



# ArchivesSpace

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## Carolyn Chute collection, 1984-2009

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library

University of New England

716 Stevens Avenue

Portland, Maine 04103

[mwwc@une.edu](mailto:mwwc@une.edu)

URL: <https://library.une.edu/mwwc/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Maine Women Writers Collection
<b>Creator:</b>	Chute, Carolyn
<b>Title:</b>	Carolyn Chute collection
<b>ID:</b>	0056
<b>ID [aspace_uri]:</b>	/repositories/3/resources/492
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1984-2009
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.5 linear feet 13 folders
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Carolyn Chute collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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Carolyn Chute was born Carolyn Penny in Portland, Maine in 1947. At the age of sixteen, Chute dropped out of high school and married almost immediately. She had a daughter named Johanna, and then divorced, leaving Chute to support her daughter by working several odd jobs, which included driving a school bus, waitress, and potato farm worker. After marrying her current husband, Michael Chute, in 1978, Chute completed her high school education and took classes at the University of Maine.

She started to write stories while attending a writing workshop at the university, and her work was published in magazines such as *Grand Street* and *Ploughshares*. She was also a part-time suburban correspondent for the Portland *Evening Express*. During this time she started work on her most well known novel, *The Beans of Egypt, Maine* (1985). The novel was well received, becoming a bestselling and critically acclaimed book. Her novel gave Maine its most prominent position in the literary world at the time. Chute's graphic, bold, and unflinchingly honest portrayal of rural life has not had many counterparts in recent decades, especially not

among women writers. Her other novels include *Letourneau's Used Auto Parts* (1988), *Merry Men* (1994), *Snow Man* (1999), *The School on Heart's Content Road* (2008), and *Treat Us Like Dogs and We Will Become Wolves* (2014). She currently resides in Parsonsfield, Maine.

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## Collection Scope and Content

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This collection consists almost entirely of newspaper and magazine interviews with the author and reviews of her publications. The material reveals a great deal about her personal life and how it influences her writing. There is also information about her involvement in the 2nd Maine Militia which she founded in 1995, premised on the negative aspects of the influences of corporations on the working class. Also in the collection is an audiotape of Chute's speech at the University of Hartford in 1986 in addition to video material of her presentation at Maine Women Writers Collection in 2002, and ephemera relating to a 1989 Stonecoast's Writers' Conference.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized as a single series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

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University of New England  
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Portland, Maine 04103

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URL: <https://library.une.edu/mwwc/>

## Access

Collection is open for research.

## Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Parsonsfield (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- Clippings
- Audiocassettes
- Country life -- Maine
- Country life -- Fiction
- Maine -- Fiction
- Chute, Carolyn
- 2nd Maine Militia

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Interviews, reviews, 1984 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 001
Interviews, reviews, 1985 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 002
Interviews, reviews "Stepping into the Light", 1985 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 003
Interviews, reviews "Small Town, Big Time", 1985 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 004
Interviews, reviews, 1986-1989	Box 5	Folder 005

Carolyn Chute collection, 1984-2009

<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Interviews, reviews, 1991-2002 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 006
Interviews, reviews, 1995-1996 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 007
Interviews, reviews, 2002, 2009 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 007a
Interviews, reviews, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 008
Publisher's press release "The Beans of Egypt, Maine", undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 009
Invitation to Maine release of film "The Beans of Egypt, Maine", 1994 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 010
Stonecoast Writers' Conference, 1985 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 011
"Cuba's Continuing Struggle" dedicated to Carolyn Chute, 2002 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 012
Anne Elizabeth Penny obituary (Chute's mother), 2012 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 013
Photo with Michael Chute & dogs, 2012 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5	Folder 014
Letters to Joan Roelofs, 1995-2021	Box 5	Folder 015