

Book-of-the-Month Club Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS**

**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009324>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013219>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Book-of-the-Month Club Records

Span Dates: 1939-1967

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1939-1960)

ID No.: MSS13219

Creator: Book-of-the-Month Club

Extent: 15,600 items ; 61 containers ; 24.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Editorial and publishers' correspondence and preliminary readers' reports consisting of book reviews and evaluations relating primarily to books that were submitted by publishing houses for consideration by the Book-of-the-Month Club but were not selected for distribution by the club.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bates, Graham.

Benét, Rosemary, 1900-1962.

Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950--Correspondence.

Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950.

Brown, John Mason, 1900-1969--Correspondence.

Canby, Henry Seidel, 1878-1961--Correspondence.

Davenport, Basil, 1905-1966--Correspondence.

Davenport, Basil, 1905-1966.

Easton, Elizabeth Wynne.

Fadiman, Clifton, 1904-1999--Correspondence.

Fisher, Dorothy Canfield, 1879-1958--Correspondence.

Hight, Gilbert, 1906-1978--Correspondence.

Johnson, Gerald W. (Gerald White), 1890-1980.

Loveman, Amy--Correspondence.

Loveman, Amy.

Marquand, John P. (John Phillips), 1893-1960--Correspondence.

Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957--Correspondence.

Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971.

Thompson, Ralph, 1904-

White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.

Organizations

Book-of-the-Month Club.

Subjects

American literature.

Book clubs (Bookselling)--United States.

Books--United States--Reviews.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of the Book-of-the-Month Club were given to the Library of Congress by Ralph Thompson, editor of the Book-of-the-Month Club, in 1963-1968.

Processing History

The records of the Book-of-the Month Club were arranged and described circa 1955-1970. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

The collection was described briefly in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 23, no. 21 (25 May 1964), pp. 232-233, and in the *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*, vol. 21, no. 3 (July, 1964).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the records of the Book-of-the Month Club is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Book-of-the Month Club are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Book-of-the Month Club Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Book-of-the-Month Club span the years 1939-1967, with the bulk from 1939 to 1960. The collection consists of editorial and publishers' correspondence relating to books submitted by publishing firms for consideration for selection by the club, along with preliminary readers' reports in the form of reviews and evaluations of the suitability of books for distribution by the club. Nearly all of the reports are on books that were not selected by the club. The records are organized into the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Preliminary Readers' Reports](#), and [Addition](#).

Correspondents include William Rose Benét, John Mason Brown, Henry Seidel Canby, Basil Davenport, Clifton Fadiman, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Gilbert Highet, Amy Loveman, John P. Marquand, Christopher Morley, and William Allen White.

Preliminary readers include Graham Bates, Rosemary Benét, William Rose Benét, Basil Davenport, Elizabeth Wynne Easton, Gerald W. Johnson, Amy Loveman, Allan Nevins, and Ralph Thompson.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence, 1947-1950](#)
- [Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958](#)
- [Addition, 1939-1967](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-18

General Correspondence, 1947-1950

Letters sent and received.

Arranged chronologically by year or span of years and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent or publishing firm.

BOX 19-56

Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958

Book reviews and evaluations.

Arranged chronologically by years and alphabetically thereunder according to the title of the book to which the report refers.

BOX 57-61

Addition, 1939-1967

Correspondence with publishers and authors, evaluations and reviews of books, and publicity material.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1-18 | General Correspondence, 1947-1950 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically by year or span of years and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent or publishing firm. |
| BOX 1 | 1947-1948 |
| BOX 1 | A-B |
| BOX 2 | C |
| BOX 3 | D-Fa |
| BOX 4 | Fi-Ha |
| BOX 5 | He-J |
| BOX 6 | K-L |
| BOX 7 | M-N |
| BOX 8 | O-R |
| BOX 9 | S-T |
| BOX 10 | U-Z |
| BOX 11 | 1949-1950 |
| BOX 11 | A-Ch |
| BOX 12 | Co-D |
| BOX 13 | E-F |
| BOX 14 | G-H |
| BOX 15 | I-Ma |
| BOX 16 | Mo-R |
| BOX 17 | S-V |
| BOX 18 | W-Z |
| BOX 19-56 | Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958 Book reviews and evaluations. Arranged chronologically by years and alphabetically thereunder according to the title of the book to which the report refers. |
| BOX 19 | 1939 |
| BOX 19 | A-E |
| BOX 20 | F-L |
| BOX 21 | M-R |
| BOX 22 | S-Z |
| BOX 23 | 1946 |
| BOX 23 | A-E |
| BOX 24 | F-L |
| BOX 25 | M-R |
| BOX 26 | S-Z |
| BOX 27 | 1947 |

Preliminary Readers' Reports, 1939-1958

Container

Contents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 27 | A-C |
| BOX 28 | D-H |
| BOX 29 | I-M |
| BOX 30 | N-R |
| BOX 31 | S-V |
| BOX 32 | W-Z |
| BOX 33 | 1948 |
| BOX 33 | O-S |
| BOX 34 | T-Z |
| BOX 35 | 1949 |
| BOX 35 | A-F |
| BOX 36 | G-M |
| BOX 37 | N-S |
| BOX 38 | T-Z |
| BOX 39 | 1950 |
| BOX 39 | A-E |
| BOX 40 | F-L |
| BOX 41 | M-R |
| BOX 42 | S-Z |
| BOX 43 | 1951 |
| BOX 43 | A-E |
| BOX 44 | F-K |
| BOX 45 | L-Q |
| BOX 46 | R-Z |
| BOX 47 | 1958 |
| BOX 47 | A-G |
| BOX 48 | H-O |
| BOX 49 | P-Z |
| BOX 50 | Undated |
| BOX 50 | A-B |
| BOX 51 | C-E |
| BOX 52 | F-K |
| BOX 53 | L-O |
| BOX 54 | P-Sa |
| BOX 55 | So-V |
| BOX 56 | W-Z |
| | |
| BOX 57-61 | Addition, 1939-1967 |
| | Correspondence with publishers and authors, evaluations and reviews of books, and publicity material. |
| | Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically. |
| | |
| BOX 57 | Applications for positions 1942-1953 |
| BOX 57 | General correspondence |
| BOX 57 | 1939-1948 |
| BOX 57 | 1950-1960 |
| BOX 57 | A-B |

Addition, 1939-1967

Container

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| | |
|---------------|---|
| BOX 58 | C-H |
| BOX 59 | K-O |
| BOX 60 | P-W |
| BOX 60 | 1962-1967 |
| BOX 61 | Obituary, Basil Davenport, 1966 |
| BOX 61 | Publicity, author's questionnaires, 1948, 1958-1962 |
| BOX 61 | Reader's reports and reviews of books, 1952-1967 |