

Mary Chase papers, 1945-1968

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Chase, Mary, 1907-
Title	Mary Chase papers
Dates	1945-1968 (inclusive) 1945 1968
Quantity	3.0 linear feet, (4 containers)
Collection Number	Ax 542
Summary	Mary Coyle Chase (1907-1981) was born in Denver, Colorado. While working at newspaper and public relations jobs, Chase began to write plays. Her most famous play is <i>Harvey</i> , the story of Elwood P. Dowd and his imaginary, six-foot tall rabbit. Chase incorporated elements of fantasy drawn from Irish folktales into her work, such as banshees and Celtic pookas (spirits in animal form). The collection includes literary manuscripts and correspondence.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Mary Coyle Chase was born on February 25, 1907 in Denver Colorado. She attended the University of Colorado, and worked for *The Rocky Mountain News* as a reporter and served as publicity director for the National Youth Administration. Chase was also a playwright and author, her most famous works being the play *Harvey* and the book *Loretta Mason Potts (Mickey)*. *Harvey* won a Pulitzer Prize and was made into a movie starring James Stewart, and her book *The Wicked Pigeon Ladies in the Garden* was nominated for the Dorothy Canfield Fisher award in 1969. She married Robert Lamont Chase (a newspaper reporter), on June 7, 1928. In addition to her career as a reporter, playwright and author she was a member of the Dramatists' Guild and had three sons. She died of a heart attack, October 20, 1981, in Denver, Colorado.

Content Description

The Mary Chase Papers consist of manuscripts and one folder of correspondence. The manuscripts include various drafts of and related material for plays such as *Bernardine*, *Harvey*, and *Mickey* (the manuscripts of *Mickey* have the early titles of: *Loretta Fanning Potts*, *Loretta Mason Potts* and *Loretta*). Also included are galley proofs of the book *The Wicked Pigeon Ladies in the Garden* (no manuscripts of the book are included).

Use of the Collection

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Chase Papers, Ax 542, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following series: Manuscripts.

Processing Note

Collection processed by processing staff, 1968.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Manuscripts

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1	The Banshee	undated
1	2	Bernardine	1953
1	3	<i>Bernardine</i>	November 17, 1952
1	4	<i>Bernardine</i>	undated
1	5	<i>Harvey (The Pooka)</i>	1953
2	1	Harvey	undated
2	2	<i>Harvey</i>	undated
2	3	<i>Harvey</i>	undated
2	4	Haunted Rehearsal	undated
2	5	<i>Mickey (Lolita Fanning Potts)</i>	
3	1	<i>Mickey (Loretta Mason Potts)</i>	undated
3	2	<i>Mickey (Loretta)</i>	undated
3	3	<i>Mickey (Loretta)</i>	undated
3	4	Midge Purvis	undated
3	5	Mom and Leo	undated
3	6	<i>The Prize Play</i>	undated
3	7	<i>The Sacred Thirty Six</i>	undated

Container(s)		Description	Dates
4	1	The Wicked Pigeon Ladies in the Garden	undated

Correspondence

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
4	2	Correspondence	1945-1968

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Playwriting

Women authors, American--20th century

Women dramatists, American--20th century

Personal Names :

Chase, Mary, 1907-

Chase, Mary, 1907---Correspondence

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2006



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