



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Mildred Moore Collection

NMAH.AC.0409

Grace Angle

1991

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Mildred Moore Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0409
<b>Date:</b>	1925-1975
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
<b>Creator:</b>	McPherson, Aimee Semple Mack, Connie Long, Huey Lauder, Harry, Sir Pons, Lily, 1898-1976 Galloway, Mildred (Mildred Galloway Moore) Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956 Ruth, George Herman (Babe) Rockefeller, John D. Post, Emily Sousa, John Philip, 1854-1932 Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967 Churchill, Winston, Sir, 1874-1965 White, Mary Lou Pickford, Mary Stein, Gertrude, 1874-1946 Adams, Maude (actress) Allen, Gracie Cantor, Eddie, 1892-1964 Addams, Jane Baruch, Bernard M. Baer, Max (boxer) Brendel, El (actor) Borglum, Gutzon, 1867-1941 Burgess, Gelett, 1866-1951 Chaplin, Charles (actor) Coolidge, Grace Cobb, Irvin S. Curie, Marie Crosby, Harry Lillis (Bing) Darrow, Clarence, 1857-1938 Disney, Walt, 1901-1966 Durant, William James Durante, Jimmy Earhart, Amelia, 1897-1937 Fetchit, Stepin Fields, W. C. Galloway, Mildred (Mildred Galloway Moore) Garner, John N. Gibson, Charles Dana, 1867-1944 Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962

Grey, Zane  
Hitler, Adolf, 1889-1945  
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr., 1841-1935  
Hoover, John Edgar  
Keller, Helen, 1880-1968  
Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968  
Lardner, Ring

**Language:** Collection is in English. Some materials in German.

**Summary:** Collection includes over 200 replies (160 of which comprise the book) to Mrs. Moore's letter requesting a quotation or a bit of poetry important to the recipient; a copy of her book, "Famous Personalities and Their Philosophies," and materials relating to the speeches both Mrs. Moore and her daughter gave about this collection of letters, such as notes, clippings, etc.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Charles F. White, 1991, April 26.

### Provenance

The donor, Charles F. White, was the widower of Mary Lou White. He inherited these papers from his wife and mother-in-law.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Grace Angle, Archives Center volunteer.

### Preferred Citation

Mildred Moore Collection, 1925-1975, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Probable copyright restrictions on some material in this collection.

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## Biographical / Historical

Mildred Moore, the pen name for Mildred Galloway, later Mrs. Forest L. Moore, was born on a farm outside Cromwell, Indiana. She read constantly as a child and often wrote verse to express her feelings. Prior to November 13, 1930, when she began writing a column called "This, That And The Other" for the Cromwell

Advance, a Fort Wayne newspaper, and one in Waterloo, Indiana, she had worked for several years as a secretary and bookkeeper for the Fort Wayne YMCA.

In 1931, having become interested in what motivated people and in their philosophies, Mildred Moore began to write to famous people seemingly selected at random requesting a quotation or a bit of verse that had been important to them and the development of their philosophy. The resultant book, *Famous Personalities and Their Philosophies*, includes 160 responses to over 200 letters to people with some claim to fame during the 1930s. Interestingly, the rate of response and acquiescence was very high with few refusals. A few indicated no favorite verse or quotation.

Mildred Moore made speeches about her collection of letters to several hundred groups in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. Her daughter, Mary Lou White (Mrs. Charles F. White), also spoke to numerous groups about the letters after her mother's death.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection documents a book written by Mildred Moore entitled *Famous Personalities and Their Philosophies*, published in 1940 by the Bookwalter Ball Greathouse Printing Co., Indianapolis. The collection encompasses over 200 replies (160 of which are included in the book) to Mrs. Moore's letter requesting a quotation or a bit of poetry important to them. Also included are a copy of her book, *Famous personalities and Their Philosophies*, and materials relating to the speeches both Mrs. Moore and her daughter gave about this collection of letters.

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Series 1 of the collection, the letters received in response to Mrs. Moore's inquiry, has been classified by occupation of the respondent and then arranged alphabetically by name within that classification. Apparently selected at random, the people she contacted were drawn from a wide variety of occupations and interests and include actors, athletes, community leaders, physicians, politicians, royalty, and many others. They are as diverse in background as Babe Ruth and the Prince of Wales, Huey Long and Winston Churchill. Most of the responses are signed by the individuals to whom Mrs. Moore's letter was addressed. Some of these have value as autographs, for example, Helen Keller, Marie of Roumania, and Adolph Hitler.

Series 2 is the book itself, arranged alphabetically with a page devoted to each personality. On each page are brief comments by Mrs. Moore about the person, and his or her favorite quotation and its source. When a second page has been devoted to an individual it is a reproduction of the handwritten response to Mrs. Moore's request (16 out of 160 entries). Sources of the quotations range through the centuries from Confucius to several people alive at the time of the book's publication (1940), but most frequently quoted are the Bible and the works of Shakespeare.

The material in series 3 is devoted largely to notes of Mary Lou White (Mrs. Moore's daughter) relating to the many speeches she made to women's clubs, fraternal organizations, and similar groups concerning her mother's collection, her publicity and that of her mother. There are also a few references to Elizabeth Wenger, who, according to Mary Lou White's notes, was repeating Mildred Moore's endeavor with respect to a later generation.

Series 4 contains replies to a letter requesting a favorite quotation sent to residents of Fort Wayne by Mrs. Moore. Most of these are dated 1932-1933. They have been arranged alphabetically by respondent.

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## Scope and Contents

The correspondents include Babe Ruth, the Prince of Wales, Winston Churchill, Huey Long, Helen Keller, Marie of Romania, and Adolf Hitler, and others, such as those listed below.

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## Arrangement

The collection is divided into four series.

Series 1: Responses to Mildred Moore's letter to famous personalities

Series 2: Publication developed from responses to letter to famous people (book)

Series 3: Development of speeches by Mary Lou White (notes)

Series 4: Responses to letters to prominent Fort Wayne area residents

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Celebrities -- 1930-1940

Poetry

Types of Materials:

Books -- 1940-1950

Clippings -- 20th century

Correspondence -- 20th century

Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.

Geographic Names:

Indiana -- 20th century

Preferred Titles:

*Famous Personalities and Their Philosophies. 1940. (Book)*

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Responses to Mildred Moore's Letter to Famous Personalities

Box 1, Folder 1	Actors
Box 1, Folder 2	Artists
Box 1, Folder 3	Athletes and Sports Personalities
Box 1, Folder 4	Authors, A through O
Box 1, Folder 5	Authors, P through Z
Box 1, Folder 6	Aviators
Box 1, Folder 7	Business Leaders
Box 1, Folder 8	Community Leaders
Box 1, Folder 9	Diplomats
Box 1, Folder 10	Educators
Box 1, Folder 11	Entertainers
Box 1, Folder 12	Famous Personalities not classified elsewhere
Box 1, Folder 13	Journalists
Box 1, Folder 14	Lawyers
Box 1, Folder 15	Military Men
Box 1, Folder 16	Musicians and Composers
Box 2, Folder 1	Physicians
Box 2, Folder 2	Political Figures, Foreign
Box 2, Folder 3	Political Figures, U.S.A.

Box 2, Folder 4	Publishers
Box 2, Folder 5	Religious Leaders
Box 2, Folder 6	Royalty
Box 2, Folder 7	Scientists
Box 2, Folder 8	Wives and Other Relatives of Politicians

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## Series 2: Publication Developed From Responses to Letter to Famous People

Box 2, Folder 9

Mildred Moore. Famous Personalities and Their Philosophies. Indianapolis,  
Indiana: Bookwalter Ball Greathouse, 1940.

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## Series 3: Development of Speeches by Mary Lou White

Box 2, Folder 10	Notes for Introduction to Speeches
Box 2, Folder 11	Notes for Speeches
Box 2, Folder 12	Organization of Material for Speeches
Box 2, Folder 13	Pages Torn from Book
Box 2, Folder 14	Programs for Speeches
Box 2, Folder 15	Publicity, Mary Lou White
Box 2, Folder 16	Publicity, Mildred Moore
Box 2, Folder 17	References to Elizabeth Wenger
Box 2, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Quotations
Box 2, Folder 19	Miscellaneous

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## Series 4: Responses to Mildred Moore's Letter to Prominent Fort Wayne Area Residents

Box 3, Folder 1-8

A through Z

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