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Mary Ellen Chase papers, 1902-1973

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library

University of New England

716 Stevens Avenue

Portland, Maine 04103

mwwc@une.edu

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Chase, Mary Ellen, 1887-1973
Title:	Mary Ellen Chase papers
ID:	0072
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/3/resources/504
Date [inclusive]:	1902-1973
Physical Description:	4.5 linear feet 5 boxes (156 folders), some oversize
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Mary Ellen Chase papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Mary Ellen Chase was born February 24, 1887 in Blue Hill. When she was eleven, her father, Edward Chase, took her to hear a reading from *Captain January* by author Laura Richards. A year later, Chase saw Richards read again in South Berwick. At that meeting, Laura Richards asked Mary Ellen Chase what she wanted to be when she grew up. "I want to write books as you do," Chase answered. In 1909, after graduating from the University of Maine, she went to the Midwest to teach, where she contracted tuberculosis. Upon the advice of a doctor, Chase moved to Montana to recover. There she wrote her first successful novel, *The Girl from the Big Horn Country*. In 1917, Mary Ellen Chase enrolled in graduate school at the University of Minnesota, where she taught for eight years before moving on to become an English professor at Smith College. There Chase met student Anne Morrow and the two corresponded after Morrow's graduation and her subsequent marriage to Charles Lindbergh. Chase also encouraged another aspiring writer and student, Sylvia Plath. While at Smith, Chase met fellow professor Eleanor Shipley Duckett, who would become her partner of over forty years. It was during her time at Smith that Chase wrote three Maine novels that would solidify her

popularity: *Mary Peters*, *Silas Crockett*, and *Windswept*. With the success of *Windswept*, Chase was able to travel the world with Duckett, including a sail to England aboard the Queen Elizabeth. In 1955, Chase retired from Smith and continued to write. Her writings include novels, biblical commentary, books about writing and literature, and other non-fiction works, many with a focus on Maine. Chase died in 1973 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

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Collection Scope and Content

This collection consists primarily of manuscript material highlighting Chase's writing process and publications. It focuses on three of the author's novels; early unpublished essays (1904-1909); extensive correspondence with family members, publishers, professors, statespersons, and other authors; and includes a small collection of photographs, both formal portraits and informal snapshots. The collection also holds exceptional personal scrapbooks created by the author, each one devoted to a particular novel. The scrapbooks include fan mail, reviews and criticisms, newspaper clippings, and speaking engagements.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series. Correspondence is in chronological order within individual correspondents.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
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Portland, Maine 04103
mwwc@une.edu

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Access

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Eleanor Shipley Duckett papers, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Paul Nixon papers, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine

Alice Morgan Wright papers, Sophia Smith collection, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Mary Ellen Chase literary manuscripts, Mortimer Rare Book Room, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Mary Ellen Chase papers, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Mary Ellen Chase papers, Fogler Library, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Virginia Chase papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Controlled Access Headings

- Blue Hill (Me.)
- Clippings
- Photographs

- Correspondence
- Manuscripts
- Typescripts
- Obituaries
- Chase, Mary Ellen, 1887-1973

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Portland Sunday Telegram, 1936 August 20 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 001
Biography <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 002
Hinckley genealogy <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 003
"Two Honored by Smith" clipping <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 004
Colby Library Quarterly -The Diamond Jubilee of Mary Ellen Chase, 1962 March <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 005
Maine Life "Mary Ellen Chase Came Visiting", 1979 January <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 006
"Mary Ellen Chase's Teaching Wins" <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 007
Smith Alumnae Quarterly - Summer, 1987 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 008
All Souls By The Sea - Petit Manan Point <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 009
Articles, 1990 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 009a
B + W portraits <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 010
B + W snapshots <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 011
B + W snapshots of MEC/Windswept, 1952	Box 1	Folder 011a

Mary Ellen Chase papers, 1902-1973

<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Family photo [framed copy located in Box 5 (OVS)], 1910 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 012
Framed family photo, 1910 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 5 (OVS)	Folder 012a
Chase family photos <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 013
Obituaries, 1973 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 014
Letters from MEC to her mother, circa 1935-1940 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 015
	Box 1	Folder 016
Letters from MEC to Constance Holden (Cole), 1902-1903, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 017
Letters from MEC to Constance Holden (Cole), 1906, 1908, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 018
Letters from MEC to Constance Holden (Cole), circa 1910-1912 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 019
	Box 1	Folder 020
Letters from MEC to Constance Holden (Cole), 1913 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 021
Letters from MEC to Constance Holden (Cole), 1945 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 022
Letters from MEC to Grace Dow and Dorothy Healy, 1960-1969 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 023
Letter to Israel Bernstein, 1962 July 12 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 024
Cards to Tommy Healy, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 025
MEC to Isabelle Pease, circa 1962-1965 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 026
Correspondence to Eleanor Ames, 1953-1954 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 027
Mary Ellen Chase to Virginia Chase Perkins, circa 1965		

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<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 028
	Box 1	Folder 029
Mary Ellen Chase to Elizabeth Ring, 1938-1942	Box 1	Folder 030
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Misc. literary correspondence to MEC, 1926-1928	Box 1	Folder 031
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Miscellaneous ALS from MEC, undated	Box 1	Folder 032
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Notecard to Gary Woolson, 1964	Box 1	Folder 032a
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Edith Warren to Grace Dow, 1961	Box 1	Folder 033
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Correspondence from Aga Khan to MEC, 1952-1953	Box 1	Folder 034
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Correspondence from Vera Brittain to MEC, 1937-1940	Box 1	Folder 035
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
ALS Gladys Hasty Carroll to MEC, 1933	Box 1	Folder 036
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Robert Coffin [reviewer] TLS to MEC, 1932	Box 1	Folder 037
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Abbe Ernest Dimnet ALS to MEC, 1931, 1933	Box 1	Folder 038
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Ruth Draper TLS to MEC, 1954	Box 1	Folder 039
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Maurice Evans TLS to MEC, 1946, undated	Box 1	Folder 040
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
John Marquand to MEC, 1941-1942	Box 1	Folder 041
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Agnes Repplier ALS to MEC, 1932	Box 1	Folder 042
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Laura Richards to MEC, 1932-1933	Box 1	Folder 043
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Kenneth Roberts ALS to MEC, 1943	Box 1	Folder 044
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Eleanor Roosevelt TLS to MEC, 1941 January 28		

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<u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 045
G.B. Stern ALS to MEC, undated <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 046
Correspondence exchange with College of St. Catherine, MN, 1939, 1968, 1975 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 046a
The Mountain Echo [George Stevens Academy], 1903 March 3 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 047
Early essays "The Clam-shell Rock", 1904-1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 048
Early essays "The Last of the Stuarts", 1904-1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 049
Early essays "The Journey of David", 1904-1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 050
Early essays "The Mad Day", 1904-1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 051
Early essays "Baron Castin and the Town Which Bears His Name", 1904-1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 052
Early essays "Inasmuch", 1904-1909 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 053
"The Would-Be Author in School" [manuscript], 1936 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 054
Published writings, 1916-1961 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 055
"The Bible and the Common Reader" review, 1944 <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 056
Reviews: Golden Asse; Mary Christmas; Uplands; Silver Shell; Mary Peters <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 057
Dawn in Lyonesse - correspondence <u>Language of the Material</u> : English.	Box 1	Folder 058
Dawn in Lyonesse - reviews	Box 1	Folder 059

Language of the Material: English.

Dawn in Lyonesse - Christmas greeting - Fra Giovanni 1513	Box 1	Folder 060
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Dawn in Lyonesse - Icelandic Ballad of Tristram	Box 1	Folder 061
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Donald McKay and His Clipper Ships [original manuscript]	Box 1	Folder 062
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Donald McKay and His Clipper Ships [revised manuscript]	Box 1	Folder 063
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
	Box 1	Folder 064
Donald McKay and His Clipper Ships - galley proof	Box 1	Folder 065
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Donald McKay and His Clipper Ships - typescript	Box 1	Folder 066
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Edge of Darkness - advertising copy	Box 1	Folder 067
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Edge of Darkness - reviews	Box 1	Folder 068
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Edge of Darkness - correspondence	Box 1	Folder 069
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Golden Asse - contract	Box 1	Folder 070
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Golden Asse - review, undated	Box 1	Folder 071
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Goodly Fellowship - reviews	Box 1	Folder 072
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
	Box 1	Folder 073
Goodly Fellowship - reviews/announcements	Box 1	Folder 074
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Goodly Fellowship - correspondence	Box 1	Folder 075
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Goodly Heritage - correspondence	Box 1	Folder 076
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Goodly Heritage - contract	Box 1	Folder 077
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Goodly Heritage - Richard Thornton letter, 1933	Box 1	Folder 078

Language of the Material: English.

Goodly Heritage - Edgar Stevens letters, 1909-1910	Box 1	Folder 079
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Language of the Material: English.

Goodly Heritage - "Lines Written to a Celebrated Teacher..."	Box 1	Folder 080
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - correspondence	Box 1	Folder 081
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - reviews	Box 1	Folder 082
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - Edith Weren article	Box 1	Folder 083
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - Diary of J.F. [original manuscript]	Box 1	Folder 084
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Language of the Material: English.

The Philosophical Alphabet of Jonathan Fisher - Raoul N. Smith	Box 1	Folder 084a
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - Fisher House pamphlet	Box 1	Folder 085
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - photos of J.F. window displays	Box 1	Folder 086
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Language of the Material: English.

Jonathan Fisher - 20th cent. printed handkerchief	Box 1	Folder 087
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Language of the Material: English.

Journey to Boston - literary criticism (Polish American Studies), 1985	Box 1	Folder 088
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Language of the Material: English.

Life and Language in the Old Testament - correspondence	Box 1	Folder 089
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Language of the Material: English.

Life and Language in the Old Testament - reviews	Box 1	Folder 090
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Language of the Material: English.

Life and Language in the Old Testament - advertisements	Box 1	Folder 091
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Language of the Material: English.

The Lovely Ambition - manuscripts	Box 1	Folder 092
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Language of the Material: English.

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	Box 1	Folder 093
	Box 1	Folder 094
	Box 1	Folder 095
The Lovely Ambition - typescript <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 096
The Lovely Ambition - review <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 096a
Mary Christmas - royalty letters <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 097
Mary Christmas - publisher letter and contract <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 098
Mary Christmas - letter from Wm. Christmas, 1926 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 099
Mary Peters - correspondence <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 100
Mary Peters - reviews <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 101
Mary Peters - advertising <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 102
Mary Peters - original dummy <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 103
The Plum Tree - reviews <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 104
The Plum Tree - correspondence <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 105
The Plum Tree - original short story <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 106
Sailing the Seven Seas - original manuscript <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 107
Sailing the Seven Seas - revised manuscript <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 108
Silas Crockett - correspondence <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 2	Folder 109
Silas Crockett - dust jacket and cover design	Box 2	Folder 110

<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Silas Crockett - reviews	Box 2	Folder 111
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Silver Shell - contract (duplicate)	Box 2	Folder 112
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
This England - "Oh to be in England" typescript	Box 2	Folder 113
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
This England - correspondence	Box 2	Folder 113a
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
This England - reviews	Box 2	Folder 114
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Upland Romance - publisher letter and contract	Box 3	Folder 115
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The White Gate - correspondence, 1954-1955	Box 3	Folder 116
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The White Gate - reviews/advertisements	Box 3	Folder 117
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 3	Folder 118
Windswept - correspondence	Box 3	Folder 119
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Windswept - dummy of original	Box 3	Folder 120
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Windswept - reviews	Box 3	Folder 121
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Windswept - best seller lists	Box 3	Folder 122
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Windswept - Down East article	Box 3	Folder 123
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
The Writing of Informal Essays - contract, 1928	Box 3	Folder 124
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Dust jackets	Box 3	Folder 125
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Letters from readers, 1936	Box 3	Folder 126
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Sketches to illustrate one of MEC's books	Box 3	Folder 127

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A. F. Chase - "A Few Verses"	Box 3	Folder 128
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Edward E. Chase	Box 3	Folder 129
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Edith Chase Weren - funeral service	Box 3	Folder 130
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
A Goodly Heritage [scrapbook of reader responses], 1932-1933	Box 3	Folder 131
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
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	Box 3	Folder 133
	Box 3	Folder 134
	Box 3	Folder 135
	Box 3	Folder 136
Clippings, 1960-1971	Box 3	Folder 137
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Title of Blue Hill Home	Box 5 (OVS)	Folder 138
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Reproductions of Fisher woodcuts [Jonathan Fisher 1768-1847]	Box 5 (OVS)	Folder 139
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
"Maine People Are Mod'rate" Holiday, circa 1947 August 28	Box 5 (OVS)	Folder 140
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Clipping scrapbook- mostly Dawn in Lyonesse and Goodly Heritage, 1938-1942	Box 5 (OVS)	Folder 141
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Clipping scrapbook - Mary Peters and Silas Crockett, 1934-1936	Box 5 (OVS)	Folder 142
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Clipping scrapbook - Silas Crockett, 1936	Box 4 (OVS)	Folder 143
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Clipping scrapbook- Silas Crockett, This England, and MEC lectures, 1935-1938	Box 4 (OVS)	Folder 144
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Clipping scrapbook - Mary Peters, 1935	Box 4 (OVS)	Folder 145
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
National Register of Historic Places Nomination Papers	Box 3	Folder 146

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Language of the Material: English.

Finding Aid, Smith College Archive of Mary Ellen Chase
Papers, 1999

Box 3

Folder 147

Language of the Material: English.

Matted photographic portrait of Mary Ellen Chase, inscribed
by Chase to Windswept book cover designer Grevis Melville,
1941

Box 4 (OVS)

Folder 148

Language of the Material: English.

Mary Ellen Chase to Mr. Calkins, re: shoe shining cloth, 1942

Box 3

Folder 149

Language of the Material: English.