

# Guide to the Mary Welsh Hemingway Papers

YCAL MSS 392



by Beinecke staff

July 2011

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 392

**CREATOR:** Hemingway, Mary Welsh, 1908-1986

**TITLE:** Mary Welsh Hemingway papers

**DATES:** 1892-1977

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.5 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Mary Welsh Hemingway Papers document the life and career of the journalist Mary Welsh Hemingway, and include correspondence, writings, and personal papers. The correspondence includes letters to Mary and Ernest Hemingway from a variety of correspondents, both family and professional; copies of outgoing letters written by Ernest Hemingway; correspondence related to Mary Hemingway's involvement with the Overseas Press Club of America; and holiday cards and notes written to her mother, Adeline Welsh. The bulk of the writings is comprised of typescript drafts of Mary Hemingway's autobiography *How it Was*. Writings related to her father, Thomas J. Welsh, her travels, and other topics are also present. Personal and other papers include clippings related to Mary Hemingway's travels and public appearances, and to memorials for Ernest Hemingway; financial documents; photographs; and ephemera. They also contain papers of Mary Hemingway's father, Thomas J. Welsh, including a typescript autobiography, correspondence, and other family papers.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hemingwaymw>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hemingwaymw>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Library Associates Endowment Fund, 2010.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Mary Welsh Hemingway Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Mary Welsh Hemingway Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization in 2010-2011. The bulk of the correspondence was removed from binders upon acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Mary Welsh Hemingway (1908-1986)

Mary Welsh Hemingway, journalist and fourth wife of the author Ernest Hemingway, was born on April 5, 1908, in Walker, Minnesota, the daughter of Thomas James Welsh, a lumberman, and Adeline Beehler Welsh. She studied journalism at Northwestern University, and edited *The American Florist* before joining the staff of *The Chicago Daily News* in 1932. In 1937 she moved to London to write for *The Daily Express*, and beginning in 1940 she covered World War II in Europe for *Time* and *Life* magazines. Throughout her first two marriages, to Lawrence Cook and to Australian journalist Noel Monks, she used the name Mary Welsh professionally.

Mary Welsh met Hemingway in London in 1944, and they were married two years later in Havana, Cuba. During their fifteen years together, Mary Hemingway continued to work as a free-lance journalist but also supported her husband's writing, answering correspondence and typing his manuscripts. The couple kept homes in Idaho and Cuba, and travelled widely. Following Hemingway's suicide in 1961, she served as his literary executor and saw to press several posthumous works, including *A Moveable Feast*, established the Ernest Hemingway Foundation to support young writers, and arranged for the donation of his papers to the Kennedy Presidential Library. In 1976 she published her autobiography, *How it Was*, which focuses chiefly on her time with Ernest Hemingway.

In her later years Mary Hemingway lived in New York, where she died on November 26, 1986.

Sources include: *The New York Times*, 28 November 1986. *Contemporary Authors Online*, accessed via Gale Literary Database, 10 June 2011.

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## Scope and Contents

The Mary Welsh Hemingway Papers document the life and career of the journalist Mary Welsh Hemingway, and include correspondence, writings, and personal papers. The correspondence includes letters to Mary and Ernest Hemingway from a variety of correspondents, both family and professional; copies of outgoing letters written by Ernest Hemingway; correspondence related to Mary Hemingway's involvement with the Overseas Press Club of America; and holiday cards and notes written to her mother, Adeline Welsh. The bulk of the writings is comprised of typescript drafts of Mary Hemingway's autobiography *How it Was*. Writings related to her father, Thomas J. Welsh, her travels, and other topics are also present. Personal and other papers include clippings related to Mary Hemingway's travels and public appearances, and to memorials for Ernest Hemingway; financial documents; photographs; and ephemera. They also contain papers of Mary Hemingway's father, Thomas J. Welsh, including a typescript autobiography, correspondence, and other family papers.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1938-1976. II. Writings, 1940-1977. III. Personal and Other Papers, 1892-1972.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1938-1976

#### 17 Folders

The bulk of the correspondence was removed from binders labelled A-F. Correspondence from the binders consists of letters to Mary and Ernest Hemingway from a variety of correspondents, both family and professional. The binder files include some outgoing letters by Mary Hemingway. Other correspondence includes holiday cards and notes to Hemingway's mother, Adeline Welsh; copies of letters by Ernest Hemingway; and correspondence related to Mary Hemingway's involvement with the Overseas Press Club of America.

Series I is arranged in rough chronological order.

	Binders	1938-1972
b. 1	Binder A	1949-1961
b. 1	Binder B 3 Folders	1942-1957
b. 1	Binder C 2 Folders	1958-1972
b. 1	Binder D	
b. 1	Binder E	1939-1970
b. 1	Binder F	1938-1945
b. 1	Miscellaneous	1942-1976
b. 1	Letters to Adeline Welsh	1950s
b. 1	<a href="#">Copies of Ernest Hemingway correspondence</a>	1953-1955
b. 1	<a href="#">Miscellaneous correspondence</a>	1960s
b. 1	Junk mail	circa 1965
b. 1	Letters, etc.	
b. 1	Overseas Press Club of America 2 Folders	1972-1973

**Series II: Writings, circa 1940-1977***7 linear feet (7 boxes)*

The bulk of the writings is comprised of typescripts drafts of Mary Welsh Hemingway's autobiography *How it Was*. The series also includes Mary Hemingway's writings related to her father, Thomas J. Welsh; her travels; and other topics.

Series II is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 1	"A House is Never Finished" <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 1	"A House is Never Finished" 86-162	
b. 1	"A House is Never Finished" 161 page TS part I and III	
b. 1	"Abridged Report" draft p. 1-62 only	
b. 1	"An Abridged Report Part II" <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 2	"An Abridged Report Part II" (continued) <i>2 Folders</i>	
	Binders	
b. 2	Binder G: Typed notes	1943-1951
b. 2	Binder H: notes and essays	1966-1968
b. 2	Binder I: notes and essays	1960
	<i>How It Was</i>	
b. 2	"How it Was" <i>7 Folders</i>	
b. 2	"How it Was" VII <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 2	"How it Was" VIII <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 3	Chapters 15 and 16 various	
b. 3	Chapters 26-32 various	
b. 3	Draft X fragments <i>12 Folders</i>	
b. 3	Draft X pp. 0276-0400	
b. 3	Draft X pp. 0401-0550	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 0558-0667	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 740-0901	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 0936-1057	

## How It Was (continued)

b. 4	Draft X pp. 1058-1200	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1201-1353	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1354-1540	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1541-1563	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1564-1884	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1885-1937	
b. 4	Draft X pp.0276-0550 (Alternate)	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1208-1268 (Alternate) with 1977 Knopf Letter	undated; 1977
b. 4	Draft X pp.1354-1474 (Alternate)	
b. 4	Draft X pp. 1516-1660 (Alternate)	
b. 4	Draft X 1843-1937 (Alternate)	
b. 4	East Africa Journal 1953 <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 5	"House overpraised" II-13 to 92	
b. 5	Miscellaneous drafts, early (16.61-6__)	
b. 5	Miscellaneous drafts, early <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 5	Miscellaneous notes	
b. 5	"My Father in Minnesota" - Early Notes and drafts	
b. 5	"Part IV - Combined Operations"	
b. 5	"Part V: Cuba Bella"	
b. 5	Parts XVIII-XXII drafts	
b. 5	Parts XXIX-XXXVI drafts	
b. 5	Proofs pp. 1-200	
b. 5	Proofs pp. 201-400	
b. 5	Proofs pp. 401-537 and index	
b. 5	"Resume" draft 1-150	
b. 5	"Resume" draft 151-300	
b. 5	"Resume" draft 301-450	
b. 5	"Resume" draft 451-600	
b. 6	"Resume" draft 601-750	



## How It Was (continued)

b. 6	"Resume" draft 751-900	
b. 6	"Resume" draft 901-986	
b. 6	"Revised Stuff" parts II and XXVII	1975 August
b. 6	Section V <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 6	Section VI <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 6	Setting copy III <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 6	Settings copy IV <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 7	Setting copy pp. 1-150	
b. 7	Setting copy pp. 151-300	
b. 7	Setting copy pp. 301-450	
b. 7	Setting copy pp. 451-600	
b. 7	Setting copy pp. 601-750	
b. 7	Setting copy pp. 751-890 (end)	
b. 7	"Under Weigh", pp. 10-23	
b. 7	Various early drafts <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 7	Manuscript	
	Notes	
b. 7	Notes	
b. 7	Notes on WWII, E.H.& Mary H.	1944
b. 7	<a href="#">Notes - Spain</a>	1968
b. 7	<a href="#">Scratch/Notes</a>	
b. 7	USSR Notes	1968
b. 7	Published	

**Series III: Personal and Other Papers, 1892-1972***3 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Personal and other papers include clippings related to Mary Welsh Hemingway's travels, public appearances, and news items related to memorials for Ernest Hemingway; financial documents; photographs; and ephemera. They also contain papers of Thomas J. Welsh, including a typescript autobiography, correspondence, and other family papers.

Series III is arranged alphabetically by file title.

b. 8	Address Cards	
b. 8	Africa Trip, clippings and souvenirs	1962
b. 8	Clippings	1967
b. 8	Clippings about Mary Hemingway	
b. 8	Clippings - Spain	1968 Mar-Apr, Jul
b. 8	Clippings, Cuba	1953-1960
b. 8	Clippings about others	
b. 8	Clippings	1961-1965
b. 8	Clippings	
b. 8	Ephemera Also stored in: Box 10 Oversize.	
b. 8	Financial Documents 1970s <i>2 Folders</i>	1970s
b. 8	Financial bank documents	
b. 8	High School Reunion	1951
b. 8	Miscellaneous Ephemera	
b. 8	Mixed Clippings	
b. 8	Newspapers and clippings <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 8	Overseas Press Club	1972
b. 8	Photographs (6)	
b. 9	T. J. Welsh papers	
b. 9	T. J. Welsh autobiography typescript <i>4 Folders</i>	
b. 9	Thomas J. Welsh family papers	1892-1955
b. 9	Thomas J. Welsh family papers	1957

b. 9	Travel ephemera, New Zealand <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 9	Green Island, Australia	1965
b. 9	Travel Souvenirs; Green Island, Little Dix Boy	1964-1965
b. 9	USSR Tour	
b. 10 Oversize	Ephemera (photograph of cheetah, signed by Chuck Ennis)	1971

## **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.

### **Subjects**

Authors, American -- 20th Century  
Journalists  
Journalists -- United States -- Archives

### **Names**

Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961  
Hemingway, Mary Welsh, 1908-1986  
Welsh, Adeline Beehler, d. 1957  
Welsh, Thomas James, 1870-1955

### **Corporate Body**

Overseas Press Club of America