounter is described by Smith in detail, and the letter also includes observations of Hitler, who was also present at the time.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in 1 series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Revision Description**

xnl document instance created by Megan Darlington. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2012-05-04 2019-05-20

### **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.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Marie Read Smith. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--January 13, 2000.

### **Processing Information**

Papers processed Megan Darlington, MSI Candidate 2013, University of Michigan 5/2/2012.

### **Processing Information**

Finding aid written Megan Darlington, MSI Candidate 2013, University of Michigan 5/2/2012.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Fascism -- Italy
- Fascism -- United States
- Fascism and women -- Italy -- History -- 20th century
- Magazines (periodicals)
- Scrapbooks
- Hitler, Adolf, 1889-1945
- Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Marie Read Smith Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook	box 1	folder 1
<i>Fortune</i> magazine issue, 1934 July	box 1	folder 2
Letter and photograph, 1938 May	box 1	folder 3

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