

# Guide to the Katherine Mayo Papers

MS 345



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

February 1984

Yale University Library  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 345

**CREATOR:** Mayo, Katherine, 1868?-1940

**TITLE:** Katherine Mayo papers

**DATES:** 1835-1968

**BULK DATES:** 1918-1940

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 39.58 linear feet (71 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, diaries, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, research materials, and miscellanea documenting the personal life and literary career of Katherine Mayo, an author of several historical and investigative articles, essays, and books from 1896 to 1940. Correspondence files document the detailed literary research Mayo conducted and the strong public reaction generated by her writings. This is particularly true for such works as *Justice to All* (1917), *The Isles of Fear* (1925), and *Mother India* (1927). Diaries provide sporadic information on the daily activities of Mayo, while writings include drafts of many works. Photographs and research materials further detail the foreign travels (South America, India, Philippines) and subsequent literary works produced by Mayo. Scrapbooks contain reviews and commentary relating to Mayo's publications. The papers provide information on such diverse such diverse topics as life in India, the Philippine Islands, and South America; the Pennsylvania State Police; George Washington; the Y.M.C.A. during World War I; war veterans of World War I; and the narcotics trade.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0345>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0345>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

- b. box
- f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of M. Moyca Newell, 1951-1962 and Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Meade, 1962. Gift, 2021.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Katherine Mayo Papers (MS 345). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Katherine Mayo was born in Ridgeway, Pennsylvania, on January 24, 1867. She died in Bedford Hills, New York, on October 9, 1940. Mayo published several articles, essays, and books based on her travels and literary investigations from 1896-1938, including works on India and World War I. Mayo published articles in the *New York Evening Post*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *Scribner's Magazine*, sometimes under the pen name Katherine Prence. She assisted Oswald Garrison Villard in the preparation of *John Brown* (1910), and Horace White in the preparation of *Life of Lyman Trumbull* (1913). Mayo wrote *Justice to All* (1917), *The Standard Bearers* (1918), *That Damn Y* (1920), *Mounted Justice* (1922), *The Isles of Fear* (1925), *Mother India* (1927), *Volume II* (1931), *Slaves of the Gods* (1929), *Soldiers, What Next?* (1934), *The Face of Mother India* (1935), and *General Washington's Dilemma* (1938). She was researching a book on the narcotics traffic at the time of her death. Mayo travelled extensively to research her literary topics, often in the company of her close friend and collaborator, M. Moyca Newell.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, diaries, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, research materials, and miscellanea documenting the personal life and literary career of Katherine Mayo, an author of several historical and investigative articles, essays, and books from 1896-1940.

Correspondence files document the detailed literary research Mayo conducted, and the strong public reaction generated by her writings. This is particularly true for the books: *Justice to All* (1917), *The Isles of Fear* (1925), and *Mother India* (1927). Diaries provide sporadic information on the daily activities of

Mayo, while her writings include drafts of many works. Photographs and research materials further detail the foreign travels (South America, India, the Philippine Islands) and subsequent literary works produced by Mayo. Scrapbooks contain reviews and commentary relating to Mayo's publications. The papers provide information on such diverse topics as life in India, the Philippine Islands, and South America; the Pennsylvania State Police; George Washington; the Y.M.C.A. during World War I; war veterans of World War I; and the narcotics trade.

The Katherine Mayo Papers (27.50 linear ft.) are arranged in five series: I. Correspondence, 1898-1968; II. Diaries, 1886-1955; III. Essays and Newspaper Articles, 1890-1941; IV. Books, 1917-1940; and V. Photographs and Miscellanea, 1835-1940.

Series I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1898-1968, is arranged in chronological order and contains the incoming correspondence of Katherine Mayo (1898-1940) and M. Moyca Newell (ca. 1910-1968). The bulk of correspondence pertains to Katherine Mayo, and specifically her literary work on such books as *Justice to All* (1917), *The Standard Bearers* (1918), *Mounted Justice* (1922), *Isles of Fear* (1925), *Mother India* (1927), and *Soldiers, What Next?* (1934). Letters from publishers and individuals who read Mayo's works are included in this series.

Letters relating to Mayo's most familiar work, *Mother India* (1927), include correspondence from government figures in India, Great Britain, and the United States. This work elicited international comment and controversy, and both praise and condemnation, for its detailed view of Indian society. An earlier work by Mayo, *Isles of Fear* (1925), which examined life in the Philippine Islands, created a similar although less vocal reaction, as did her writings on the New York and Pennsylvania state police forces: *Justice to All* (1917), *The Standard Bearers* (1918), and *Mounted Justice* (1922). *Soldiers, What Next?*, published in 1934, also engendered a degree of controversy, as Mayo openly criticized the treatment of military veterans in the United States.

Prior to Mayo's success as a literary figure she was employed by Oswald Garrison Villard to conduct extensive field research for his biography of John Brown. Letters from Villard (ca. 1907-1913) detail Mayo's exhaustive research and include his encouragement regarding her own literary career. Letters from Harvard University's Peabody Museum and the *Entomological News* of Philadelphia (ca. 1900-1907) concern Mayo's work for those organizations. She lived with her father in South America during the early 1900s, and contracted to collect Indian relics and insect specimens.

Series II, DIARIES, 1886-1955, contains several volumes of diaries maintained by Katherine Mayo and M. Moyca Newell from 1886-1955. The diaries offer few insights into the thoughts of Mayo and Newell; rather, these volumes tend to briefly summarize the appointments and activities of a particular year or years.

Series III, ESSAYS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, 1890-1941, contains drafts and printed copies of many of Mayo's first literary works. Mayo's work was published in such popular magazines and journals of the day as: *Atlantic Monthly*, *Scribner's*, *The Outlook*, and *Nash's*. Many of these essays formed the foundation (or an actual component) of Mayo's books.

Series IV, BOOKS, 1917-1939, contains manuscripts, notes, and photographs used in the research and writing of Mayo's books. Scrapbooks containing book reviews and speaking engagements are also arranged in this series. Several scrapbooks for *Mother India* (1927), in boxes thirty-seven through forty-one, document the widespread attention that book received.

Series V, PHOTOGRAPHS AND MISCELLANEA, 1835-1940, contains personal photographs of Mayo, including several portraits. *Miscellanea* includes a variety of ephemera, such as an autograph book; an account book of James Mayo, Katherine's father, dated 1835-1838; and a piece of the rope allegedly used to hang John Brown.

The Mayo Papers were donated to Yale University Library by M. Moyca Newell, 1951-1962, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Meade, 1962.

## **Arrangement**

Arranged in five series and one addition: I. Correspondence, 1898-1968. II. Diaries, 1886-1955. III. Essays and Newspaper Articles, 1890-1941. IV. Books, 1917-1940. V. Photographs and Miscellanea, 1835-1940.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1898-1968

4.5 linear feet (11 boxes)

This series contains correspondence arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1-10	1898 - 1916 March	1898 - 1916 March
b. 2, f. 11-16	1916 April - 1918 February	1916 April - 1918 February
b. 3, f. 17-23	1918 March - 1920	1918 March - 1920
b. 4, f. 24-31	1921 - 1925 August	1921 - 1925 August
b. 5, f. 32-40	1925 September - 1927 November	1925 September - 1927 November
b. 6, f. 41-47	1927 December - 1928 June	1927 December - 1928 June
b. 7, f. 48-55	1928 July - 1930 July	1928 July - 1930 July
b. 8, f. 56-67	1930 August - 1933	1930 August - 1933
b. 9, f. 68-75	1934 - 1935 June	1934 - 1935 June
b. 10, f. 76-86	1935 July - 1938 May	1935 July - 1938 May
b. 11, f. 87-96	1938 June - 1968	1938 June - 1968
b. 11, f. 97-99	undated	undated

**Series II: Diaries, 1886-1955***2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)*

This series contains the diaries of Katharine Mayo and M. Moyca Newell arranged in chronological order.

b. 12, f. 100	Mayo	1886
b. 12, f. 101	Mayo	1895
b. 12, f. 102	Mayo	1902
b. 12, f. 103	Newell	1903
b. 12, f. 104	Mayo	1908-1910
b. 13, f. 105	Newell	1909-1911
b. 13, f. 106-109	Mayo	1911-1919
b. 13, f. 110	Newell	1919
b. 14, f. 111	Mayo	1920
b. 14, f. 112-114	Mayo	1923-1926
b. 14, f. 115	Mayo	1928-1929
b. 15, f. 116-120	Mayo	1931-1940
b. 16, f. 121	Mayo	1937
b. 16, f. 122-124	Newell	1941-1950
b. 16, f. 123	Newell	1941-1945
b. 16, f. 124	Newell	1946-1950
b. 17, f. 125	Newell	1951-1955



**Series III: Essays and Newspaper Articles, 1890-1941***1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)*This series is arranged in two sections: *Essays* (1890-1941) and *Newspaper articles* (1894-1935).

Each section is arranged chronologically.

<u>Essays</u>		
b. 18, f. 126-127	1890-1900	1890-1900
b. 18, f. 128	[ca. 1890-1910] English	[ca. 1890-1910]
b. 18, f. 129	1900-1910	1900-1910
b. 18, f. 130	[ca. 1900-1910] English	[ca. 1900-1910]
b. 18, f. 131	1900-1910	1900-1910
b. 18, f. 132	[ca. 1900-1910] English	[ca. 1900-1910]
b. 18, f. 133	1906 English	1906
b. 19, f. 134-135	1910-1912	1910-1912
b. 19, f. 136	[ca. 1913-1917] English	[ca. 1913-1917]
b. 19, f. 137	1917-1922	1917-1922
b. 19, f. 138	[ca. 1919] English	[ca. 1919]
b. 19, f. 139	1920-1928	1920-1928
b. 19, f. 140	1923 English	1923
b. 19, f. 141	[ca. 1927-1932] English	[ca. 1927-1932]
b. 19, f. 142	[ca. 1930] English	[ca. 1930]
b. 20, f. 143	1930-1935	1930-1935
b. 20, f. 144	1941 English	1941
b. 20, f. 145	undated	undated
<u>Newspaper articles</u>		
b. 21, f. 146	1894-1907	1894-1907
b. 21, f. 147a-h	1910-1935	1910-1935

**Series IV: Books, 1917-1939***18 linear feet (44 boxes)*

This series contains manuscripts, notes, photographs, and scrapbooks relating to the volumes Katherine Mayo authored from 1917-1939.

Material is arranged by the title of each volume, in chronological order of publication.

*Justice to All, 1917*

b. 22, f. 148	Manuscript: <i>The Black Hussars</i>
b. 22, f. 149	Minutes: Committee for New York State Police
b. 22, f. 150-153	Photographs
b. 24b. 25b. 26b. 23, f. 154-157	Scrapbooks
b. 27, f. 158-163	<i>The Standard Bearers, 1918</i> : manuscripts

*That Damn Y, 1920*

b. 28, f. 164-167	Photographs
b. 28, f. 168-169	Scrapbooks
b. 29, f. 170	<i>Mounted Justice, 1922</i> : manuscript English

*Isles of Fear, 1925*

b. 30, f. 171	Clippings	1923
b. 30, f. 172	Photographs	1923
b. 32b. 31, f. 173-175	Scrapbooks	1925, undated

*Mother India, 1927*

b. 33, f. 176-179	Manuscripts: final draft
b. 35b. 36b. 34, f. 180-203	Notes
b. 38b. 39b. 40b. 41b. 37, f. 204-213	Scrapbooks

## Miscellanea

b. 43b. 44b. 45b. 42, f. 214-242	Notes
b. 46, f. 243-244	Clippings
b. 46, f. 245	Articles
b. 46, f. 246-249	Unidentified

b. 47, f. 250-253 *Slaves of the Gods*, 1929: manuscripts

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*Soldiers, What Next?*, 1934

Manuscripts

b. 49b. 48, f. 254-278 U.S.A. section

b. 50, f. 279-287 English section

b. 51, f. 288-292 Italian section

b. 52, f. 293-295 French Section

b. 52, f. 296-297 German section

b. 53, f. 298-300 Final version

b. 54, f. 301 Notes

Photographs

b. 54, f. 302-303 English

b. 54, f. 304 French

b. 54, f. 305 Italian

b. 54, f. 306 Miscellaneous

b. 55, f. 307 Scrapbook 1929-1934

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*The Face of Mother India*, 1935

b. 56, f. 308-316 Manuscripts

b. 58b. 59b. 57, f. 317-334 Photographs

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*George Washington's Dilemma*, 1938

b. 61b. 60, f. 335-350 Manuscripts

b. 62, f. 351 Photographs

b. 62, f. 352 Scrapbook

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*White Poison*, 1939

b. 64b. 65b. 63, f. 353-371 Manuscripts

b. 65, f. 372-376 Notes

Related materials

b. 65, f. 377 Correspondence: British Legion

White Poison , 1939 > Related materials (continued)

b. 65, f. 378-379

Notes: state medical boards

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**Series V: Photographs and Miscellanea, 1835-1940***1 linear foot (3 boxes)*This series is arranged in two sections: *Photographs* and *Miscellanea*.Photographs

b. 66, f. 380-381	Dutch Guinea	
	Europe	
b. 67, f. 382-383	Spain and Italy	1906-1913
b. 67, f. 384	Miscellaneous	1906
	Personal	
b. 68, f. 385	Others	
b. 68, f. 386-387	<a href="#">Portraits: Katherine Mayo</a>	
	<u>Miscellanea</u>	
b. 68, f. 388	Bibliography	
b. 68, f. 389	Biographical sketches	1940
b. 68, f. 390-391	Clippings	
b. 69, f. 392	Account book: Mayo, James	1835-1838
b. 69, f. 393	Address books	
b. 69, f. 394	Autograph books	
b. 69, f. 395	Rope: Brown, John	
b. 69, f. 396	Specimen inventory: South America	
b. 69, f. 397	Mailing lists	
b. 70	Portrait of Katherine Mayo by Frank Salisbury	

**Accession 2021-M-0015: Additional material, 1917**

A letter, March 10, 1917, from Katherine Mayo to reader Lewis W. Robinson of Cresskill, New Jersey in response to his letter regarding Mayo's book *Justice to All: History of the Pennsylvania State Police*. In the letter, Mayo encourages Robinson to "help along the movement to follow Pennsylvania's example wherever you find it" and support the "state police movement." Robinson's March 6, 1917 letter can be found in Series I (box 2, folder 13).

b.1

Letter from Katherine Mayo to Lewis W. Robinson

1917 March 10

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## 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

Child marriage -- India  
Narcotics  
Opium  
Police, State -- New York (State)  
Police, State -- Pennsylvania  
Veterans -- United States  
Women  
Women authors, American  
World War, 1914-1918 -- War work -- Young  
Men's Christian Associations

### Geographic Names

Asia  
India -- Description and travel  
India -- Economic conditions -- 1918-1947  
India -- History -- British occupation, 1765-1947  
India -- Politics and government -- 1765-1947  
Pennsylvania -- History, Local  
Philippines -- Description and travel

### Occupations

Authors

### Names

Astor, Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor,  
Viscountess, 1879-1964  
Aydelotte, Frank, 1880-1956  
Babbitt, Edwin Burr, 1862-1939  
Baldwin, Stanley Baldwin, Earl, 1867-1947  
Batchelder, Charles C., 1867-1946  
Brown, John, 1810-1882  
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965  
Darrow, Clarence, 1857-1938  
Disney, Walt, 1901-1966  
Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948  
Gunther, John, 1901-1970  
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972  
Hughes, Rupert, 1872-1956  
Kipling, Rudyard, 1865-1936  
Lothian, Philip Henry Kerr, Marquis of,  
1882-1940  
Lutyens, Emily, Lady, 1874-1964

Lyttleton, Edith Sophy Balfour, 1865-1948  
MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964  
Masefield, John, 1878-1967  
Maurois, André, 1885-1967  
Mayo, Katherine, 1868?-1940  
Newell, Marjorie Moyca  
Osmeña, Sergio, 1878-1961  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano),  
1882-1945  
Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950  
Stettinius, Edward R., Jr. (Edward Reilly),  
1900-1949  
Stimson, Henry L. (Henry Lewis), 1867-1950  
Sullivan, Mark, 1874-1952  
Villard, Oswald Garrison, 1872-1949  
Washington, George, 1732-1799  
Willert, Arthur, Sir, 1882-1973  
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927