

# Kate Lawson papers, 1936-1940

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1936-1940

## Title Statement

Kate Lawson papers, 1936-1940

**Subtitle:** Kate Lawson C0222

**Author:** Finding aid prepared by Greta Kuriger Suiter

## Publication Statement

**Date:** November 2012

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## Profile Description

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**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

**2019-02-13**      Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

C0222

### Date

1936-1940

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Kate Lawson papers include newspaper clippings and press releases on Federal Theatre Project productions, FTP administrative correspondence including job descriptions, memorandums on employee reclassification, complaints from employees and audience survey questionnaires, research lists, production records, and personal correspondence.

### Creator

Lawson, Kate Drain

### Physical Characteristics

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

### Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Kate Lawson papers must be obtained from Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

### **Acquisition Information**

Donated to Special Collections and Archives by Kate Drain Lawson on October 31, 1977.

### **Processing Information**

Processing and EAD markup completed in October 2012 by Greta Kuriger Suiter.

### **Preferred Citation note**

Kate Lawson papers, C0222, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

## **Historical Information**

Born Kathryn Drain on July 27, 1894 in Spokane, Washington, her family moved to Washington, D.C., in the early 1900s. Drain left D.C. to become a nurse's aide in Paris, France, during World War I. She served in World War I in Paris as a nurse and in World War II in India with the American Red Cross. It was in Paris that she met and married John Howard Lawson, and she began her theatrical career. By 1922 she was working on Broadway as a technical director, costume and stage designer, and actress. She joined the FTP in July 1936 and headed the Bureau of Research and Publication and was the Chief Technical Officer for the FTP in New York City. She resigned in September of 1937 and moved to Los Angeles, California, to pursue a career in film and television.

## **Scope and Content**

The Kate Lawson papers include newspaper clippings and press releases on Federal Theatre Project productions, FTP administrative correspondence including job descriptions, memorandums on employee reclassification, complaints from employees and audience survey questionnaires, research lists, production records, and personal correspondence.

## **Related Material**

The Works Progress Administration oral histories collection, the Federal Theatre Project collection, the Federal Theatre Project photograph collection, as well as numerous other personal papers.

## **Index Terms**

### **Corporate Names:**

Federal Theatre Project (U.S.)

### **Subjects:**

New Deal, 1933-1939.

Theater--United States.

## **Alternative Form Available**

There are digital documents from this and other GMU FTP collections in the [Federal Theatre Project collection](#).

## **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

## **Contents List**

### **Kate Lawson papers,**

**Unit Date** 1936-1940

**Administrative correspondence,**

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Letter from Kate Lawson to Hallie Flanagan,**

**Letter from Hallie Flanagan to Kate Lawson,**

**Federal Theatre Magazine (volume I, number V, signed by Scott McLean);  
TAC magazine,**

**Unit Date** 1936; 1940

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Federal Theatre: presentations critical comment,**

**Unit Date** May 27, 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Memorandums; ephemera,**

**Unit Date** 1936-1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Miscellaneous,**

**Unit Date** 1934-1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Scope and Content**

Drawing; CCC standard stage diagram; Hallie Flanagan's farewell address to the members of the Federal Summer Theatre; Federal Theatre does biggest job of rehabilitation by Frank Merlyn.

**Newspaper clippings and press releases,**

**Unit Date** 1936-1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Our job with the WPA (worker's handbook),**

**Unit Date** 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

**Play Bureau (first production conference in New York City),**

**Unit Date** July 22-24, 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

**Production records (statistics and schedules),**

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

**Production attendance statistics,**

**The Prompter (volume I, number I),**

**Unit Date** April 18, 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Folder)

**Research play lists and play synopses,**

**Unit Date** 1936-1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 11 (Folder)