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Davis, Anne Pence, 1901-1982 (MSS 373)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 373 DAVIS, Anne Pence, 1901-1982

5 boxes. 46 folders. 725 items. 1929-1976.
 Originals, photocopies, photographs, audiotape.

1973.86.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Anne Elizabeth Pence, daughter of Dr. William H. Pence (1853-1914) and Nettie Pence (1870-1961), was born on 25 July 1901 in Guthrie, Kentucky. Anne grew up in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where she graduated from Bowling Green High School in 1916. She received a bachelor's degree in education from the Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College (now Western Kentucky University) in 1925. On 24 December 1925, Anne married Richard Earl "Dick" Davis (1903-1957), a native of Sturgis, Kentucky. In June 1926, they moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, where Dick worked as a buyer for the Perkins-Timberlake chain of stores.

Anne Pence Davis became involved in civic and literary activities in Wichita Falls. She joined the Manuscript Club, a local group of professional writers. She published poetry and reviews, worked in radio, and in 1927 accepted a position at the *Wichita Daily Times*, where she wrote advertising copy and a column called "Come A-Shopping With Mary Ann." She also became involved with the Camp Fire Girls, completing the Guardian training course, achieving the rank of Torch Bearer, and eventually serving on the national board.

Through her work creating programs for the Camp Fire Girls, Davis developed an interest in writing juvenile fiction. In 1935, Chicago's Goldsmith Publishing Company accepted her manuscript for what became *Mimi at Camp* as part of its "Tomboy Series," and contracted with Davis for a second book, *Mimi at Sheridan School*. The third book in the series, *Mimi's House Party*, was published in 1936. The *Mimi* books, which featured the adventures of extroverted Mimi Hammond and her friends, were popular with young audiences, especially girls in Kentucky, as *Mimi's House Party* was set in Bowling Green and *Mimi at Camp* featured a visit to Mammoth Cave. The books were also appealing for their portrayal of a "real" girl. Writing to Davis (Box 1, Folder 6) in 1976, a woman who had read the books as a child contrasted Mimi with more Pollyanna-like characters who "never had to go to school, never were reprimanded by their mothers, [and] never did anything 'dumb.'"

In 1938, Davis published *Wishes Are Horses*, another story for adolescent girls. The book was adopted by the Texas State Board of Education for its Junior High School free reading list and sold 40,000 copies in its first year. The Dallas Camp Fire Girls also adapted the book for a series of radio broadcasts. In 1940, Davis published a novel, *The Customer is Always*

Right. Set in a fictional Texas department store, it became an alternate Book of the Month Club selection. In 1960, Davis returned to juvenile fiction with *The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch*, which received Writers Roundup honors from the Austin, Texas chapter of Theta Sigma Phi, the national fraternity for women in journalism.

Throughout her career, Davis published many book reviews, poems and haiku, and her success in fiction put her in demand as a speaker. She also published articles on the technique of writing and reviewing, and participated in writers' conferences, workshops, arts festivals and summer college courses. In 1937, she was elected to the Texas Institute of Letters.

Anne Pence Davis died on 18 May 1982 in Wichita Falls, Texas and was buried in Sturgis, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, publications and associated material relating to the literary career of Anne Pence Davis (1901-1982).

Box 1 contains Davis's correspondence from 1929-1976. Box 1, Folder 2 contains personal and professional correspondence relating to her poetry and juvenile fiction writing, specifically her *Mimi* books and *Wishes Are Horses*. Included are letters from Goldsmith Publishing Company detailing its terms of acceptance for *Mimi at Camp* (originally titled *Hullie Finds the Trail*) and proposing a followup, *Mimi at Sheridan School*. Of interest are two letters from Goldsmith in 1934 and 1936 describing what the firm found acceptable and unacceptable in juvenile fiction submissions. Also included are fan letters from young readers of the *Mimi* books and other congratulatory letters from friends, organizations such as the Camp Fire Girls, and former schoolmates.

Box 1, Folders 3 and 4 contain primarily personal and professional correspondence relating to *The Customer is Always Right*, including letters of praise from friends and colleagues, invitations to speak and arrangements for appearances, interviews and book signings. Also included is a small amount of correspondence relating to the *Mimi* books, *Wishes are Horses*, and Davis's articles in the trade magazine *The Writer*.

Box 1, Folder 5 contains correspondence relating to the *Mimi* books, *Wishes are Horses*, and well regarded articles Davis published in *The Writer* before and after World War II. Of interest is a request to Davis to speak on behalf of "Bundles for Britain," an organization providing aid to Great Britain after the outbreak of war.

Box 1, Folder 6 contains primarily correspondence with editors (including those of many of the publications contained in Box 4) regarding submissions of articles and poetry. Included is correspondence with A. S. Burack, longtime editor of *The Writer*, arranging for articles and discussing article ideas. Of interest is a 1960 letter from Jesse Stuart, then on the faculty of the American University at Cairo, thanking Davis for a review of his book *God's Oddling*, and correspondence with two editors about Davis's anti-Vietnam War poem "Peace Parley." Also included are 1973 and 1975 letters from Davis regarding donation of her papers to the Kentucky Library & Museum and summarizing her current activities.

Box 1, Folder 7 contains undated correspondence, mostly from poetry magazine editors and fans of Davis's books and poems. Of interest is a letter from novel and short story writer Norma Patterson, from whom Davis sought advice about writing serials.

Box 1, Folder 8 contains photographs, mostly of Davis at various stages of her career. Also included is a photograph of her husband in military uniform.

Box 2 contains mostly scrapbook material including publications, notices, reviews and other publicity. Box 2, Folder 1 contains clippings, reviews, notices and speeches relating to the *Mimi* books. Box 2, Folder 2 contains notices, clippings and reviews relating to *Wishes Are Horses*. Box 2, Folders 3 and 4 contain a book jacket and scrapbook pages with notices, reviews and clippings relating primarily to *Wishes Are Horses*. Box 2, Folders 5 and 6 contain notices, clippings and reviews relating to *The Customer is Always Right*, and Folder 5 includes a sample book cover. Box 2, Folder 7 contains clippings of poems published by Davis from 1928-1935. Box 2, Folder 8 contains manuscript pages, galley proofs and page proofs for *The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch*.

Box 3 contains miscellaneous writings of Davis, clippings and other printed matter. Box 3, Folder 1 contains clippings, primarily from Texas newspapers, relating to Davis's writing, speaking and other literary activities. Box 3, Folder 2 contains book reviews by Davis. Box 3, Folder 3 contains notes, two radio scripts, and poems. Box 3, Folder 4 contains miscellaneous printed matter, including conference, book fair and Camp Fire Girls programs. Box 3, Folder 5 contains drafts of some of Davis's articles for *The Writer*. Box 3, Folder 6 contains material relating to the 1961 Theta Sigma Phi Writers Roundup Award given to Davis for *The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch*. Box 3, Folder 7 contains a biographical paper written by a student at Baylor University and based on a 1966 interview with Davis.

Box 4 contains publications, mostly journals of poetry and haiku, in which Davis's work appeared. Of interest (Folder 12) are three issues of *Let's Have a Chat*, an English-language magazine of poetry and prose published in Japan.

Box 5 contains miscellaneous material: Davis's award certificate from Theta Sigma Phi (Folder 1); a braille edition of *The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch* and accompanying notices (Folders 2 and 3); a leather-bound copy of *The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch* (Folder 4); and an audiotape of a 1971 radio interview with Davis (Folder 5).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Davis, Anne Pence	1929-1973	449 items
Folder 1	Inventory & biographical material		9 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1929-1939	97 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	Jan.-Apr. 1940	68 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	May-Dec. 1940	68 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1941-1948	38 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1960-1976	100 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	n.d.	56 items

Folder 8	Photographs	1936-1973, n.d.	13 items
BOX 2	Davis, Anne Pence	1935-1941	79 items
Folder 1	Clippings, notices, reviews, sketches relating to <i>Mimi</i> books	1935-1938	10 items
Folder 2	Notices, reviews, etc. of <i>Wishes Are Horses</i>	1938	10 items
Folder 3	<i>Wishes Are Horses</i> book jacket	[1938]	1 item
Folder 4	Scrapbook pages relating to <i>Wishes Are Horses</i> (19 pp.)	1938-1939	1 item
Folder 5	Reviews, notices, etc. relating to <i>The Customer is Always Right</i>	1940-1941	24 items
Folder 6	Scrapbook pages with clippings, reviews, notices, etc. (53 pp.)	1940-1941	1 item
Folder 7	Clippings of poems from scrapbook	1928-1935	21 items
Folder 8	<i>The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch</i> – Manuscript pages, galley proofs and page proofs	[1940]	11 items
BOX 3	Davis, Anne Pence	1929-1976	127 items
Folder 1	Clippings	1929-1976	42 items
Folder 2	Book reviews by Anne Pence Davis	1930-1964	49 items
Folder 3	Miscellaneous – radio scripts, notes, poems written to Anne Pence Davis	1931-1940, n.d.	9 items
Folder 4	Miscellaneous programs and printed matter	1936-1941, n.d.	13 items
Folder 5	Articles by Anne Pence Davis on writing and reviewing	ca. 1940-1962	4 items
Folder 6	Theta Sigma Phi Writers Roundup Award – program, clippings, etc.	1961	8 items

Folder 7	“Anne Pence Davis” – paper by Connie (Sanders) Jurecek	1966, 1973	2 items
BOX 4	Davis, Anne Pence – Publications	1966-1972	64 items
Folder 1	<i>Southwester; Southern Literary Messenger</i>	1938, 1940	2 items
Folder 2	<i>The American Bard</i>	1968-1969	3 items
Folder 3	<i>The Angels</i>	1967-1968	4 items
Folder 4	<i>Bitterroot</i>	1968	1 item
Folder 5	<i>Driftwood</i>	1967-1972	5 items
Folder 6	<i>Encore</i>	1967-1972	6 items
Folder 7	<i>The Green World</i>	1966	2 items
Folder 8	<i>Haiku Highlights</i>	1966-1972	15 items
Folder 9	<i>Haiku West</i>	1969-1971	3 items
Folder 10	<i>Imprints Quarterly</i>	1967-1970	6 items
Folder 11	<i>Jean’s Journal</i>	1967-1970	3 items
Folder 12	<i>Let’s Have a Chat</i>	1968-1969	3 items
Folder 13	<i>New Mexico</i>	1966	1 item
Folder 14	<i>Orphic Lute</i>	1966	1 item
Folder 15	<i>Prairie Poet</i>	1968	1 item
Folder 16	<i>Sonnet Cinquain Tanka Haiku (SCTH)</i>	1969-1972	4 items
Folder 17	<i>Swordsman Review</i>	1968-1969	3 items
Folder 18	<i>Today’s Family</i>	1970	1 item
BOX 5	Davis, Anne Pence	1960-1971	6 items
Folder 1	Theta Sigma Phi award certificate	1961	1 item

Folder 2	<i>The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch</i> – notice relating to braille and tape editions	n.d.	2 items
Folder 3	<i>The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch</i> – Braille edition	n.d.	1 item
Folder 4	<i>The Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch</i> – leather-bound copy	1960	1 item
Folder 5	Audiotape of interview with Meg Healy, KIXL	1971	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DAVIS, Anne Pence, 1929-1976
373 1901-1982

Correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, publications and associated material relating to the literary career of Anne Pence Davis, a poet, reviewer, novelist, and author of juvenile fiction who grew up in Bowling Green, Kentucky and lived in Wichita Falls, Texas after her marriage.

5 boxes. 46 folders. 725 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs, audiotape.
1973.86.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Achning, Estellyn Allday, 1909-2003 B1,F3
 Acree, Fred, 1878-1947 B1,F4,5
 Allred, James V., 1899-1959 B1,F3
 Allred, Joe Betsy (Miller), 1905-1993 B1,F3,7
 Authors
 Bell, Jean, b. 1923 B1,F2,7
 Braille books B5,F3
 Brake, Lucy J., b. 1924 B1,F2
 Briley, Alice S., 1914-1998 B1,F6
 Burack, Abraham S., 1908-1978 – Correspondence B1,F4-7
 Calkins, Jean B1,F6,7
 Camp Fire Girls – Relating to B1,F2; B2,F4; B3,F1,4
 Cheyney, Edward Ralph, 1896-1941 B1,F2
 Crabb, Alfred Leland, 1884-1979 B1,F5

Crosman, Mary B1,F2
 Crosman, Mary – Photo B1,F2
Customer is Always Right, The – Relating to B1,F3-5,7; B2,F5,6
 Davis, Anne Pence, 1901-1982 – Photos B1,F8
 Davis, Dotty Jane B1,F2
 Davis, Richard Earl “Dick,” 1903-1957 – Letters to B1,F4
 Davis, Richard Earl “Dick,” 1903-1957 – Photo B1,F8
 Dickey, Myra (Heston), 1863-1951 B1,F2
 Fiction – Juvenile
 Fisher, Evalie M. B1,F3
 Fletcher, Winifred B., 1895-1995 B1,F5
 Goldsmith Publishing Company – Chicago, Illinois – Relating to B1,F2; B2,F1
 Gorin, John “Big Top” B1,F3
 Gorin, John T. – Relating to B1,F3
 Grider, Dorothy, b. 1915 B1,F5
 Gulick, William “Bill,” b. 1916 B1,F5
 Handy, Riley Dean, 1941-2010 – Letters to B1,F6
 Handy, Riley Dean, 1941-2010 – Photos B1,F8
 Healy, Meg – Relating to B5,F5
 Helm, Margie May, 1894-1991 B1,F4
 Jewell, Rhoda DeLong B1,F6,7
 Johnson, Marie Engle B1,F7
 Jurecek, Connie (Sanders) B3,F7
 Keel, James “Blackfoot” B1,F6
 Keel, James “Blackfoot” – Photo B1,F6
Mimi at Camp – Relating to B1,F2,4,5,7; B2,F1
Mimi at Sheridan School – Relating to B1,F2,4,7; B2,F1
Mimi’s House Party – Relating to B1,F2,4; B2,F1
 Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 B1,F4
 O’Daniel, Molly, 1922-1996 B1,F2
 Patterson, Norma, 1889?-1991 B1,F7
 Paxton, Eugenia Ellen (Gerard), 1901-1999 B1,F2,7; B3,F1
 Paxton, Jean Estelle, b. 1924 B1,F2,7
 Paxton, Martha Anne, 1926-1986 B1,F2,7
 Paxton, Martha Anne, 1926-1986 – Photo B1,F8
 Peete, Anne B1,F3
 Periodicals, 1929-1970
 Picola, Henry B1,F6
 Poetry B2,F7; B3,F3; B4,F1-17
 Poets
 Rhoads, Dorothy M. B1,F7
 Richards, Frances, 1893-1991 B1,F3
 Robertson, Claudia Fletcher B2,F1
 Saunders, Whitelaw, 1879-1934 B1,F2
 Skinner, Murray – Correspondence B1,F6
 Stuart, Jesse Hilton, 1907-1984 B1,F6

Temple, Alvis Howard, 1904-1992 B1,F2,3
 Theta Sigma Phi – Relating to B3,F6; B5,F1
Top Hand of Lone Tree Ranch, The – Relating to B1,F6; B2,F8; B5,F2-4
 Vawter, Parke, b. 1885 B1,F7
 Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Poetry B1,F6,7; B4,F2
 Wallace, Winifred B1,F2
 Wells, Lewis Carl, 1903-1988 B1,F2
 Wickers, Anne D. B1,F2
 Wilson, Talmadge – Relating to B2,F1
Wishes Are Horses – Relating to B1,F2,4,5,7; B2,F2-4
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Bundles for Britain, Inc. – Relating to B1,F5

SEE or SEE ALSO

Merk, Saul
 See:
 Johnson, Marie Engle

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 06/30/2011