



## **Louise Marie Bliss Papers (S0008)**

**Collection Number:** S0008

**Collection Title:** Louise Marie Bliss Papers

**Dates:** 1894-1971

**Creator:** Bliss, Louise Marie

**Abstract:** The papers of Louise Marie Bliss contain diaries, correspondence, and manuscripts regarding her life as an author and pacifist. Bliss was a member of the Fellowship for Reconciliation and worked for the Civil Liberties Committee. The materials in this collection date from 1894 to 1971.

**Collection Size:** 2 cubic feet  
(7 folders, 33 diaries)

**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-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Louise Marie Bliss Papers* (S0008); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Florence Bliss on March 5, 1973 (Accession No. SA0244).

**Processed by:** Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Collection Staff. Revised by Zack Palitzsch November 2022

**Historical Note:**

Louise Marie Bliss was born in 1887 in Des Moines, Iowa to Howard Clarkson Bliss and Eunice Bowman Bliss. Soon after Louise was born, the family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where her sister, Cornelia Florence was born in 1890. In 1904, Howard Bliss went to St. Louis to set up a display at the St. Louis World's Fair. He liked the city so much that he moved his family to St. Louis from Chicago.

Both Louise and Florence attended Central High School in St. Louis and were both employed as secretaries following graduation. In 1934, Louise started working for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as an editorial secretary, responsible for editing the Letters column. During her time at the *Post-Dispatch*, Louise became close friends with Ferdinand Gottlieb and Irving Dillard, the latter of whom she remained in close friendship.

Louise was dismissed from the *Post-Dispatch* in 1939 when her boss disapproved of her free-lance editorial work. As a result, Louise focused on writing her own stories and plays, which she submitted for publication. She also wrote several newspaper articles for the *Star-Times* Religious News Page. Between the years 1941 and 1947, Louise worked for the Civil Liberties Committee.

Louise's diaries mention that both Bliss sisters were active in the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), an organization devoted to pacifism. The diaries also mention their meeting with A. J. Muste, a pacifist and one of the founders of FOR.

Louise Marie Bliss died in January 1972 at the age of 84. Florence died in December 1977 at the age of 87.

**Arrangement:**

The Louise Marie Bliss Papers are arranged into two series:

Diaries  
Personal Files

**Scope and Content Note:****Diaries**

This series contains 33 diaries written by Louise Marie Bliss spanning the years 1933 to 1971. The diaries meticulously document Louise's adult life up until her death in 1972. Notable subjects include her time working at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, pacifism, and her writing. The diaries are arranged chronologically.

**Personal Files**

This series contains Louise's correspondence and manuscripts. Subjects within the correspondence include Irving Dillard, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Howard Bliss, and political activism. The manuscripts include Louise's stories and plays, as well as her articles that appeared in the *Star-Times*. The materials in this series date from 1894 to 1971.

**Container List:**

v. 1-33		Diaries
Box 1	v. 1-24	Diaries, 1933-1946, 1951, 1954-1962
Box 2	v. 25-33	Diaries, 1963-1971
f. 1-7		Personal Files
	f. 1	Erwin H. Richards letters to Howard Bliss regarding East Africa missionary, includes photographs of Zulu people, 1894
	8.1	Photograph, Zulu woman with child, 3x4 BW print, 1894
	8.2	Photograph, Zulu woman with child, 3x4 BW print, 1894
	8.3	Photograph, Group of Zulus outside hut, 3x4 BW print, 1894
	8.4	Photograph, Zulu man outside hut, 3x4 BW print, 1894
	f. 2	Correspondence during employment with the <i>Post-Dispatch</i> , 1936-1939
	f. 3	Correspondence with Irving Dillard, 1939-1957
	f. 4	Anti-Vietnam correspondence, 1971
	f. 5	Manuscripts, 1907-1949
	f. 6	Manuscripts, no date
	f. 7	<i>Star-Times</i> articles and correspondence for the "Church Section," 1939-1949

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
America First Committee	v. 9	
Bliss, Howard	1	
Bovard, Oliver Kirby, 1972-1945	v. 5-6	
Brown, Heywood	v. 5	
Civil Liberties Committee	v. 9-12	
Clay, William L.	4	
Clifford, Clark M., 1906-1998	v. 2-3	
Coghlan, Ralph	v. 2-7	
Depressions--1929--United States	v. 1-8	
Dillard, Irving	2-3, v. 2-7	
Fellowship of Reconciliation (U.S.)	v. 9-29	
Ford, Gerald R., 1913-2006	4	
Gottlieb, Ferd	v. 2-7	
Greer, Paul G., 1887-1980	v. 6	
Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978	4	
Hurd, Carlos	v. 6	
Kennedy, Edward M. (Edward Moore), 1932-2009	4	
Lentz, Theodore F. (Theodore Ferdinand), 1888-1976	4	
McGovern, George S. (George Stanley), 1922-2012	4	
Peace Action Committee of Missouri	v. 7	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Pulitzer, Joseph, 1885-1955	v. 2-3	
Religion--Missouri--Saint Louis	7	
Richards, Erwin H.	1	
Ross, Charles	v. 2-7	
St. Louis post-dispatch	v. 2-7	
Sullivan, Leonor K.	4	
Symington, James W. (James Wadsworth), 1927-	4	
Symington, Stuart, 1901-1988	4	
Thomas A. Dooley Foundation	4	
Thomas, Norman, 1884-1968	v. 2, 9	
Vietnam War, 1961-1975	4	
World War (1939-1945)	v. 6-13	