

Moss, Ann Eve, Papers

Ann Eve Moss Papers

1920-1990



Title Statement

Moss, Ann Eve, Papers Ann Eve Moss Papers, 1920-1990 Ms.1990.028

Author: Laura H. Katz, Archivist, and Special Collections and University Archives Staff

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specref@vt.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1990.028

Unit Date

1920-1990

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The materials in this collection include photographs, playbills, news clippings, and other memorabilia from Ann Eve Moss's early career as a chorus girl for the Ziegfield Follies, as well as manuscript copies of her unpublished novels.

Creator

Moss, Ann Eve, 1903-1988

Extent

1 Cubic Feet 3 boxes; 1 oversize

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

The copyright status of this collection consists of multiple parts. Contact Special Collections and University Archives for assistance in determining the use of these materials.

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Source of Acquisition

The Ann Eve Moss papers were donated to Special Collections in July 1990.

Processing Information

Original processing of the Papers was completed in November 1990 by L. H. Katz.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Ann Eve Moss Papers, Ms1990-028, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Ann Eve Moss, nee Dressler, was born in New York City in 1903. She took singing and dancing lessons in high school and began performing on the professional stage by the time she graduated. She married Harry Moss, a theatrical agent, in 1922. She spent the years between 1922 and 1930 as a Ziegfeld Follies chorus girl in such productions as *The Three Musketeers*, *Garrick Gaieties*, and *Funny Face*. Moss also modeled for New York Daily News advertisements. In 1927 she gave birth to her only daughter, Marilyn (later known as Alwyn). In 1928 she refused to audition in the nude for producer Earl Carroll's show *Fioretta*, brought charges against Carroll before Actor's Equity, the theater union, and won the case in January 1929.

In the late 1930s Moss traveled to Europe, the beginning of a series of trips abroad throughout the remainder of her life. Upon her return to the U.S. she launched into her writing career, and completed the first draft of the novel *Catha's Sister*, based on her experiences on the stage. When her marriage ended in the early 1940s, she became a freelance secretary. Her employers included Erich Fromm, Rollo May, Countess Mona Bismarck (for whom she later worked full time as an administrative secretary on her estate in Capri, Italy), and Paul Pierre Matisse, son of the painter, for whom she worked in Nice, France. During this time she also worked on another novel, *A Widow's Odyssey* (unpublished). Other, shorter works include children's books *The Friends of Tinkle Rescue Club* and *The Runaway Balloon* (unpublished). She moved to Nice in the mid-1960s and returned the United States in 1975, settling in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 1981 she moved to Floyd, Virginia, to live with her daughter, and in 1984 moved to a retirement community in Blacksburg, Virginia. She died five days before her 85th birthday in March 1988.

Scope and Content

The bulk of the materials in the collection consist of photographs, news clippings, correspondence, literary manuscripts, and playbills collected or created by Ann Eve Moss from the 1920s to her death in 1988. Copies of her two unpublished novels, *Catha's Sister* and *A Mystic Smile*, are included here, as well as several of her other shorter writings. The news clippings include editorials from New York papers regarding Moss's lawsuit against Earl Carroll. The photographs include many where she appears as a character from the various plays in which she performed, as well as several portrait poses. Other materials include correspondence, news clippings, and programs from meetings of The Ziegfeld Club, an organization of former Ziegfeld Follies chorus girls. A draft of the introduction to *The Friends of Tinkle Rescue Club*, written by Alwyn Moss, is also included.

Keywords

Authors, American -- 20th century
Women -- History

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Family photographs

Unit Date 1900-1940

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Newspaper clippings

Unit Date 1920-1929

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Playbills

Unit Date 1920-1929

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Photographs (stagework and posed)

Unit Date 1920-1929

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1920-1939

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

The Runaway Balloon

Unit Date 1940s

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Catha's Sister, (Copy 1); Chapters 1-15

Unit Date 1940s

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Catha's Sister, (Copy 1); Chapters 16-35

Unit Date 1940s

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Catha's Sister, (Copy 2); Chapters 1-15

Unit Date 1940s

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Catha's Sister, (Copy 2); Chapters 16-35

Unit Date 1940s

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Passports

Unit Date 1954-1959

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1957-1986

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

A Widow's Odyssey, Chapters 1-7

Unit Date 1960s

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

A Widow's Odyssey, Chapters 8-17

Unit Date 1960s

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

A Widow's Odyssey, Chapters 18-27

Unit Date 1960s

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

The Ten Minute Elixir

Unit Date 1975-1981

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Feasts without Flesh

Unit Date 1975-1981

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Newspaper clippings

Unit Date 1975-1985

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Ziegfield Club meeting programs

Unit Date 1976-1982

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Friends of Tinkle Rescue Club

Unit Date c.1983

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

A Year in Paris

Unit Date 1984

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Elderhostel certificates

Unit Date 1984-1986

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Correspondence and Lists (literary agents and publishers)

Unit Date 1985

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Miscellaneous, regarding The Widow's Odyssey and Catha's Sister

Unit Date 1985-1986

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

The Lamp on the Roof

Unit Date 1986

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

The View of the Hour magazine contest

Unit Date 1986

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Information regarding Moss's death

Unit Date 1988

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Article about Moss from the Roanoke Times and World News and The Shining Spirit of a Star by Tracy Wimmer

Unit Date 1985-1986

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Introduction to Friends of Tinkle Rescue Club by Alwyn Moss

Unit Date 1990

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Outline for an unnamed play

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

A Trader's Paradise

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Miscellaneous notes and papers

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Photographs and newspaper clippings

Unit Date 1928, 1920s

oversize 1 (folder)