

Helen Keller Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Allen H. Kitchens
Revised and expanded by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2004

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009259>

Collection Summary

Title: Helen Keller Papers

Span Dates: 1842-1954

ID No.: MSS28357

Creator: Keller, Helen, 1880-1968

Extent: 2,000 items; 4 containers plus 1 oversize; 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Author and lecturer. Correspondence and papers relating to the preparation of Keller's book *My Religion*, and newspaper clippings concerning her writings, lectures, and travels. Includes typescripts of several works by other blind writers.

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.

People

Keller, Helen, 1880-1968.

Sperry, Paul, 1879-1954.

Swedenborg, Emanuel, 1688-1772.

Watson, Evelyn M. (Evelyn Mabel), 1886-1956.

Subjects

Blind authors.

New Jerusalem Church.

Places

South America--Description and travel.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Helen Keller, author and lecturer, were given to the Library of Congress by Elizabeth B. Bliss in 1932, and Josephine Sperry in 1954-1955. Additional material was transferred by the Department of State in 1955. Two items were purchased in 1992.

Processing History

The papers of Helen Keller were arranged and described in 1963. The finding aid was revised and two items added in 2003.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Helen Keller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Helen Keller are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Helen Keller Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Helen Keller (1880-1968), author and lecturer, span the years 1842-1954 and include correspondence, speeches and writings, clippings, printed matter, and photographs.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of files of Swedenborgian minister Paul Sperry relating to the publication of Keller's book, *My Religion*. Also included are reviews of the book. A trip by Keller to South America in 1953 is documented by newspaper clippings, State Department dispatches, and Keller's speeches. The collection also contains drafts of writings by others, in particular the blind author Evelyn M. Watson.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	<i>Book of Psalms</i> , 1842 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Clippings, 1913-1954, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1908-1927 (7 folders)
BOX 2	1928-1954, undated (6 folders)
BOX 2	Photographs, undated
BOX 2	Printed matter, 1927-1953, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Trip to South America, 1953
BOX 3	Clippings
BOX 3	Brazil
BOX 3	Mexico (2 folders)
BOX 3	Panama
BOX 3	Peru
BOX 3	Dispatches
BOX 3	Speeches
BOX 3	Writings
BOX 3	By Keller
BOX 3	Miscellaneous, 1952, undated
BOX 3	<i>My Religion</i>
BOX 3	Clippings, 1927-1928 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	By others, 1932-1939, 1948, undated (5 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	<i>Book of Psalms</i> , 1842 (container 1)