Knight, Ruth Adams, 1894-1974

Papers, 1938-1971. 3 ft.

Ruth Knight was born in Defiance, Ohio and educated at Toledo University. Her early career was as a reporter and special writer for the Toledo Times. In 1929 she went to New York, where she began writing for radio. She created her own radio series, "Brave Tomorrow," and wrote for network programs, notably "Aunt Jenny's Real Life Stories." She also wrote non-fiction books for women, stories for young people, and television scripts. The collection of manuscripts reflects all these aspects of her career. The correspondence is minor.

Inventory with collection.

Subjects:

Authors papers
Authors of children's and young people's stories and books
Authors of non-fiction articles and books
Radio scripts
Television scripts
Ruth Adams Knight's writing career covers more than thirty years to date, and a multiplicity of interests. She has written extensively in the young adult field as well as producing adult novels, short stories (including an O. Henry Award winner for 1944, "What a Darling Little Boy"), radio and television scripts and non-fiction works including a history of the Metropolitan Opera.

At this time, Mrs. Knight lives in Southern California and is at work on an historical novel about the Near East.
Correspondence.

Incoming.

E. P. Dutton and Company. 4
Neiman, Rite. 7

Manuscripts.

Short story.

What a darling little boy. Included in the C. Henry Memorial Award Prize Story Collection, 1944. 10p.

Radio script.

Aunt Jenny serial. All are carbons.

Black tie. 4 parts.
  Part 1. 9p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 10p.
  Part 4. 9p.

Grandfather's clock. 5 parts.
  Part 1. 8p.
  Part 2. 9p.
  Part 3. 8p.
  Part 4. 7p.
  Part 5. 6p.

Just like brothers. 4 parts.
  Part 1. 10p.
  Part 2. 9p.
  Part 3. 10p.
  Part 4. 8p.

Make way for love. 6 parts.
  Part 1. 7p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 7p.
  Part 4. 7p.
  Part 5. 7p.
  Part 6. 6p.

Aunt Jenny serial.

None but the lonely heart. 6 parts.
  Part 1. 8p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 7p.
  Part 4. 8p.
  Part 5. 7p.
  Part 6. 8p.

Oldest employee. 6 parts.
  Part 1. 8p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 8p.
  Part 4. 9p.
  Part 5. 8p.
  Part 6. 9p.

One kind of love. 6 parts.
  Part 1. 8p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 9p.
  Part 4. 8p.
  Part 5. 9p.
  Part 6. 8p.

A pan of biscuits. 5 parts.
  Part 1. 9p.
  Part 2. 9p.
  Part 3. 6p.
  Part 4. 9p.
  Part 5. 6p.

Prescription 481779. 6 parts.
  Part 1. 9p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 8p.
  Part 4. 8p.
  Part 5. 9p.
  Part 6. 7p.

Regular Fellow. 6 parts.
  Part 1. 8p.
  Part 2. 8p.
  Part 3. 10p.
  Part 4. 9p.
  Part 5. 9p.
  Part 6. 8p.

Aunt Jenny serial.

Sight unseen. 6 parts.
Part 1. 9p.
Part 2. 8p.
Part 3. 7p.
Part 4. 8p.
Part 5. 8p.
Part 6. 8p.

Some folks have everything. 6 parts.
Part 1. 9p.
Part 2. 8p.
Part 3. 8p.
Part 4. 10p.
Part 5. 7p.
Part 6. 7p.

Television plot outline, script.

Eye of the law. All carbon.
Biographical material 4p.
Plot outline. 4 p.
Character study. 2p.
Sample script. 54p.

Radio sample scripts.

Tell tales. Holograph revisions.
Onion festival. 16p.
Children's village. 7p.

Research notes. 1 fl. 34p.

Reviews. 1 fl.

Memorabilia. 1 fl.

Photographs. 10
Pamphlets on Pestalozzi. 2
The story of the Seeing Eye.
Published books.

RUTH ADAMS KNIGHT

Ruth Adams Knight was born in Defiance, Ohio on October 5, 1894. By 1915, she had enrolled in writing courses at Toledo University. When editorial offices lost their regular staff to the First World War, she was one of a group of young writers recruited from the classroom to work for the Toledo Times in 1918. That was during her junior year, and it brought her formal education to a close. The emergency gave her a "wide and unique journalistic experience, never to have been gained under normal circumstances." Still quite young, she covered the leading news stories of the city and wrote, in addition, woman's page copy, music criticisms, obituaries, and sports reports. With the War's end, she took over the position of dramatic and motion picture editor and worked for eight years under the name of Ruth Feiter. During this period, she also continued to write poetry, much of which was published in the poetry journals of the day.

In 1929, she decided to leave Toledo to try a writing career in New York. For a time she continued as literary editor of the Toledo Times and also wrote book reviews for the New York Sun. But she was gradually attracted to radio, for which she began writing comedy programs as well as dramatic sketches, and soon she became managing editor of the Beacon syndicate, supervising their daily release of radio material. From 1937 on, Mrs. Knight wrote "several thousand scripts of a dramatic nature" for radio, including daily serial programs and hour and half-hour dramatic shows. In addition to creating her own radio program, the serial Brave Tomorrow, she wrote network programs for Cavalcade of America (1937-39), Aunt Jenny's Real Life Stories (1938), Death Valley Days (1938-41), Dr. Christian (1938-42), Theatre of Today (1941-43).

Her non-fiction during this period included one of the first vocational books for women in the field of radio, Stand By for the Ladies: the Distaff Side of Radio Announcing. A book on women in the editorial field, Lady Editor: Careers for Women in Publishing (1941), was co-authored by Muriel Fuller and Marjorie Shuler. Opera Cavalcade (1938) was the non-fiction history of the Metropolitan Opera. In her short stories and longer fiction, she demonstrated an ability to write about women for women. Her adult novels include Women Must Weep (1941) and Fare By My Side (1958). Her short stories were published in Collier's, Cosmopolitan, McCall's and Redbook. The American Mercury published a short story,"What a Darling Little Boy," which later appeared in the collection of O. Henry Memorial Prize Stories for 1944.

In the 1940's, Mrs. Knight began writing books for teenagers. Valiant Comrades, the story of dogs of war, appeared in 1943 and was followed by Brave Companions, the story of a blind soldier and a seeing-eye dog. She also wrote books dealing with specific problems of young people such
as *It Might Be You* (1949), a collection of eight stories dealing with intolerance, and *Day After Tomorrow* (1952), which tells in fiction of Communist infiltration of American high schools. Stories for young people with an international setting are *Top of the Mountain* (1953) and *Halfway to Heaven*, which take place in Switzerland, and *First the Lightening*, concerning post-war Italy.

By the 1950's, Mrs. Knight had found a new market for her writing in the field of television. The collection contains samples of her writing for both radio and television, including program proposals with introductory material, character sketches, story vignettes, and audition scripts. Longer series of scripts for radio in the collection are the two-hundred-sixty episodes of *Brave Tomorrow* and the one-hundred-twenty-six episodes of *Aunt Jenny*. Because many of the files were damaged by fire, the manuscript material does not give a complete picture of Mrs. Knight's long and varied writing career. There are, for example, only two full drafts of book-length manuscripts, and the short story manuscripts seem to date exclusively from her early years of writing fiction. The correspondence is, for the most part, more personal than professional.

Ruth Adams Knight was married in April 1914 to H. Arnold Feiter. The two children from this first marriage, John and Elizabeth (Bixby), were later adopted by her second husband, the comedian and radio writer, Willard Raymond Knight. Her third marriage was also to a writer, Dickson Jay Hartwell. Mrs. Knight died in Pasadena, California in 1974.
Correspondence.

Outgoing. 1945-71. 67. (Includes "memos" -- outlines and story proposals)

Incoming. 177. *indicates separate folder

Aerni, Agathon. 1953. 1.
American Girl. (Marjorie Vetter) 1958-65. 3.
American Play Co. (John W. Rumsey) 1952-54. 2.
Amman-Jordan Antiquities Department. 1966. 1.

Barry, Charles C. 1952. 1.
BBC. (Eva Ticehurst) 1952-53. 2.
British Travel Assoc. (Donald M. Martin, Edmund Antrobus) 1952-53. 2/1.
Brookley, Jacob. 1956. 1.
Broughland, Averell. 1954. 2.
Bryant, Dorothy. 1953. 1.

CBS Television. (Florence Britton) 1954. 1.
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. (Edward S. Burdell) 1956. 1.

Dawson, Ronald. 1954. 2.
Doubleday & Co. (Henrietta Jelm, Jack O'Leary) 1966. 3.
Drake, Eileen. (Central Park School Library) 1939. 1.
Dutton, E.P. (Beulah Harris, William E. Larned) 1957. 2.

Eugene Field Society. 1942. 1.

Faulder, Margaret. 1941. 1.
Fenton, Edward. n.d. 2.
Foote, Cone and Belding. (Bruce L. Felknor, Tedd Joseph) 1951-52. 3.
*Fuller, Muriel. 1951-56. 12.

Garner, Claud W. 1963. 2.
Gillam, Connie. n.d. 1.
Graham, Elliott. 1957. 1.

Hedenberg, Judy. 1966. 1.
Hill, Carolyn Bailey. 1954. 1.
Hohner, Adelaide. 1953-54. 5.

Ingeneue. (Myrna Blyth) 1966. 1.

Johnson, Kate Walker. 1952. 1.

Kerby, Philip. 1953. 1.
Kinderdorf Pestalozzi. n.d. 1.
Knowles, 1954. 2.

Little, Kathryn. 1946. 1.
Lucas, Marilyn. 1939. 1.

MacCraig, Hugh. 1956. 1.
Mendez, Toni. 1966. 2.
Methodist Church Editorial Division. (Rowena Ferguson) 1951. 2.

News. (Ben Gross) 1954. 1.
Noble, Hollister. 1954. 1.

Pasadena Tournament of Roses Assoc. (Sam Akers, Max Colwell, Martha Sissell) 1966. 7/1.
Phelps, Helen. n.d. 1.

Reader's Digest. (Charles W. Ferguson) 1953. 1.

Scott, Forésman and Co. (Judith Nelson, Dolores Findrick, Geraldine C. Simmons) 1965-69. 5.
Stevens, Mary McCoy. 1953. 1.
*Swiss National Tourist Office. 1952-69. 9/3
Swiss National Travel. 1953-54. 5/3.
Swissair. 1953. 1.


U.S. Government.
Department of the Navy. 1950. 1.
Foreign Service. (Frances E. Willis) 1954. 1.

Verkehrsvetband Zentralsweiz. 1953-55. 2.
Verkehrsdirektion Zürich. 1953-54. 2.
Verkehrverein der Stadt St. Gallen. 1953. 2.

Wald, Jerry. n.d. 1.
Weiman, Rita. 1941. 1.
Weir, Luelle and Jim. n.d. 1/2.
Welshimer, Helen. n.d. 1.
Whitley, Ennis. 1941. 1.
Women's National Book Assoc. 1957. 1.

Unidentified. 9.

Manuscripts.

Book length.


Outline and dedication. Carbon. 9 pp.
Notes and research. 22 pp.

Outline. Carbon. 9 pp.
Notes, outline, research. 32 pp.
Photographs. 5.


Outline. Carbon. 6 pp.
Notes and research. 70 pp.

The treasured one: the story of Rudivoravan. By Rudivoravan, as told to RAK. New York: Dutton, 1957.

Notes for glossary. 2 pp.
Astrological chart of Rudivoravan. 4 pp.
Captions. 1 pp.


Notes and memos. 7 pp.

Short story length. All are late drafts unless otherwise noted.

Angels at the head. Carbon. 20 pp.
Answer. 11 pp.
Beyond. 9 pp.
Blonde Saturday only. Carbon. 30 pp.
Body of this death. 29 pp.
Bridal morn. 17 pp.
Calm haven. 20 pp.
Outline. 3 pp.
Crazy to marry. Carbon. 33 pp.
Cross country. 13 pp.
Direct approach. 8 pp.
Early draft. Holograph revisions. 7 pp.
Don't tell the landlady. (also titled: Would you do it again?)
   Draft A. 22 pp.
   Draft B. 23 pp.
First orchid. Holograph revisions. 6 pp.
Good friend. (also titled: Great guy)
   Draft A. Carbon. 7 pp.
   Draft B. Carbon. 4 pp.
In spite of everything. 18 pp.
Law of attraction. 7 pp.
Lend me your ears. Carbon. 5 pp.
   Draft B. Carbon. 20 pp.
Modern case for virtue. Carbon. 5 pp.
Night train for Miami.
   Draft A. 7 pp.
   Draft B. Carbon. 8 pp.
Oh dry those tears.
   Draft A. 20 pp.
One world champion. By RAK and Nora Stirling. 7 pp.
Opened by the U.S. Army examiner.
   Draft A. 7 pp.
Pestalozzidorf: city on a hill. 9 pp.
The question mark in the Star Spangled Banner.
   Outline 5 pp.
   Draft A. Holograph revisions. 6 pp.
   Draft B. Holograph corrections. 6 pp.
Second woman. 26 pp.
Shoes for Cinderella. 17 pp.
So gracious is the time.
   Draft A. Holograph revisions. 18 pp.
So they don't call me Grandma! 8 pp.
Some damn man. 21 pp.
Some folks have everything. Carbon. 22 pp.
Special citation -- bravery in action. 8 pp.
Special to the Times.
   Draft B. Carbon. 21 pp.
Tallest hat.
  Draft A. 16 pp.
That type of girl. 10 pp.
That's the army for you! Carbon. 21 pp.
That's life. (also titled: Two for the show)
  Draft B. Holograph revisions. 30 pp.
This way to the carrousel. Carbon. 6 pp.
Toledo's day in the sun. 22 pp.
Try this on for size. (also titled: Try it on for size)
  Draft B. Carbon. 7 pp.
  Draft C. Carbon. 8 pp.
  Draft D. 10 pp.
Weekend.
  Draft A. 29 pp.
What a darling boy. 11 pp.
Women! (also titled: Soldiers wives; Consorts of heroes)
  Draft A. 9 pp.
  Draft B. 8 pp.
  Draft C. Carbon. 8 pp.
You ought to get out more. Carbon. 7 pp.
You're in the Army now. Carbon. 22 pp.
Untitled. 10 pp.
Outlines. 1 fl.
Research for Tell-tales, a series of magazine articles by
RAK and Nora Stirling. 1 fl.

Plays. Written for performance at the Woman Pays Club.

Our club.
  Notes. 3 pp.
  Draft A. Holograph revisions. 5 pp.
  Draft B. Carbon. 11 pp.
  Program of Twentieth Anniversary Dinner Dance, Dec. 10, 1938

Payment due.
  Late draft. Carbon. 7 pp.

Woman Pays Club radio hour.
  Draft B. Carbon. 8 pp.
Radio scripts.

After we're married.
Outline. 3 pp.
The American way. (For Radio Free Europe)
Draft A. Holograph revisions. 7 pp.
Anniversary of America's entrance into world war.
Late draft. 32 pp.
Another year.
Draft A. Carbon. 29 pp.
Draft B. 26 pp.
Aunt Jenny daytime series. All final drafts, carbon. 7-11 pp.
each. Six scripts included with each title, unless otherwise
noted.
Bye baby bunting.
The Coburn case.
Deadlock.
Ebb tide.
Follow the dream.
A girl like you.
Grand old man.
Happy birthday to you.
His brother's wife.
His father's son.
Home for Aunt Katie.
The little woman.
Make way for love. (with revisions of the six scripts)
My son -- my son.
She shall have music.
The Shelbourne place.
Song in my heart.
What am I bid?
A woman in the house.
Yes, my darling daughter.
Blow bugle blow. Late draft. 27 pp.
Brave tomorrow. (original title: A world of our own)
All mimeographed, some with holograph revisions. 8-13 pp.
each. Episodes included are: 1, 7, 12-16, 18-28, 30-70,
October 11, 1943 – June 30, 1944.
Includes outline, character sketches, setting, background,
and initial sequence (1 fl).
Family album.
A home of our own.
Story sequence. Carbon. 7 pp.
Draft A. Carbon. 4 pp.
Audition script A. Carbon. 16 pp.
Audition script B. Carbon. 11 pp.
Audition narration and story vignettes. Mimeographed.
Holograph revisions. 14 pp.

Help yourself to happiness.
Outline. Carbon. 9 pp.

The long years after. (also titled: Twenty years after)
Draft A. Carbon. 7 pp.
Draft B. Carbon. 8 pp.

The man who laughed at time.

News in a nutshell. By RAK and Dickson Jay Hartwell.
Outline. 7 pp.
Sample script. 12 pp.

The night before Christmas.
Draft. 21 pp.
Night plane for Miami.

The queen was in the parlor.

Revenge.
That's America for you.

The things we live for.
Proposal, synopsis, outline. 50 pp.

Those Websters.
Synopsis. 3 pp.
Audition script B. 22 pp.

The wizard of Oz.

Women in the war.
Revision. 3 pp.

World of our own.
Preview. 8 pp.
Audition script. 9 pp.

World without end.

Years after tomorrow.
Outlines and ideas. 1 fl.
Television scripts.

Echoes of New York. The famous cat of the New York Sun:
   Outlines and character sketches. 3 pp.
   Revisions. Xerographed. 4 pp.
   Draft B. Carbon. 41 pp.
   Notes. Part holograph. 3 pp.
   Outline of no. 3. Carbon. 5 pp.
   Synopsis, opening. 3 pp.
   Outline for scripts 1 - 7. 3 pp.
   Character sketches. 2 pp.
   First sequence. 52 pp.
   Draft. 21 pp.
Biography of Rita Weiman.
Fare by my side. 19 pp.
Fisherman's wharf. (also titled: Beaton's landing)
   Introduction of material. 24 pp.
   Script no. 1.
      Late draft. Carbon. 19 pp.
      Late draft. 30 pp.
      Mimeographed. 21 pp.
   Early summaries and sketches. Carbon. 21 pp.
The healing hand.
Lummox.
   Character sketch. Holograph corrections. 3 pp.
Night plane for Mexico. Final draft. 22 pp.
World of our own.
   Outlines and ideas for scripts. 3 ff.
   Script of Angel's flight by Edith Kendall Horton.

Tearsheets.

"Carrousel this way." Junior American Citizen, 1, no. 3, October 1, 1952. p. 4.
"Lend me your ears!" Authors' League Bulletin, 22, no. 5, May 1938. p. 4.
"Public playboy # 1." Elks, n.v., n.d.
"There's always some man." Redbook, 93, no. 2. June 1949, p. 38.

Biographical information. 1 fl.

Publicity, reviews. 1 fl.

Miscellaneous. 1 fl.
Includes notes and travel itinerary for RAK and Nora Stirling, photograph of Rita Weiman, proofs of dust jacket, signed calendar illustrated by Morgan Dennis, Christmas cards by RAK, Bookwoman, 2, no. 3, April 1938, Woman's Press Club Program, November 29, 1941.
Books by Ruth Adams Knight


THE INVISIBLE ARMY. Writers' War Board. War Script #15. New York, 194-?


PLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE. Writers' War Board. War Script #16. New York, 194-?


WOMEN MUST WEEP. Boston: Hale, Cushman, Flint, 1941.

Correspondence.


Incoming. 166. *indicates separate folder
Harris, Beulah. 1966. 1.
Hewitt, Mrs. Ashley Cooper (Elizabeth). n.d. 1.
Lancaster, Clay. 1962. 1.
Margaret _________. 1960. 1.
Ogivvy, Benson & Mather. 1964. 1.
Polly _________. 1964. 3.
Swiss National Tourist Office. (Florian Niederer, Matthias K. Adank)
1960 - 1969. 3.
Thorpe, Chester J. 1959. 1.

Manuscripts.

Novel length.

The bell of San Gabriel.
Outline. Carbon. 10p.

The days of our life.
Outline. Carbon. 18p.

The garment of shame.
Research material. 1 folder.
Notes. Holograph, typed, and carbon. 12 folders.
Bibliography. Typed, xerox.

The golden horseshoe. By RAK & Howard Taubman.
Typed draft. 77p.
Outline. Typed, carbon. 16p.

The last place on earth.
Sample chapter and extract. Carbon. 31p.
Outline and prospectus. Carbon. 29p.
Notes. Typed and holograph. 15p.

These are my jewels.

Thine is the kingdom.
Typed draft. Chapters 1 - 4. Holograph revision. 30p.

Short story length.

One thing remember.
Typed draft. Extensive holograph revision. 20p.
Miscellaneous pages. Holograph revision. 16p.

The sun at noon.
Typed draft. Carbon. 21p.
Typed draft. Extensive holograph revisions. 20p.
Manuscripts. Short story length continued.

The whips of God.
Miscellaneous pages. Holograph revision. 52p.

Poetry.
Ballad of Brook's Bend. Carbon. 2p.

Plot outlines.
Colossal takes a cut. Typed draft. 3p.
Knickerbocker theater. Typed draft. Two versions. 5p.
Railroad story. Typed draft. 3p.
You can't miss it. Typed draft. Carbon. Two versions. Holograph revision. 5p.

Research notes.
Typed, carbon, holograph. 3 folders.