

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # **88M26**

Location **4(4)-6-2**

Title **Kathryn Beebe Papers**

Approximate inclusive dates **1931-1983; bulk dates 1931**

Date of receipt **March 1988**

Received from **Lillian Chatov Gordon**
via the Office of Collection, Management
and Development - **Juanita Doares**

Volume on arrival **package**

Number of boxes (after reboxing) **1 AB; 1 FB 1'5" linear ft.**

Condition **Fair. Some of the letters are highly acidic and fragile; 2 photographs are damaged.**

Restrictions **The original letters of Roger Birtwell, dated 1931 on highly acidic paper are too fragile for researchers. The offset copies must be**

Description **used.**

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

Special Formats ☒ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☐ Graphics
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records
☐ Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached sheets

Accessioned by **VW**

Date **4/18/88**

KATHRYN BEEBE PAPERS

Biography:

Kathryn Beebe (née Catherine Davis), fashion and popular topics writer had a career which spanned from 1923 to her death in 1985. Ms. Beebe was born on January 8, 1898 in Kansas City, Missouri, the daughter of William P. and Laura M. (Hunt) Davis. Ms. Beebe was one of five children: Whitney P. Davis (brother)(d. 1973); Frances (Davis) Lockridge; Helena (Davis) Hunt and Ruth Davis.

Ms. Beebe formal education includes two years at the University of Kansas, (School of Journalism which she left to join the Red Cross as a Social Director (dates?). Her career as a writer began as a fashion writer for "Women Wear" , then Beebe took jobs as consultant to Tobe Fashion Reports; fashion and decorating copywriter in a department store. She freelanced as a writer for over 60 publications which include: Fortune; the Daily News; World-Telegram, etc. Beebe subjects covered personalities, beauty, fashion, etc. Between 1955-1972, Beebe did product publicity for several publicity firms including Selvage & Lee; p.r. account in the hair styling field and consumer travel reports.

Ms. Beebe married and divorced twice, first to Stanley H. Beebe (b-d?) then to Roger Birtwell (1900-1985), a sports reporter for the Boston Globe. Kathryn Beebe petition the court to resume the use of the name Kathryn Beebe after her divorce from Roger Birtwell (1943). There were no children.

Ms. Beebe was not the only writer in her family. Her father, William Winn Davis (1865-1924), was a newspaper writer and publisher. Davis with William Rockhill Nelson founded the Kansas City Real Estate Index (1898) and was the editor and publisher of the Kansas City Advocate; Westport News (1912) and the South Side News (1924).

Frances Louise (Davis) Lockridge (1897-1963) was a writer and part of the mystery writing team with her husband Richard Lockridge (1898-?). Together, they wrote the Mr. and Mrs. North mysteries, first published in 1924. In 1941, "Mr. and Mrs. North" became a stage success. In 1945, there was a movie version with Gracie Allen as Pam and William Post jr. as Mr. North. Frances Lockridge was the recipient of the Mystery Writers Association award and the author of "The Ticking Clock".

Description:

The Kathryn Beebe Papers are mainly incoming letters to Kathryn Beebe (nee Catherine Davis), fashion and popular topic writer. The Papers, 1931-1983, bulk dates 1931, correspondents include her second husband Roger Birtwell (1900-1985), sportwriter for the Boston Globe and her siblings Whitney P. Davis (brother) and Frances Louise (Davis) Lockridge (1897-1963) and her husband Richard Lockridge (1897-?).

The remaining papers are legal papers which include Beebe birth certificate and divorce papers; diary (1 volume) and photographs.

The photographs are pictures of her parents William Winn Davis and Laura M. Hunt; Kathryn (Davis) Beebe; Roger Birtwell and Frances (Davis) Lockridge; grandfather (?). The photographs are black and white and color.

KATHRYN BEEBE PAPERS

Container list

Box 1. Incoming Correspondence 1978-1983;n.d.
Birtwell, Roger 1931;1941;n.d. **
Davis, Whitney P. n.d.
see also: Legal Papers: assorted
Lockridge, Frances (Davis) 1952-1963;n.d.
see also: Legal Papers: assorted
Lockridge, Richard 1963
Legal Papers:
Birth record & high school record
Divorce Papers
Assorted
Diary 1 vol.
Biographical
Restricted**. Some of the original letters of Roger
Birtwell are restricted because of their poor condition.
The offsets must be used in place of the originals.

Box 2. PHOTOGRAPHS
Davis, Laura M. (Hunt)
Davis, William M.
Beebe, Katherine (Davis) 1
-with Sue Gardner 1
-standing near a sofa 1
-at the Botanical Gardens, Washington, D.C. 1
-with Roger Birtwell
-c. 1984 color snapshots (2)
-standing with an unidentified woman
-at an outdoor event, picnic?
-with broom
Lockridge, Frances (Davis) 1
Beebe grandfather in military unifrom ? 2
Note: one of the photographs is in pieces