

Marie Ahnighito Peary papers, 1862-1995

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Maine Women Writers Collection

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Summary Information

Repository: Maine Women Writers Collection

Creator: Peary, Marie Ahnighito, 1893-1978

Title: Marie Ahnighito Peary papers

ID: 0348

Date [inclusive]: 1862-1995

Physical Description: 7 linear feet 323 folders

Language of the English

Material:

Preferred Citation

Marie Ahnighito Peary papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

Biographical/Historical Note

Marie Ahnighito Peary was born in Northwest Greenland on September 12, 1893, to arctic explorer Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary and his wife, Josephine Diebitsch Peary, of Portland, Maine, and Washington, DC. She became known worldwide as the "Snow Baby." Her middle name honored the Inuit woman who made Marie's first fur suit. In 1909, when Marie was sixteen years old, Admiral Peary lead arguably the first successful expedition to the North Pole. In 1917, Marie Peary married Edward Stafford, a Washington attorney and during the next three years, they had two sons. In 1920, Peary Stafford's father died. In 1932, she set sail to the Arctic to erect a monument in honor of her father and to memorialize his accomplishments. Peary Stafford was also an important political figure during World War II. She was part of the Danish-American Commission, which stabilized the dollar, as well as established security for Denmark and Greenland. For her contributions to the Commission, the Danish government awarded Peary Stafford the Liberation Medal. In 1950, she was awarded the Henry B. Bryant medal for her contributions to geographical information. After both her husband and her mother died in 1955, Peary Stafford moved to Brunswick, Maine, and in 1967, she married her second husband, William Kuhne, a retired seaman. She lived the remainder of her life in Brunswick until her death in 1978. Marie Peary Stafford Kuhne was the author of five books and many articles, and held an honorary Master of Arts Degree from Bowdoin College.

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Collection Scope and Content

This collection consists of a wide variety of material documenting Marie Peary Stafford's life. There is a large amount of manuscript material including typescripts of her many publications, both books and stories submitted to magazines. The collection holds the published copies, the publishers' contracts, reviews of her writings, and Marie's notes for her stories. Also included are drafts of her lectures and speeches, extensive memos about various responsibilities she accepted as the daughter of a worldfamous explorer and as a highly regarded expert on exploration herself. Her large manuscript in the form of a Greenland notebook relates to her work with the American-Danish Greenland Commission. She was also involved with the National Geographic Society, to which she donated Peary's celebrated North Pole American flag. There is extensive correspondence among her papers: correspondence with her mother; some of the letters beginning in the later half of the 1910s forward; letters relating to Admiral Peary's era and his accomplishments; letters from George Borup, the fiancé to whom she was never married; Viljhalmur Stefansson; and William Herbert Hobbs, her father's first biographer. There is information about Robert Peary's early career as a surveyor, documents which demonstrate the honors bestowed on Marie Peary Stafford, and copies of newspaper and magazine articles providing biographical information about her. Some of the collection's highlights are the personal scrapbooks, journals and diaries, photographs, extensive ephemera and the personal artifacts.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into six series: I. Manuscripts, notes, published articles and speeches; II. Correspondence, 1904-1988; III. Scrapbooks; IV. Biographical material, photographs, and personal items; V. Diaries/journals; VI. Ephemera

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
cmiller10@une.edu

URL: http://www.une.edu/mwwc

Access

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Josephine Diebitsch Peary collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Muskox
- Bowdoin (Me.)
- Greenland
- Arctic regions -- Description and travel
- Arctic regions -- Discovery and exploration
- Baltimore (Md.)
- Manuscripts
- Ephemera

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Scrapbooks
- Obituaries
- Photographs
- Diaries
- National geographic
- Negatives
- Peary, Marie Ahnighito, 1893-1978
- Peary, Marie Ahnighito, 1893-1978
- Peary, Robert E. (Robert Edwin), 1856-1920
- Peary, Josephine Diebitsch, 1863-1955
- Stafford, Edward, 1895-1955
- Stafford, Edward Peary, 1918-2013
- Borup, George, 1885-1912
- Stefansson, Vilhjalmur, 1879-1962
- Bowdoin College
- Geographical Society of Philadelphia
- National Geographic Society (U.S.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Little Tooktoo [original form - not as published]	Box 1	Folder 001
Notes for book on Muskoxen	Box 1	Folder 003
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	Box 1	Folder 005
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A Freight Car Near the North Pole [published as The Red Caboose, 1932]	Box 1	Folder 007
	Box 1	Folder 008
nowbaby's Own Story [published 1934]	Box 1	Folder 009
	Box 1	Folder 010
	Box 1	Folder 011
	Box 1	Folder 012
Review of Snowbaby's Own Story [published 1934]	Box 1	Folder 012a
oust jacket of The Snowbaby's as enclosure in The Snowbaby's own Story by Peary [published 1934]	Box 1	Folder 012b

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Book contracts, 1927-1958	Box 1	Folder 015
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Book reviews, circa 1930-1939	Box 1	Folder 017
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Good Housekeeping: "Eskimo Dogs," "My Arctic Bunny"	Box 1	Folder 024
Good Housekeeping: "My Arctic Bunny," "Twin Polar Bear Cubs"	Box 1	Folder 025
Good Housekeeping: "The Baby Seal"	Box 1	Folder 026
"My Arctic Pets" Good Housekeeping clippings, 1931	Box 1	Folder 027
Letter re: Good Housekeeping articles, 1931	Box 1	Folder 027a
"The Incorrigibles Abroad," "Writing the Animal Story for Children"	Box 1	Folder 028
The Writer December [includes "Writing Animal Stories for Children"], 1931	Box 1	Folder 028a
"The Nautilus" [article Portland Telegram]	Box 1	Folder 029
Saturday Review clippings - book reviews, 1930-1939	Box 1	Folder 030
Erie Railroad Magazine [includes "North Pole Caboose"], 1932	Box 1	Folder 031
"The Peary Memorial Expedition," "Man of Two Worlds"	Box 1	Folder 032
"Man of Two Worlds," book review; "To Greenland's Icy	Box 1	Folder 033
Mountains"	Box 1	Folder 034
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Good Housekeeping clippings - "The Snow Baby Returns to Greenland's Icy Mountains", 1933 April	Box 1	Folder 037
Letter re: speech for IN Rotary Club, 1935	Box 1	Folder 037a
"A Visitor from the Sky" [typescript (two versions of page 1); correspondence], circa 1950	Box 1	Folder 038

"And What About Greenland?", circa 1940	Box 1	Folder 039
[Greenland typescript p. 5-7]	Box 1	Folder 040
Composition book - notes about Denmark	Box 1	Folder 041
"Denmark's Greenland; The largest Island in the World" - article for "Yule"	Box 1	Folder 042
Address at Bowdoin College upon receiving honorary degree, 1949	Box 1	Folder 042a
Yule [includes "Denmark's Greenland", 1953	Box 1	Folder 043
"My Wonderful Christmas Tree" from Holiday, 1953	Box 1	Folder 044
Appalachian Mt. Club Bulletin [article on Robert E. Peary/ Fryeburg, ME]	Box 1	Folder 045
Appalachia [includes Peary - Fryeburg, article], 1953	Box 1	Folder 046
"Peary Flag Comes to Rest" [typescript and correspondence with editing], circa 1954	Box 1	Folder 047
"Peary Flag Comes to Rest" [National Geographic magazine clipping], circa 1955	Box 1	Folder 048
Down East [includes "Admiral Peary and the 'Roosevelt'"], 1958 May	Box 1	Folder 049
"The Realization of a Dream" [typescript and published article, Bowdoin Alumnus], 1959 April	Box 1	Folder 050
Bowdoin Alumnus, 1959 April	Box 1	Folder 051
Down East [includes "Ahnighito"], 1959 June	Box 1	Folder 052
"Through the Frozen Frontier" reviewed by M. Stafford V.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, 1959 October	Box 1	Folder 053
Childhood Experiences in Greenland	Box 1	Folder 054
New York Times article [Robert Peary/Fryeburg] "Shipwrecked in the Arctic"	Box 1	Folder 055
"Shipwrecked in the Arctic" continued; "Oh for Greenland!"; "A Day with Eskimo Friends"	Box 1	Folder 056
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"The Pearys in the Arctic" [continued]; "Peary's Pioneer Work for the Conquest of the Air"	Box 1	Folder 062
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Typescript re: Cape York Peary monument	Box 1	Folder 064
"The Poetry of the Frozen Spaces"	Box 1	Folder 065
Transcript of letter "Dear Mary Jane;" "Reconstruction Work for the League", 1862	Box 1	Folder 066
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"Robert Erwin Peary - Father of the Aerial Coast Patrol"	Box 1	Folder 068
"Comfort Me with Apples"	Box 1	Folder 069
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Lecture Publicity Flier	Box 1	Folder 075
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Introductory remarks for Philadelphia [National Geographic Society]	Box 1	Folder 077
The Geographical Society of Philadelphia 50th Anniversary 1891-1941 [Commemorative Publication], 1941	Box 1	Folder 078
The Geographical Society of Philadelphia - history and notes	Box 1	Folder 079
"History of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia" [address], 1960	Box 1	Folder 080
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From George Borup, 1911 August-December	Box 1	Folder 088
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From George Borup, 1912 February 18-23	Box 2	Folder 095
From George Borup, 1912 February-March	Box 2	Folder 096
From George Borup, 1912 March 5-23	Box 2	Folder 097
From George Borup, 1912 March-April	Box 2	Folder 098
"Dedicated to" [poem in Marie Peary's hand, for George Borup], 1910 June 19	Box 2	Folder 099
Condolence letter (practice copy) to Col. Borup, [1912] May 4	Box 2	Folder 100
Vilhjalmur Stefansson [transcriptions of Marie Peary's correspondence with Stefansson, and diary entries about him], 1912-1921	Box 2	Folder 101
V. Stefansson to Marie, 1927 December 5	Box 2	Folder 102
V. Stefansson to Marie; copies of letter to E. H. Baynes and letter to Roger W. Hallowell, 1922 June 9, 1934 April 19, 1922, 1954	Box 2	Folder 103
From R.S. to Miss Peary, 1913 January 22	Box 2	Folder 104
From Lincoln Ellsworth, 1915, 1931	Box 2	Folder 105
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To Mrs. Robert E. Peary, 1918 February	Box 2	Folder 111
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To Mrs. Robert E. Peary, 1918 March 11-25	Box 2	Folder 113
To Mrs. Robert E. Peary, 1918 April 9-19	Box 2	Folder 114
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To Mrs. Robert E. Peary, 1918 May 2-14	Box 2	Folder 116

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To Mrs. Robert E. Peary, 1919 May-June	Box 2	Folder 121
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From Richard Byrd, 1925-1949	Box 2	Folder 123
Richard Byrd Lecture Program [inscribed to Marie Peary], 1926	Box 2	Folder 124
Mixed literary and personal correspondence, 1928-1954	Box 2	Folder 125
From Ernest Harold Bay, from Bob Bartlett, 1928 April 21, [February 14]	Box 2	Folder 126
From Wilfred T. Grenfell, 1923 September 8	Box 2	Folder 127
To Professor Hobbs, 1929-1931	Box 2	Folder 128
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To Professor Hobbs, 1940-1950	Box 2	Folder 135
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From Gene Lamb, 1931 September 26	Box 2	Folder 138
From Peter Freuchen and from Suen Anders Hevin, 1931 July 1, 1932 July 10	Box 2	Folder 139
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To Greta Kerr and Christmas card from Greenland, 1933 February 4, 1932-1933	Box 2	Folder 141
From R. A. Bartlett to Marie Peary, 1932	Box 2	Folder 141a
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From William H. Benton, 1943 March 31	Box 2	Folder 144a
From Gilbert Grosvenor and from Melville B. Grosvenor, 1954 March 18, 1954 May 13	Box 2	Folder 145
"Peary Takes on the Black Giant" by Gary Webster/Marie Peary comments, 1956	Box 2	Folder 146
From Ry Stover, 1959	Box 2	Folder 147
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To Grace Dow, 1966-1967	Box 2	Folder 148a
To Marie Peary re: Discoverer of the North Pole, 1959	Box 2	Folder 149
From Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the U.S. re: gift of Robert Peary papers to NARA, 1959 December 9	Box 2	Folder 150
Bowdoin College letter to Edward P. Stafford, 1979	Box 2	Folder 151
From Will Higgs re: North Pole visit [copy], 1988	Box 2	Folder 152
From Sally Francis Burnam, undated	Box 2	Folder 153
Letters to Martha Dallas, 1957, 1961	Box 2	Folder 153a
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Det Danske Gesandtskab I Washington, 1940-1942	Box 2	Folder 159
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"The Disappearance of Greenland Colony,", 1937	Box 2	Folder 161
"Greenland a Centre of New Controversy" NYT, 1932	Box 2	Folder 162
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American-Danish Greenland Commission/meeting minutes, 1940 May 24	Box 2	Folder 170
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Miscellaneous photographs, 1908-1913, undated	Box 8	
Travel, family and photographs of the Morrissey, 1924-1926	Box 9	

Scope and Contents

This scrapbook contains photographs that document Marie's travels through Europe, family homes and memories, as well as the 1926 Morrissey expedition to Greenland. There are many photographs of the ship and crew prior to their departure.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Arctic regions -- Discovery and exploration
- Voyages and travels

Travel and family photographs, 1926-1929

Box 10

Family, travel and professional photographs, 1929-1933

Box 11

Scope and Contents

This scrapbook contains images from a voyage up the Panama Canal in 1929, as well as family snapshots from other trips and on Eagle Island. Included are women's professional organization meeting photographs.

Greenland expedition photographs, 1932

Box 12

Scope and Contents

This scrapbook documents the 1932 expedition on the Schooner Morrissey to build the monument to Robert Peary in Greenland.

Controlled Access Headings:

Arctic regions -- Discovery and exploration

Family and events photographs, 1934-1940

Box 13

Scope and Contents

This scrapbook contains primarily family photographs in many locations, including Eagle Island. Also included are photographs from a party for Amelia Earhart and documentation of the unveiling of the Peary statue in Cresson, PA.

"Things that have interested me" clippings, 1920-1942, undated

Box 14

Controlled Access Headings:

Clippings

Josephine Diebitsch Peary May 22, 1863-December 19, 1955, 1955-1956

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Letter from Gilbert Grosvenor and letter from E.D. Riley, 1954 December 16, December 20	Box 2	Folder 190

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Unsigned letter re: flying north, 1952 March 9	Box 2	Folder 204
Letter from Thomas McKnew re: flag ceremony, 1955 April 21	Box 2	Folder 205
Letter from Lohore Kiefer re: Flag ceremony, 1955 May 7	Box 2	Folder 206
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Letter re: dedication of Robert E. Peary High School in Rockville, MD	Box 2	Folder 208
Serious errors in (original) transcript of proceedings of National Geographic Society, 1955 May 6	Box 2	Folder 209
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"First of Her Kind" clipping, circa 1894	Box 2	Folder 214
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<u>Digital Object</u>: <u>Miss Marie Peary, the Artic Exlorer's "Snow Baby," Justifies Horoscope Which Was Cast for the Herald</u>

Digital Object: The Baby, the Lilies and the Bunny

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Wedding reception bill	Box 2	Folder 220
Clippings re: wedding, 1917 <u>Digital Object</u> : <u>The City's Social Side</u>	Box 2	Folder 221
Digital Object: The Romance of Admiral Peary's "Snow Baby"		
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American Museum of Natural History membership certificate, 1934	Box OVS 2	Folder 225
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Danish Royal Citation Certificate, 1946	Box OVS 2	Folder 227
Bowdoin College diploma: honorary Master of Arts, 1949	Box OVS 2	Folder 229
Honoris Causa - Bowdoin College, 1949-1952	Box 2	Folder 230
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Deborah Morton Award Certificate, 1970	Box 2	Folder 233
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Photograph album [10 color snapshots], 1967	Box 3	Folder 248
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Valentine poems by Marie Peary, circa 1908	Box 3	Folder 251
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Address books - personal and business	Box 3	Folder 254
"Arctic Library of Marie Peary Stafford" [biography]	Box 3	Folder 255
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Pocket calendar, 1943	Box 3	Folder 257
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Washington Post clipping re: Marie Peary ("Snow Baby") auction, 1978	Box 3	Folder 274
Paper and glassine wallet with 106 photo negatives of Marie Peary at camp and abroad, 1910	Box 3	Folder 275
Plaster cast of Marie's hand, undated	Box 16	Folder 276
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Metals awarded to Marie, undated	Box 16	Folder 278
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