



## Missouri Writers' Guild Records (C3657)

**Collection Number:** C3657

**Collection Title:** Missouri Writers' Guilds Records

**Dates:** 1915-2011

**Creator:** Missouri Writers' Guild

**Abstract:** Records of a professional writer's organization that include administrative files, correspondence, event and membership information, and newsletters. The collection also contains information on select local affiliate chapters.

**Collection Size:** 4.0 cubic feet, 3 volumes, 4 video cassettes  
(76 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Missouri Writers' Guild Records* (C3657); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri in a series of 31 accessions between 1968 and 2015. For more detailed information consult reference staff.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Missouri Writers' Guild Records can be found in the following collection:

[\*Marshall Writers' Guild \(Marshall, Mo.\) Records, \(CA6167\)\*](#)

**Processed by:** Lisa Griffin, October 1980. Finding aid revised by Nicholas Raya in January 2023 and by Aleksandra Kinlen July 2023.

**Historical Note:**

The Missouri Writers' Guild (MWG) was founded in 1915, partly due to the efforts of journalist Walter Williams, with 24 charter members. Eligibility for membership was initially defined as any Missourian who had a book published by a reputable publisher on a royalty basis, sold three stories to magazines or general circulation, or written a play that had been produced. Over time, it was extended to include people who had sold three photo dramas for which the author received credit on the screen or sold three radio dramas to national broadcasting chains. Associate or amateur membership was also allowed, while affiliated local chapters developed throughout the state. The group was officially incorporated by the state in 1925 with a membership of 142.

Annual meetings were associated with University of Missouri Journalism Week activities and informal "outings" were held as well, typically occurring in the fall. Shortly after the organization of the MWG members also began publishing a newsletter, continuing with a variety of titles and forms, present in this collection through 2007. In 1960, the MWG stopped participating in Journalism Week activities and by the 1980s the bi-annual events were reduced to a once yearly conference. One aspect of the event was the contest portion, which awarded members of the MWG for their recently published writings in fiction and non-fiction categories.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following eight series:

- Administration
- Correspondence
- Events
- Local chapters
- Membership
- Publications
- Scrapbooks
- Video cassettes

**Scope and Content Note:****Administration**

This series contains governance materials such as articles of agreement and bylaws; financial reports and budgets; meeting minutes; descriptions of duties; and lists of guild officers. Arranged by type of material and then chronologically.

**Correspondence**

This series includes correspondence among officers and board members of the MWG concerning event planning and new member recruitment, governance issues, and newsletter submissions. Arranged chronologically.

## Events

This series consists of information surrounding MWG banquets and conferences, such as flyers, programs, and registration lists. Also included are results of writing contests. Arranged chronologically.

## Local chapters

This series includes materials--e.g., newsletters, meeting information, membership lists, and bylaws--from select local chapters of the MWG. Organized by chapter and then chronologically.

## Membership

This series contains membership applications; dues ledgers for individual members; comprehensive membership lists; and promotional materials. Applications are arranged alphabetically by prospective member last name and cover 1950-1999; dues ledgers--with individual entries created for each member--are divided between what the MWG called the "old ledger" (covering 1932-1949) and the "new ledger" (covering 1949-1996). These have been maintained in their original order, which is loosely alphabetical by member last name. Membership lists and promotional material are arranged chronologically.

## Publications

This series includes *The Twilight Hour* (1919-1920) and *The Midwest Bookman* (1921-1922), periodical publications of the MWG, as well as newsletters (1916-2007). Arranged by category of material and then chronologically.

## Scrapbooks

This series consists of three scrapbooks compiled by the Jefferson City Chapter of the MWG covering 1934-1971 and containing newspaper clippings, updates on members, and event information. Listed chronologically by start date of scrapbook. *Note: although v. 1 provides the dates of 1934-1936 on its cover, there are contents that extend to 1957.*

## Video cassettes

This series holds four video cassette recordings of presenters and speakers from the April 2001 MWG state conference in Kansas City.

## Container List:

f. 1-5	Administration
f. 1	Articles of agreement and bylaws, 1925-2001
f. 2	Financial, 1950-2002
f. 3	Minutes, 1946-2002
f. 4	Officer duties, 1975-1995
f. 5	Officer lists, 1915; 1939-2001
f. 6-32	Correspondence
f. 6	1923-1956
f. 7	1957-1959

	f. 8	1960-1965
	f. 9	1966-1969
	f. 10	1970-1974
	f. 11	1975-1976
	f. 12	1976
	f. 13	1977
	f. 14	1978
	f. 15	1979-1981
	f. 16	1982
	f. 17	1983
	f. 18	1984
	f. 19	1985
	f. 20	1985-1986
	f. 21	1986
	f. 22	1987-1989
	f. 23	1990
	f. 24	1991-1992
	f. 25	1994-1997
	f. 26	1998-2003
	f. 27-31	2004
	f. 32	2005
f. 33-37		Events
	f. 33	1939-1985
	f. 34	1986-1997
	f. 35	1998-2000
	f. 36	2001-2002
	f. 37	2003-2011
f. 38-46		Local chapters
	f. 38-39	Columbia
	f. 38	1959-1971
	f. 39	1972-2004
	f. 40-42	Jefferson City
	f. 40	1947-1953
	f. 41	1953-1959
	f. 42	1963-1971
	f. 43	Jefferson County, 1983; 2003-2006
	f. 44	Joplin, 1975; Maryville, 1999; Muddy Creek, 2000
	f. 45	Saint Louis, 1978-1989
	f. 46	Springfield, 1965; 1980-2001
f. 47-65		Membership
	f. 47-51	Applications, 1950-1999
	f. 47	A-D
	f. 48	E-J
	f. 49	K-M
	f. 50	N-R
	f. 51	S-Z
	f. 52-60	Dues
	f. 52	"Old ledger," 1932-1949
	f. 53-60	"New Ledger," 1949-1996
	f. 53	A-Co

	f. 54	Cr-F
	f. 55	G-J
	f. 56	K-Mc
	f. 57	Me-Pe
	f. 58	Pf-Sm
	f. 59	Sn-We
	f. 60	Wh-Z
f. 61-64		Lists
	f. 61	1949-1964
	f. 62	1964-1992
	f. 63	1992-1997
	f. 64	1998-2003
f. 65		Promotion, 1979; 1988-2002; n.d.
f. 66-76		Publications
	f. 66-67	Journal
	f. 66	1919-1920
	f. 67	1920-1922
	f. 68-76	Newsletter
	f. 68	1916-1929
	f. 69	1930-1942
	f. 70	1944-1954
	f. 71	1955-1961
	f. 72	1962-1979
	f. 73	1980-1990
	f. 74	1991-2000
	f. 75	2001-2004
	f. 76	2005-2007

### Scrapbooks

v. 1-3		Jefferson City Chapter
	v. 1	1934-1957
	v. 2	1940-1963
	v. 3	1964-1971

### Video cassettes

v.c. 1-4	State Conference, April 27-29, 2001
----------	-------------------------------------

### Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Akers, Muriel E. Furry, 1905-2001	14-16		
Alexander, Ione, 1892-1986	6, 15, 16		
Alexander, Reba A. Melton, 1906-1993	42	v. 3	
American literature--20th century-- Periodicals	66, 67		
Armstrong, Alta F., 1885-1964	6-8		

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Armstrong, Marjorie E. Moore, 1912-2002	6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 21	v. 3	
Armstrong, Orland K., 1893-1987	7-9, 12, 13		
Articles of incorporation	1		
Associations, institutions, etc.--Membership	47-65		
Barnett, Hayward R., 1926-2011	16-19, 22, 39		
Barnett, Robert C., 1867-1957		v. 2	
Barrett, James F., 1933-	25, 26		
Board, Ruby V., 1914-1989	9, 10, 38		
Brenton, Cora Lucretia Tubbs, 1883-1965	40	v. 1	
Burford, Josephine E. Torrence, 1910-1994	14, 17, 21, 43		
By-laws	1		
Cady, Edwin L., Jr., 1926-2020	9, 11, 26		
Caldwell, Dorothy J., 1904-1997	8, 9, 38		
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)		v. 1-3	
Coleman, Nadine M., 1897-1993	7-9		
Congresses and conventions	33-37	v.c. 1-4	
Correspondence	6-32		
Dains, Mary K., 1936-	19-24, 39		
Dark, Harris E., 1922-2005	8, 9, 13	v. 3	
Derendinger, Elaine M., 1928-2012	10-13, 15-20, 24, 43		
DuNard, Dorothy M., 1917-2014	15, 16, 18-22		
Earp, James W., 1888-1958	6		
Easterla, Patricia James	9-13, 15, 44		
Ellzey, William Clark "Skip," 1906-1991	8		
Elsea, Matilda Mahaffey, 1890-1984	6, 7, 40	v. 1	
English, Earl F., 1905-2000	6, 7		
Faherty, William B., 1914-2011	12-15, 19, 21, 22, 24, 45		
Financial statements	2		
Finnegan, Estelle F., 1890-1977	6, 7, 10, 42	v. 1, v. 2	
Fischer, Joseph O., 1927-2002	18		
Fleischmann, Marian	17, 23, 26, 39		
Fly, Letha Moss, 1904-1990	8, 9		
Gibbany, Etta May Holmes, 1883-1967	40, 41	v. 1-3	
Gieseke, Hilda M. Schultz, 1921-1991	9-11		
Gilbert, Joan, 1931-2013	9, 22, 24		
Grenier, Mildred L., 1917-1999	16-18, 23		
Gruber, Loren C., 1941-2014	25, 26		
Guenther, Charles J., 1920-2008	10-13, 16, 18, 22, 23		
Haddock, Hugh M., 1883-1950	6		
Haddock, Hugh M., 1883-1950		v. 2	yes

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Hale, Jane M., 1934-	27-32	v. 2	
Hammack, Robert D., 1944-2019	12, 13		
Hansbrough, Vivian Mayo, 1908-1993	8-17, 38		
Hereford, Robert A., 1902-1961	6, 7		
Hereford, Robert A., 1902-1961		v. 2	yes
Hilburn, May Stafford, 1880-1975	7, 8, 11, 41, 42	v. 1-3	
Houts, Amy F., 1957-	26		
Kent, Walter J., 1891-1990	7-9		
Kingsbury, Lilburn A., 1884-1983	7, 8, 14, 38		
Kinney-Hanson, Sharon, 1942-	16, 18-24		
Kinney-Hanson, Sharon, 1942-	34		yes
LaVoo, Edna Margaret, 1888-1975	8, 9		
Lile, Letha O., 1902-1979	38		
Lindsey, Wayne A., 1891-1969	7		
Lindsey, Zella M., 1907-2001	8, 9		
Lynch, Richard J.	9, 10, 38		
Lyon, Ruth A.	9		
Maisak, Ralph Lawrence, 1910-1976	10, 11		
May, Leland C., 1934-2018	14-16, 18, 23, 24		
May, Linda L., 1939-	18-22		
McCall, Edith M. Sansom, 1911-2006	10-13, 17-22, 25, 26		
McClurg, Ruth O. King, 1913-1999	23, 24		
McDonald, Betty Sue, 1936-	15		
Megee, Bessie J., 1904-1995	7-9, 11, 12, 15, 22		
Melton, Elston J., 1891-1981	6, 8, 10		
Millikin, James H., 1936-2019	25		
Missouri Writers Guild	1-76	v. 1-3; v.c. 1-4	
Mitchell, Clarence D., 1898-1970	7		
Mitchell, Grace H. Himmelright, 1891-1964	7		
Mosley, Jean Bell, 1913-2003	6, 7		
Nash, James H., 1903-1980	11-13, 15		
Nauman, Hilda E., 1923-2004	9, 38		
Newsletters	68-76		
Nothdurft, Lillian A., 1893-1983	11, 44		
O'Meara, Frances Jacobi, 1884-1971	6-8, 38		
Phillips, Authorene, 1935-	25, 26		
Phillips, Vietta "Peggy" Gallaspie, 1937-2003	8		
Professional associations	1-76	v. 1-3; v.c. 1-4	
Rottman, Betty Cook	10, 38		
Scoville, Ogden D., 1923-1992	23		

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Sexton, Kathleen H.	8		
Shoemaker, Floyd C., 1886-1972	6, 8		
Shrader, Dorothy H., 1913-2004	23		
Sommerer, Lyn	8, 41		
Steinhardt, Edward J., 1961-	23-25		
Stephens, Cleo M.	9, 11	v. 3	
Swadley, Elizabeth S., 1929-2022	18, 24		
Talbert, Odessa, 1907-1996	7, 9		
Taylor, Mabel Carver, 1920-2014	22, 23		
Tiner, John Hudson, 1944-	14, 18, 26		
Upton, Lucille Morris, 1898-1992	6, 7, 13, 18		
Van Buskirk, Kathleen H., 1924-2005	26		
Van Valkenburg, Margaret E., 1918-2002	10, 18		
Warner, Wayne E., 1933-	11-15, 21		
Wolverton, Forrest E., 1899-1958	6, 7		
Wolverton, Thelma P., 1898-1985	41		
Woodson, Mary Blake, 1886-1936	6		
Zimmann, Eula F. Smith, 1906-1985	12-17		
Zimmerman, Velma E., 1902-1987	9-12, 16, 38		