

WINIFRED WARD (1884-1975) PAPERS, 1917-1978

Series 20/8

Boxes 1-10

Biography

Winifred Louise Ward was born October 29, 1884 in Eldora, Iowa, the youngest daughter of Allena Dimmick and George W. Ward, prominent Eldora lawyer. She had two sisters, Ethel Ward and Mrs. Marian Nuckolls, and a brother, Clinton, who was killed at age 21. Ward graduated from Eldora High School in 1902 and in 1903 began her studies as an undergraduate student at Northwestern University's Cumnock School of Oratory under the direction of Dean Robert McLean Cumnock and Miss Agness Law. She received her diploma in 1905. After two years of directing plays and declamation contests in Iowa, Ward was a special teacher of reading, drama and physical education in the public schools of Adrian, Michigan from 1908 to 1916. From 1916 to 1918, she attended the University of Chicago, receiving her Ph.D. degree with honors, in education, on August 30, 1918.

In 1918, Ward was asked to teach at Northwestern University's School of Oratory and that year began as an instructor and assistant professor, a career which was to last until her retirement in 1950. She opened a new field of education: the teaching of drama with and for children (creative drama and children's theater) to prospective teachers.

In 1924, the elementary schools of Evanston, Illinois made the creative dramatics course a curricular subject, and Ward became the first supervisor, a position she held until her retirement in 1950.

In 1925, with Ralph Dennis (later dean of the School of Speech) and Alexander Dean (the head of theater at Northwestern), Ward founded a children's theater, with the double purpose of providing a worthy service to Evanston and giving the Speech students a laboratory in the study of theater for youth. The first full-length production was the play "Snow White," performed in 1925 under the auspices of Northwestern University's Thalian Dramatic Club of the School of Speech. Two years later, in 1927, the elementary schools joined the School of Speech in sponsoring the theater and a board of directors was appointed, consisting of Dean Ralph Dennis, the superintendents of the north and south and intermediary schools, members of the P.T.A. and Ward. The result was The Children's Theater of Evanston, one of the pioneer theaters for children in America. Winifred Ward went on to direct the Children's Theater of Evanston for twenty-five years, retiring in 1950. In 1944, she founded the national Children's Theater Conference.

Each of Ward's two separate programs served a different purpose: the creative dramatics classes in the schools were for the purpose of giving the children in the classes an opportunity for self-expression and training in oral English and literature appreciation. The Children's Theater of Evanston was for the audience, for its entertainment and for the development of discriminating appreciation in the theater, as well as serving the Northwestern University's School of Speech as a laboratory for training directors of children's dramatics.

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Ward wrote four books: *Creative Dramatics*, 1930, published by D. Appleton & co., N.Y.; *Theater for Children*, 1939, second edition 1948, published by D. Appleton-Century Co., Inc., N.Y.; *Playmaking With Children*, 1947, second edition 1957, published by Appleton-Century-Crofts, N.Y., and *Stories to Dramatize*, 1952, published by the Children's Theater Press, Cloverlot, Anchorage, Kentucky. Ward also wrote two pamphlets, "Choice and Direction of Children's Plays," 1928, published by L.D. Horner, Redfield, Iowa, and "Drama with and for Children," written for publication by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education, 1960. In addition, she has written numerous articles, essays, speeches and lectures for publication in many local, national and international magazines, journals and newspapers.

Ward also made four European tours, including a trip to the 1936 Russian Theater Festival, trips to Europe in 1923 and 1930, as well as an extended trip to the Hawaiian Islands in 1952.

In 1950, Winifred Ward retired as director of the Children's Theater of Evanston and from her posts at Northwestern University and in the Evanston elementary school systems. For over twenty years afterwards, she continued writing, teaching in drama workshops throughout the country, and attending and organizing numerous conferences and conventions.

Ward was a member of the First Methodist Church of Evanston, the American Educational Theater Association, the American National Theater and Academy, Zeta Phi Eta Speech Fraternity, Zonta International Business & Professional Executives (Honorary) and the Drama Club of Evanston (Honorary). She received honorary degrees and awards from numerous universities and organizations, including the Medallion of Honor from Theta Alphi Phi, the Zeta Phi Eta (Drama) Society "Zeta of the Year" Award, and an honorary degree of doctor of humane letters from Adelphi College, New York, in 1953.

Description of the Series

The Winifred Ward Papers are divided into eleven main categories:

1. Biographical and Genealogical Material, 1 folder, Box 1. This folder contains early newspaper clippings about the Ward family, some of Ward's high school and college programs, and biographical sketches written about Ward.
2. General Correspondence, 8 folders, Box 1. Winifred Ward's personal correspondence, arranged chronologically from 1920 to 1974. This includes letters from Dean Ralph Dennis, Agnes Haaga, Geraldine Brain Siks, William McCreary, Sara Spencer, Payson Wild, Jr., James McBurney, Robert E. Gard, and various local and national drama organizations; also, letters of appreciation and congratulations (especially 1949-1950 retirement, "fan letters" and mail from Norway, India and Great Britain.

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Also included are two separate folders of correspondence with author Hughes Mearns and Sinead de Valera, wife of the former president of Ireland.

Box 1 also contains a folder of correspondence and printed materials dealing with Ward's personal charities, including the World Clothing Drive and the Near East Foundation.

3. Northwestern University Material, 4 folders, Box 2. This category includes correspondence from Agnes Law, Walter Dill Scott, Robert M. Cumnock, Ralph Dennis and J. Roscoe Miller. It also includes articles about the School of Speech, business papers relating to Ward's position at Northwestern, pamphlets for courses and newspaper clippings relating to them, as well as publicity material, correspondence and clippings about the Northwestern-sponsored film, "Creative Dramatics: The First Steps." There is also an early scrapbook of plays and productions in which Ward was involved at Northwestern, 1919-1923. Among the more prominent materials of this part of the collection are: a speech about R. M. Cumnock and a copy of a letter from Francis Willard to R. M. Cumnock.

4. Honorary Awards and Degrees, 2 folders, Box 2. See also Separation Record. These folders contain correspondence, speeches of acceptance, commencement and award-night brochures and clippings, all relating to Ward's honorary degrees and awards, as well as the actual degrees and awards themselves, alphabetically arranged, mostly hand-lettered, signed and sealed. Note: See also Package 2, Citation of Honor presented by Racine Children's Theater. Some of the plaques and larger degrees have been separated from this collection, as noted in the Separation Record.

5. Children's Theater, Box 3 and Box 4. These boxes contain two histories of the Children's Theater of Evanston, one by Winifred Ward and one as a master's thesis by Kenneth Hosie, 1972. Box 3 also contains Children's Theater of Evanston play programs, including Marco Polo, The Blue Bird and Uncle Tom's Cabin; hand-written production notes by Ward, promotional material, newspaper and magazine clippings and letters from children to Ward, 1932-1940. BOX 4 contains, in alphabetical order, Winifred Ward's Children's Theater of Evanston play scripts, annotated and with stage directions written in by Ward. Set designs for the Marco Polo play are in Package 2; also a 1925-1965 Children's Theater of Evanston scrapbook. Note: The set designs, posters and sketches for the Children's Theater of Evanston productions, mostly done by Wm. McCreary," have been removed from the collection and are in a labeled portfolio in the Archives mapcase, as noted in the Separation Record. Packages 2 and 3 also contain oversize set designs and posters, respectively.

6. Creative Dramatics Material, 3 folders, Box 5. This category includes creative dramatics material written by Winifred Ward, projects drawn up by Ward for teachers of creative dramatics, clippings about creative dramatics, as well as playscripts, exercises and projects by Ward's graduate students; also two plays submitted to Ward for creative dramatics courses: "Escape to Freedom" and "The Quest of the Hammer."

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7. Books and Pamphlets Material, 9 folders, Box 5. This group consists of reviews, articles, orders, letters of congratulations, testimonials and royalty reports regarding Ward's four books and three pamphlets; also included is the chapter she wrote for a book to be published in 1975.
8. Workshops and Lectures Correspondence, 1951-1966, 3 folders, Box 6. Included here are the letters and publicity material about the many workshops, tours and lectures which Winifred Ward participated in after her retirement in 1950.
9. Conferences and Conventions, 3 folders, Box 6. Although a relatively small grouping, this is distinct from the others in that it contains the correspondence, clippings, lists, brochures and some speeches relating to such conferences and conventions as the Children's Theater Conference, which Ward helped to found, the Zonta Club of Evanston's conventions and the Language Arts Conference.
10. Speeches and Articles, 7 folders, box 7. Included in this category are Winifred Ward's handwritten speeches and speech notes, mostly undated, all annotated or rewritten, most on small notepaper or index cards; published magazine articles written by Ward; published magazine articles written about Ward and creative dramatics or children's theater throughout the country, and "working ideas"-- typescript copies of articles written by others, which Ward used as guides or inspiration in writing her articles. These last are unrelated in general to Winifred Ward or the children's theater; among them are a Samuel Clemens letter and typed copies of letters about Isabel Garghill Beecher, William McCreary and an article about John Dewey.
11. Trips and Tours Material, 5 folders, Box 8. This material consists of Winifred Ward's passports, trip diaries and scrapbooks from her four European tours and her trips to Hawaii and Mexico. Also included is a scrapbook of early activities, c. 1910-1920, including family photos, Ward's teaching years at Michigan and play productions given there, high school and college years photos, photos of friends, teachers and fellow-teachers, as well as photos of Ward's brother Clinton and his college days; however, no dates are given. The second scrapbook contains photos, postcards, clippings, memos and play programs from Ward's Russia- London trip in 1936. See also the scrapbooks in Package 1.
12. Addenda, 12 folders, Box 9. The Addenda are contributions to the Winifred Ward Papers by individuals, by the committee set up to receive and solicit those papers and by the Northwestern University Archives. These papers were put together after the Archives received Ward's papers from her. The collection includes correspondence from Ward to these individuals, scrapbooks, photographs, clippings, children's letters to Ward, and slides of the posters done by William McCreary for the Children's Theater of Evanston productions. Also included is a folder of the material from the 1974 Northwestern University Archives' Winifred Ward Exhibit, including photographs, an outline, and layout and diagrams for the exhibit, and a folder of Archives acquisitions, 1975-.

Photographs, except for those in albums, scrapbooks, or the addend box, Box 9, from the Winifred Ward Papers have been separated from the collection and may be found in the Archives' Photograph File under "Ward, Winifred." These include photographs of the creative

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dramatics exercises for children, photographs of Ward at various functions, and photographs of the Children's Theater of Evanston productions.

Note: Another addenda box, Box 10, includes correspondence and other material, some relating to the Winifred Ward Scholarship. This box continued to receive additions and was still open as of 1978.

Processor: M. S. Moss, 1974

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Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Biographical/Genealogical	
	2	General Correspondence	1920-1929
	3	General Correspondence	1930-1939
	4	General Correspondence	1940-1949
	5	General Correspondence	1950-1959
	6	General Correspondence	1960-1974
	7	General Correspondence	undated
	8	Correspondence with Hughes Mearns	1943-1963
	9	Correspondence with Sinead de Valera	1952-1964
	10	Charities, Personal	
2	1	Northwestern University Correspondence	
	2	Northwestern University Publications and Clippings	
	3	Northwestern University-sponsored Film, "Creative Dramatics"	
	4	W. Ward's Northwestern University Scrapbook of Plays	1919-1923
	5	Honorary Awards and Degrees, Correspondence	
	6	Honorary Awards and Degrees	
3	1	Thesis, "Theater 65" by Kenneth Hosie	June 1972
	2	History of Children's Theater by W. Ward	
	3	Children's Theater of Evanston Play Programs	
	4	Children's Theater of Evanston Correspondence	
	5	Children's Theater of Evanston Clippings and Publicity	
	5a	Children's Theater, Organization	
	6	Letters to W. Ward from Children re. Children's Theater of Evanston	
	7	1) "The Chinese Nightingale" script, hardbound 2) "Prunella" script, hardbound	
8	Children's Theater and Creative Dramatics in the U.S. and Abroad		
4		Winifred Ward's Children's Theater of Evanston Play Scripts:	
	1	"Aladdin"	
	2	"The Blue Bird"	
	3	"The Boy Titian"	
	4	"Eagle's Nest Ranch"	
	5	"Goldilocks and the Three Bears"	
	6	"The Hole in the Wall" (two copies)	
	7	"Katrinka"	
8	"The Lost Princess"		

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
4	9	"The Maid of the Nile"		
	10	"Mary Poppins" (two copies)		
	11	"Mr. Popper's Penguins"		
	12	"The Poor Little Rich Girl"		
	13	"The Princess and the Vagabond"		
	14	"The Seven-League Boots"		
	15	"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"		
	16	"The Stolen Prince"		
	17	"Titian"		
	18	"Uncle Tom's Cabin"		
	19	"Youth ' s Highway"		
	5	1	Creative Dramatics Material written by Ward	
		2	Creative Dramatics Skits, Plays and Exercises for Children	
		3	Creative Dramatics Projects by Graduate Students of Ward	
		4	Pamphlet by Ward, "Choice and Direction of Children's Plays"	1928
		5	Review of Ward Book, "Creative Dramatics"	1930
		6	Reviews, Articles and Letters re. Ward Book, "Theater for Children"	1939-1940
		7	Reviews, Articles and Letters re. Ward Book, "Playmaking with Children"	1947-1948/ 2 nd Edition, 1957
		8	Reviews, Articles and Letters re. Ward Book, "Stories to Dramatize"	1952-1971
9		Outline, Essays and Letters re. Ward's AETA Pamphlet	1952	
10		Reviews, Orders and Letters re. Ward's Pamphlet, "Drama With and For Children" with Copy	1961	
11		Royalty Reports from Book Sales	1951-1973	
12		Chapter Written By W. Ward for Book Published in 1975		
6	1	Workshops, Lectures Correspondence	1951-1956	
	2	Workshops, Lectures Correspondence	1957-1966, n.d.	
	3	Workshop Letters from Seattle, Washington Workshop	June-July, 1963	
	4	Children's Theater Conferences, AETA	1944-1968	
	5	Conferences and Conventions File		
	6	Zonta Club of Evanston File		
7	1	Outlines, Drafts of Speeches, Articles Written By W. Ward		
	2	Outlines, Drafts of Speeches, Articles Written By W. Ward		
	3	Published Magazine Articles Written by W. Ward		
	4	Published Magazine Articles Not by Ward About Children's Theater, Creative Dramatics and Ward		

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
7	5	"Working Ideas" - Magazine Articles, Etc.	
	6	Handwritten Speeches and Notes by W. Ward	n.d.
	7	Handwritten Speeches and Notes by W. Ward, on index cards	
8	1	Winifred Ward Passports	1923-1952
	2	Winifred Ward Trip Diaries, 1923 and 1930 (Europe), 1936 (Russia), 1941(Mexico), 1952 (Hawaii)	1923-1952
	3	Scrapbook, black, 7"x10", Early Activities	C. 1910-1920
	4	Scrapbook, Fourth Theater Festival, Moscow-Leningrad	Sept.1-10, 1936
9		Additions to the Winifred Ward Papers, mostly by Individuals, 1974-1975:	
	1	1974 Committee Papers (Aurand Harris)	
	2	Professor E. K. Buehler, Correspondence, two scrapbooks	
	3	Fitzroy Davis, Correspondence	1969, 1972
	4	Elinor Rice Fuchs, Correspondence	1971, 1973
	5	Emily Pribble Gillies, Correspondence	1938-1972
	6	Jan Guffin, Correspondence	
	7	Professor Coleman Jennings, xeroxed Correspondence	1968-1971
	8	Virginia Koste, Correspondence, Booklet	
	9	Paul Kozelka, Correspondence	1957-1974
	10	Alvina E. Krause (via Hazel Easton), Correspondence	1973
	11	Helen Lee, Articles and Photographs	
	12	Nellie McCaslin, Correspondence	n.d.
	13	William McCreary, Correspondence, Children's Letters, 1Box Slides of Set Designs and Posters for Children's Theater of Evanston Productions (see also Packages 2 and 3)	
	14	Geraldine Brain Siks, Correspondence; Scrapbook, n.d.	1939-1974
	15	Geraldine Brain Siks, Correspondence; Scrapbook, n.d.	1939-1974
	16	Geraldine Brain Siks, Correspondence; Scrapbook, n.d.	1939-1974
		<u>PACKAGES (# under Folder column)</u>	
	1	Winifred Ward Scrapbook, also n.d. photographs.	1950-1952
	2	Children's Theater of Evanston Scrapbook	1925-1965
		Framed oversize award, April 24, 1971, Racine Children's Theater to Ward.	
	3	One set of 23 posters for play productions of the Children's Theater of Evanston, all done by Wm. McCreary. Poster board, mostly serigraphs.	Not dated by year
10	1	Sarah Spencer (via Hazel Easton), Correspondence	1971,1973

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10	2	Dean Roy V. Wood, School of Speech, Correspondence, Articles	1917-65
	3	Elizabeth Worrell, Correspondence, Photographs	1956, 1965
	4	Outline and Layout for the Winifred Ward Exhibit in N.U. Library by Northwestern University Archives	1974
	5	1975 Archives Material, including Obituary Notices, 1975 Archives Exhibit and Memorial Service for Winifred Ward. <i>NOTE: Folders 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 are from <u>1977 Additions</u></i>	1975
	6	Dorothy Schwartz Correspondence	1950s
	7	Dorothy Schwartz Correspondence	1960-1973
	8	Hazel Easton File: Speech, notes, clippings	1944-1977
	9	Linnie Mae (Mrs. W.E.) Brobston Correspondence	1958-1959
	10	Edward J. Crowley Correspondence	1928-1934, n.d.
	11	Paperback book: <u>Go Adventuring! A Celebration of Winifred Ward: America's First Lady of: Drama for Children</u> , Ed. By Ruth Beall Heinig, 1977, Anchorage Press.	1977
	12	Winifred Ward Scholar material, 1978; donated by Donna Stone Pesch, May 1978	1978

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SEPARATION RECORD

10 Books -

- 1) *Theater for Children*, Winifred Ward, first edition, 1939.
- 2) *Theater for Children*, Winifred Ward, second printing, 1944.
- 3) *Stories to Dramatize*, Winifred Ward, 1952.
- 4) *Playmaking With Children*, Winifred Ward, second edition, 1957.
- 5) *Creative Power: The Education of Youth in the Creative Arts*, Hughes Mearns, paperback edition, second revised edition, 1958.
- 6) *Creative Power*, Hughes Mearns, 1929.
- 7) *Creative Youth*, Hughes Mearns, 1928.
- 8) *Creative Dramatics in Home, School and Community*, Ruth Lease and Geraldine Brain Siks, 1952.
- 9) *Creative Dramatics - An Art for Children*, Geraldine Brain Siks, 1958.
- 10) *Children's Literature for Dramatization - An Anthology*, Geraldine Brain Siks, 1964.

All in University Archives, Room 110.

1 Hardbound Thesis - "The Contribution of Winifred Ward to the Children's Theater Movement in the United States," Mimye Wilson Bradley, M.A. Thesis, Speech and Drama, January 8, 1969. Room 110.

3 Disc Recordings - "A Dream Come True," six sides, 78 rpm, clay cut by Northwestern School of Speech. In Artifacts Cabinet.

2 Plaques - Two wooden triangular plaques with brass plates: 1. Theta Alpha Phi Award, presented to Winifred Ward, 1964, possibly the Medallion of Honor, for "unheralded teaching in the theater." 2. Zeta Phi Eta (Drama) Society, "Zeta of the Year Award to Winifred Louise Ward, Beta, August 30, 1961, For a Career of Outstanding Service in the Field of Speech." in the Artifacts Cabinet.

1 Award - In Room 110. "Citation - Winifred Ward - Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters - Adelphi College, August 26, 1953 ..." c. 26"x18".

Photographs - All photographs, except those in albums, scrapbooks or the addenda box, Box 91, have been removed from the collection and filed in the Archives' Photograph File under "Ward, Winifred Photographs - General," "Ward, Winifred Photographs - Children's Theater" and "Ward, Winifred Photographs - Creative Dramatics."

Set Designs and Sketches - The set designs and sketches for the Children's Theater of Evanston productions, mostly done by Wm. McCreary, have been removed from the collection and may be found in the Archives ma case, in a labelled portfolio. Included in the portfolio is the Zeta Phi Eta Acknowledgement to W. Ward for Children's Theater of Evanston, with her signature, n. d.

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NOTE: All oversized materials separated from the Winifred Ward Papers, including Packages 1, 2, and 3; a folder containing set designs and sketches for the Children's Theater of Evanston and an acknowledgment of Ward's work from Zeta Phi Eta fraternity; and three folders containing posters from the Children's Theater of Evanston, have been shelved in Archives' Room 111B, Range U, Shelf 9.

Kevin Leonard

April 27, 1981

NOTE: The Winifred Ward Papers include an honorary doctor of humane letters degree presented to Ward in 1953 by Adelphi College. The degree is contained in an oversized folder and shelved in Archives' Room 111B, Range U, Shelf 0.

Kevin Leonard

April 28, 1981

Description of the Additions

Five pieces of correspondence from Winifred Ward to Anne Thurman, Professor of Drama at the Northwestern University School of Speech have been added to the Papers. This correspondence (Accession #81-164) has been inter-filed with the General Correspondence, Box 1, Folder 6. The added correspondence is dated: May 11, 1967; September 23, 1971; October, 1971; November, 1971; and January 23, 1973.

Kevin Leonard

July 31, 1981

Nine posters for productions of the Children's Theatre of Evanston were added to the Ward Papers as accession #82-24. The Posters were donated by Anne Thurman, Professor of Theatre. The posters are shelved in Room 111B, Range U, Shelf 0.

Debby Wright

March 11, 1982