

Leitch, Mary Sinton, papers

Mary Sinton Leitch papers
1929-1954, 1968

Title Statement

Leitch, Mary Sinton, papersA Guide to the Mary Sinton Leitch papers, 1929-1968 M 52

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

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Revision Description

2022 Collection was reprocessed and the finding aid updated to bring into current best practices according to DACS. Files were rehoused, relabeled, and condensed where applicable.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 52

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/267

Unit Date

1929-1954, 1968

Language

English German

Creator

Leitch, Mary Sinton, 1876-1954

Extent

1.88 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restriction

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donated to VCU by Emma Gray Trigg November, 1968.

Processing Information

The collection was initially processed in 1984 and revised in 1990. The collection was reprocessed in 2022 and the finding aid written to current standards. Files were rehoused, relabeled, and condensed where applicable.

Preferred Citation

Mary Sinton Leitch papers, Collection # M 52, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical

Mary Sinton Lewis Leitch (1876-1954) was a prominent regional poet and fiction writer from Lynnhaven, Virginia, and a founding member of the Poetry Society of Virginia. During her career, she published seven poetry collections and sold original plays to regional performing arts theaters. Her published works include *The Waggon and the Star* (1922), *The Unrisen Morrow* (1926), *The Black Moon* (1929), *Spider Architect* (1937), *From Invisible Mountains* (1943), *Himself and I* (1950), and *Nightingales on the Moon* (1952).

Leitch was born 8 September 1876 in New York City, the daughter of Carlton Thomas and Nancy Dunlap McKeen Lewis. She received her early education in private preparatory schools, later attending Smith College and Columbia University and schools in France and Germany.

After completing her academic education, Leitch returned to New York City, where she served as an inspector of women's prisons. While working as an inspector, Leitch became a contributing editor to *Harper's Monthly*, the *New York Herald*, and the *New York Evening Post*. In 1907, Leitch left her professional positions to travel for an extended period, after which she married John David Leitch in 1907 and relocated to Lynnhaven, Virginia. Upon moving to Virginia, Leitch began her writing career. Leitch wrote the majority of her works in her Lynnhaven home, which she referred to in her works and correspondence as "Wycherley."

In 1923, Leitch became a founding member of the Poetry Society of Virginia, serving as its president in 1933 and co-president from 1944 to 1945. She served as the editor for the poetry anthology *Lyric Virginia Today* in 1932, leaving the same year to focus on writing poetry and short stories. Leitch published seven collective works of her poetry between 1922 and 1952. Additionally, Leitch submitted her writings throughout her career to various publishing houses, journals, and performing arts theaters to varying degrees of success. During this process, Leitch became professionally acquainted with prominent writers, journalists, and illustrators such as J.J. Lankes and Robert Frost, and Louis Jaffe.

Leitch died on 20 August 1954 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

The Mary Sinton Leitch papers, 1929-1954, 1968 is a collection of her personal works and papers. The papers consist primarily of early drafts of Leitch's writing, draft publications, and correspondence with poets and publishers. This collection provides a unique look into Leitch's creative process and her career as a woman writer in central Virginia during the early and mid 20th century.

Series 1: Stage Plays and Short Stories contains multiple working drafts of Leitch's works of fiction. The printed drafts include annotations and working notes. Some plays, such as *The Black Moon* and *The Unwilling Conspirator*, include multiple drafts at various stages of Leitch's creative process.

Series 2: Poetry and Songs make up the bulk of the collection, including typed copies of Leitch's poetry, workbooks of poetry drafts and concepts, and poetry publication proofs. This series contains both published and unpublished poems, organized in alphabetical order by title. Some drafts include notes, corrections, and general annotations. Also included are workbooks and scratch books used by Leitch to workshop poems. These workbooks contain a partially-complete paste-up and a proof book of Leitch's poetry compilation *From Invisible Mountains*, both of which have some editorial annotations.

The series includes a small number of songs that Leitch wrote and published herself or in collaboration with other songwriters. These songs are all finalized publications free of annotation.

Series 3: Correspondence encompasses Leitch's professional and personal correspondence regarding her works of poetry and fiction with publishers and professional peers. The majority of the correspondence pertains to Leitch submitting her works for publication. Leitch corresponded with other contemporary poets, and she expressed her admiration, requested advice, or planned social engagements. Individuals Leitch corresponded with include poets Robert Frost, T. S. Eliot, Archibald Rutledge, and illustrator J. J. Lankes.

Series 4: Project Files and Subject Files is composed of Leitch's personal files related to publishing, professional and amateur reviews of her works, and research pertaining to her career as a writer. Some examples of the files included in this series are a workbook of submissions made to publishers, paste-up books of reviews of her poetry, and contact sheets for Virginia Poetry Society members.

Keywords

Authors, American -- Virginia

Poets, American -- Virginia

Poetry Society of Virginia

Leitch, Mary Sinton, 1876-1954 -- Archives

Custodial History

Barbara Murphy, granddaughter of Mary Sinton Leitch, gave the papers to Roberta Cornelius, a faculty member at Randolph-Macon Women's College. When Cornelius retired in 1968, she gave the collection to Emma Gray Trigg.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series: Series 1: Short Stories, 1929, 1947, undated, Series 2: Poetry, 1936, 1943, undated, Series 3: Correspondence, 1939-1954, 1968, and Series 4: Project Files and Subject Files, 1931-1954.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Stage Plays and Short Stories

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71153

Unit Date 1929, 1947, undated

"At the Sign of the Merry Oyster"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71160

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 1-4 (folder)

"The Black Moon"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71161

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

"The Black Moon" - Partial Draft

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71162

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

"The Black Moon" - Program

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71163

Unit Date 1929

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

"The Clock Strikes Ten"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71164

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

"Deuteronomy Brown"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71165

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 9-10 (folder)

"The Forefinger"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71166

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

"The Hero's Return"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71167

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

"I Was a Famous Baby"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71168

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

"Lizette Woodworth Reese"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71169

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

"The Perfect Crime"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71170

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

"Two Mile Tree"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71171

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

"Two Mile Tree" - Notes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71172

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

"Pungo Sevens"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71173

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 18-20 (folder)

"The Uninvited Guest"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71174

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

"The Uninvited Guest" - Annotated Draft

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71175

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

"The Unwilling Conspirator"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71176

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

"The Unwilling Conspirator" - First Draft

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71177

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

"Will of Peter the Great"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71178

Unit Date 1947

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Series 2: Poetry and Songs

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71154

Unit Date 1936, 1943, undated

Series 2.1: Poems

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71157

Unit Date undated

A-An

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71179

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Ap-Au

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71180

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

B-C

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71181

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642476] 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

D-E

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71182

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

F-G

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71183

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

H-I

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71184

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

L-M

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71185

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

N-O

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71186

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

P

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71187

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

R

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71188

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

S

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71189

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

T

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71190

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

U-W

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71191

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Published Poem Clippings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71192

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 11-13 (folder)

Untitled Poem Drafts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71193

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Series 2.2: Songs

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71158

Unit Date 1936, undated

"In Shadder of de Lamb"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71194

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

"Pentecostal Hymn"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71195

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642484] 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Sheet Music A-D

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71196

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642492] 3 (box)

Container 1 (box)

Sheet Music P-S

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71197

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642492] 3 (box)

Container 2 (box)

Series 2.3: Workbooks and Proof Drafts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71159

Unit Date 1943, undated

Paste-Up Book - "From Invisible Mountains"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71198

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642492] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Paste-Up Book - "New Poems"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71199

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642492] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Proof Sheets - "From Invisible Mountains"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71200

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials [A11423642492] 3 (box)

Container 5-6 (folder)

Workbook - Poetry Drafts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71201

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642492] 3 (box)

Container 7-12 (folder)

Series 3: Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71155

Unit Date 1939-1954, 1968

Bigelow, Poultney

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71202

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Coffin, Robert P. Tristan

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71203

Unit Date 1944-1954

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Eastman, Max

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71204

Unit Date 1947-1953

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Elliot, T. S.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71205

Unit Date 1948

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Feuchtwagner, Lion

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71206

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Frost, Robert

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71207

Unit Date 1945-1948

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Gogarty, Oliver St. John

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71208

Unit Date 1941-1952

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Gordon, Douglas

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71209

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Hall, Amanda Benjamin

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71210

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Herndon, Brodie S.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71211

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Lankes, J. J.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71212

Unit Date 1941-1950

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Mayer, Harry H.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71213

Unit Date 1946-1951

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Morton, David

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71214

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

O'Sheel, Shaemas

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71215

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Phelps, William Lyon

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71216

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Poetry Society of Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71217

Unit Date 1947-1953

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Re: "From Invisible Mountains"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71218

Unit Date 1943-1945

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Re: Publication of Plays

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71219

Unit Date 1940-1949

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Re: Publication of Songs

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71220

Unit Date 1943-1946

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Re: "The Spider Architect"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71221

Unit Date 1939-1942

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Roberts, Ruby Altizer

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71222

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Rutledge, Archibald

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71223

Unit Date 1945-1946

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Ryall, Elizabeth

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71224

Unit Date 1968

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Sandburg, Carl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71225

Unit Date 1945-1947

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Speyer, Leonora

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71226

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Stuart, Jesse

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71227

Unit Date 1944-1946

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Sullivan, A. M.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71228

Unit Date 1952

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

von Preussen, Louis Ferdinand

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71229

Unit Date 1953

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

W., Ambrose

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71230

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Wheelock, John Hale

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71231

Unit Date 1945-1948

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Wood, Clement

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71232

Unit Date 1947

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Series 4: Project Files and Subject Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71156

Unit Date 1931-1954

Article - "Non-Communicative Art"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71233

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Irene Leache Memorial Prize Contest

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71234

Unit Date 1931

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Newsclippings Re: Contemporary Poets

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71235

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Newsclippings Re: Leitch

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71236

Unit Date 1944-1953

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Poetry Reviews

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71237

Unit Date 1947-192

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Poetry Reviews - Clippings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71238

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Poetry Reviews - Paste-Up

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71239

Unit Date 1951

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Professional Organization Membership Cards

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71240

Unit Date 1953-1954

Mixed Materials [A11423642507] 4 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Publication - "The Lyric"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71241

Unit Date 1937

Mixed Materials [A11423642515] 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Speech - Poetry Society of Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71242

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423642515] 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Virginia Poets Contact Sheet

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71243

Unit Date 1953

Mixed Materials [A11423642515] 5 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Workbook - Record of Poems Submitted to Editors

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/71244

Unit Date 1949

Mixed Materials [A11423642515] 5 (box)

Container 4 (folder)