5-3-2012

Moore, Mary Elizabeth (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 (MSS 387)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Mary Elizabeth (Taylor) Leiper Moore was born 21 August 1885 in Nashville, Tennessee. After completing high school, Moore attended Peabody College in Nashville and received a teacher's certificate. She spent three years teaching for the Nashville City Schools.

On 27 November 1907, she married Macon Anderson Leiper, an English professor. They had one daughter, Elizabeth. The couple moved to Bowling Green in January 1908 after Leiper received a faculty position at Western Kentucky State Normal School. It was in Bowling Green that Moore took her first job as a librarian. She served as the librarian for Bowling Green High School for two years. Leiper retired from the English department in 1926, due to his poor health. Moore’s next position was as librarian of the Training School at WKU, while working on her library science degree during the 1930s.

In 1931, President Henry Hardin Cherry hired Moore to collect Kentuckiana and organize the Kentucky Library & Museum. Leiper’s health progressively worsened, and he died in 1936. On 16 February 1938, Mary married her second husband, Frank P. Moore, a clothing merchant. Mrs. Moore was active in many organizations throughout the state. She served as president of the Kentucky Library Association (KLA). She participated in the League of Women Voters, Kentucky Education Association, the Filson Club, Bowling Green Country Club and the Bowling Green Rotary Club auxiliary. Moore was named to Who’s Who in Kentucky, Who’s Who in South & Southwest and Who’s Who Among American Women.

Moore wrote several articles about the Kentucky Library & Museum and Bowling Green history. She also gave many speeches through her position, addressing the Filson Club, WKU, the people of Bowling Green, and the KLA. She served as the hostess of a radio show for four years concerning Kentucky history and the resources found in the Kentucky Library & Museum.

Moore retired in 1956, changing her position from active librarian to writer and adviser. Her second husband, Frank Moore, died in 1963 after suffering from a three-year illness. Mrs. Moore died at age 87 at her daughter’s home in Louisville on 24 April 1973.
COLLECTION NOTES

The collection consists chiefly of radio scripts, research notes, newspaper clippings, and correspondence of Mary (Taylor) Leiper Moore; the files deal with Kentucky history and culture. Boxes 1-3 contain scripts, research notes, and correspondence relating to the radio shows which Moore hosted. These are arranged alphabetically by title or topic. Her discussion topics typically included items and stories related to Bowling Green or Kentucky. A few items of particular interest include dueling, the Harpe brothers, “the Cry of Rachel” radio drama about Rachel Eddington, and the Great Diamond Hoax.

Box 4 and 5 contain articles written by Moore concerning Kentucky and the materials found in the Kentucky Library & Museum. Also included in these boxes are research materials for potential radio show topics. Box 5 also contains public relations material and business correspondence about the Kentucky Library & Museum. Box 6 contains speeches given by Moore at various organizations (KLA, etc.), but the majority of this box contains items relating to the Kentucky Library & Museum: material about the building’s dedication, correspondence, and additional public relations material. Boxes 7-10 are chiefly correspondence between Moore and potential donors to help build the Kentucky Library & Museum's collections. Also included in boxes 7-10 are requests from various researchers, authors, genealogists, etc. for reference material.

SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Radio Shows, A-I</th>
<th>1923-1953</th>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Descriptive Inventory and biographical information</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Radio Show: Barren River</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Radio Show: Beauchamp’s Trial</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Radio Show: Bowling Green, Kentucky</td>
<td>Apr. 1950</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Radio Show: Bowling Green Railroad</td>
<td>Feb. 1947</td>
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<td>Radio Show: Bowling Green and Warren County in 1840 and 1950</td>
<td>Jan. 1953</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<td>Radio Show: “Bundles for America”</td>
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<td>Radio Show: Mary Jo Diddle’s Button Collection</td>
<td>Feb. 1947</td>
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<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Radio Show: The California Gold Rush</td>
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<td>Folder</td>
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<td>Date/Year</td>
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<td>Radio Show: Choctaw Indian Academy</td>
<td>Oct. 1948</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Radio Show: Church Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 1941</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Radio Show: Captain Robert Craddock</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Radio Show: “Cry of Rachel”</td>
<td>1936-1946</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Radio Show: Dangerous Angel by Clarence Budington Kelland</td>
<td>Feb. 1953</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Radio Show: Dolls and Doll Furniture</td>
<td>Dec. 1947</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Radio Show: Dolls and Toys</td>
<td>Dec. 1947</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Radio Show: Dueling in Kentucky</td>
<td>Mar. 1953</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Radio Show: Earthquake of 1811</td>
<td>Apr. 1951</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Radio Show: Dr. Fridella Edwards</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Radio Show: Father’s Day, 1944</td>
<td>June 1944</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Radio Show: Bowling Green Fire Department</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Radio Show: Recollections of Henry Fox</td>
<td>Jan. 1946</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Radio Show: Girls’ Basketball at WKU</td>
<td>Feb. 1953</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Radio Show: The Great Revival of 1800</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Radio Show: Green River: At the Present</td>
<td>Oct. 1953</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Radio Show: Green and Barren Rivers</td>
<td>Oct. 1953</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Radio Show: Asbury Harpending</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Radio Show: The Harpes</td>
<td>Oct. 1923; n.d.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Radio Show: William Shakespeare Hays</td>
<td>Dec. 1946; n.d.</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Radio Show: Margie Helm Contributions</td>
<td>Jan. 1948</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Radio Show: Questions for Mr. Hines</td>
<td>Jan. 1947</td>
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<td>Folder</td>
<td>Radio Show:</td>
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<td>Items</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>History of Logan County, as told in the Kentucky Building</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Great Diamond Hoax</td>
<td>April 1949</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>WKU Homecoming</td>
<td>Oct. 1953</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Importance of Newspapers</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Bowling Green Industry</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>Feb. 1947</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>BOX 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Radio Shows, J-R</strong></td>
<td><strong>1935-1953</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jesse James</td>
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<td>3 items</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Edgar L. Jones Collection</td>
<td>Mar. 1953</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kentucky Architecture</td>
<td>Dec. 1940</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Kentucky Derby</td>
<td>May 1952</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kentucky Editors and Newspapers</td>
<td>1938-1947</td>
<td>18 items</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Kentucky Humor</td>
<td>1935; 1940; 1943</td>
<td>10 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kentuckiana</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Kentucky music</td>
<td>Feb. 1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Glasgow and Barren Counties, Kentucky on the March</td>
<td>Dec. 1946</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The Long Hunters in Warren County</td>
<td>Feb. 1948</td>
<td>22 items</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mammoth Cave</td>
<td>May 1948</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Medicine and Doctors in Kentucky Yesterday and Today</td>
<td>Nov. 1953</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>George Mercer</td>
<td>Nov. 1946</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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</table>
| Folder 14 | Radio Show: Money Collections | Oct. 1947 | 4 items  
| Folder 15 | Radio Show: Musical Instruments in the Kentucky Museum | Feb. 1947 | 1 item  
| Folder 16 | Radio Show: Old Music in the Kentucky Library | Nov. 1947 | 2 items  
| Folder 17 | Radio Show: Old Recordings by Kentucky Composers and Musicians | Oct. 1947 | 2 items  
| Folder 18 | Radio Show: Old Silver | Jan. 1948 | 1 item  
| Folder 19 | Radio Show: Post Offices in Kentucky | Nov. 1953 | 2 items  
| Folder 20 | Radio Show: Port Oliver Salt Works | May 1949 | 2 items  
| Folder 21 | Radio Show: Will Potter | Feb. 1949 | 1 item  
| Folder 22 | Radio Show: President Roosevelt, Ernie Pyle – and now Simon Bolivar Buckner | n.d. | 1 item  
| Folder 23 | Radio Show: Religion in Kentucky | n.d. | 1 item  
| Folder 24 | Radio Show: Miss Agatha Rochester's Trip | Nov. 1950 | 1 item  

**BOX 3**

**Radio Shows, R-W**

1935-1953  
52 items

| Folder 1 | Radio Show: Sandy Radio Skit | 1935-1936? | 1 item  
| Folder 2 | Radio Show: Sandy Radio Skit Materials | June 1935; Mar. 1936 | 3 items  
| Folder 3 | Radio Show: Shaker Materials | Sept. 1943; June 1944. | 5 items  
| Folder 4 | Radio Show: Isaac Shelby, First Governor of Kentucky | Oct. 1949 | 1 item  
| Folder 5 | Radio Show: “Silent Night, Holy Night” | Dec. 1952 | 1 item  
| Folder 6 | Radio Show: *Spirit of the Times* Newspaper, 1826 | Nov. 1946 | 1 item  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Radio Show</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Radio Show: State Fair in Bowling Green</td>
<td>Feb. 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Radio Show: Miss Sibyl Stonecipher</td>
<td>Apr. 1947</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Radio Show: Vinegar and Brown Paper by Dr. Carter</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Radio Show: Transportation in Bowling Green</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Radio Show: Tobacco</td>
<td>Dec. 1950</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Radio Show: Van Meter Collection</td>
<td>Jan. 1948</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Radio Show: Visitors</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Radio Show: Warren County Court Houses</td>
<td>Oct. 1953</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Radio Show: Warren County, Kentucky</td>
<td>Jan. 1953</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Radio Show: Warren County Writers</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Radio Show: Western Kentucky in State History</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>Radio Show: Winter Weather Conditions in Bowling Green in Past Years</td>
<td>Dec. 1950</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>Radio Show: World War I</td>
<td>Nov. 1952</td>
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<td>Folder 20</td>
<td>Radio Show: World War II – Research notes</td>
<td>Dec. 1943; Jun.-Jul. 1944; May 1945</td>
<td>6 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 21</td>
<td>Radio Show: World War II – Western in Service</td>
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**BOX 4**

**Articles, Research for Radio Shows, and Correspondence**

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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>ABCs of Kentucky</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Amusements</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Article: “Bowling Green: City of the South”</td>
<td>July 1942; Oct. – Nov. 1945;</td>
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Folder 4  Article: “Musical Activities”  n.d.  1911  1 item
Folder 5  John James Audubon  n.d.  1 item
Folder 6  Article: “Bowling Green Musical Activity”  April 1917  1 item
Folder 7  Chapel talk: Isaac Shelby  1938  1 item
Folder 8  City educational program  n.d.  1 item
Folder 9  Civil War essay  n.d.  1 item
Folder 10  Materials: Choctaw Indian Academy  1825-1942;  11 items
Folder 11  Correspondence  1941; 1947;  1951  36 items
Folder 12  Criticism of A.L. Crabb’s books  n.d.  1 item
Folder 13  Poem about H.H. Denhardt: “Sad the Fate of Soldier Henry”  n.d.  1 item
Folder 14  Isaac B. Desha  1825; 1946;  1948-49; 1952;  22 items
Folder 15  “Do You Remember When” Park City Daily News  July 1942  2 items
Folder 16  Education – Radio notes  n.d.  4 items

**Box 5**  Articles and Research for Radio Shows  1930-1954  40 items
Folder 1  Paper: “Mammoth Cave Serves in Five Wars” May 1942  2 items
Folder 2  Memorandum book  n.d.  1 item
Folder 3  Article: “Modern Life Versus Yesterday and Today” and related items  July 1954  3 items
Folder 4  Poem: “Mythology is Dead, Yet Liveth,”  1930  1 item
Folder 5  Newspaper clippings about the Kentucky Library & Museum  1940-1946  14 items
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 6</th>
<th>Notes on Kentucky women’s prose writers</th>
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<td>Notes on outlaws</td>
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<td>Kentucky Library &amp; Museum – Accession records</td>
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<td><strong>BOX 6</strong></td>
<td>Research Notes and Speeches; Articles and Information Relating to the Kentucky Building</td>
<td>1800-1968; n.d.</td>
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<td>Minutes of old churches</td>
<td>1800-1945</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Notes about Samuel Constantine Rafinesque</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td><em>The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society</em> Vol. 49 No. 167</td>
<td>April 1951</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Silk industry in Kentucky – Research notes</td>
<td>1836-1945</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Speech: “Library’s Contribution to Democracy”</td>
<td>1838;1950</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Speech: Logan County and Russellville Materials</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Speech: “Elizabeth Madox Roberts” and related materials</td>
<td>1928-1940</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Speech: “Unusual Books of the Year”</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous speeches</td>
<td>1940-1942</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Toast for Louisville dinner: “Laughing with Ludie”</td>
<td>Nov. 1952</td>
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<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Roland Trevor material</td>
<td>1827-1946</td>
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<td>Warren County – Early history</td>
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<td>1942-1950</td>
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<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Kentucky Library &amp; Museum – Public relations material, correspondence</td>
<td>1936-1954</td>
<td>27 items</td>
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<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Kentucky Library &amp; Museum – Articles and speeches</td>
<td>1862-1939</td>
<td>19 items</td>
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<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Kentucky Building – Items relating to building dedication</td>
<td>1939;1940; 1942</td>
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<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>Miscellaneous poems and songs</td>
<td>Mar. 1945</td>
<td>10 items</td>
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<td>Folder 19</td>
<td>Moore’s application for certificate of librarianship</td>
<td>after 1930</td>
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<td>Folder 20</td>
<td>Miscellaneous papers and notes</td>
<td>1931-1959</td>
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<td>Folder 21</td>
<td>Information regarding accessions for the Kentucky Building</td>
<td>1936-1968</td>
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**BOX 7**

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<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1926-1932</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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**BOX 8**

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<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>95 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>153 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>208 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>Jan.-Jun. 1940</td>
<td>172 items</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>Jul.-Dec. 1940</td>
<td>131 items</td>
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**BOX 9**  
**Correspondence Relating to Kentucky Building**  
1941-1946  
537 items

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Folder 1</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>1941</th>
<th>116 items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>121 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>83 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>65 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>82 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>70 items</td>
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**BOX 10**  
**Correspondence Relating to Kentucky Building**  
1947-1962  
249 items

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Folder 1</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>1947</th>
<th>84 items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1948-1949</td>
<td>39 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1950-1962</td>
<td>74 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>52 items</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS 387  
MOORE, Mary Elizabeth (Taylor)  
Leiper, 1885-1973  
1800-1968

Radio scripts, correspondence, research notes, and newspaper clippings of Kentucky Building director, Mary (Taylor) Leiper Moore. Moore served as director of the Kentucky Building at Western Kentucky University from 1931 to 1956. Also includes articles and speeches written by Moore.  
10 boxes. 147 folders. 2,564 items. Originals and photocopies.  
1956.12.1
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SEE and SEE ALSO

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Burns, Mary Anne (Walker), 1894-1966

Lady Toppers
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Western Kentucky University – Basketball – Women

Leiper, Mary (Taylor), 1885-1973
See:
Moore, Mary Elizabeth (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973

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See:
O’Rear, Eleanor (Hume) Offutt, 1925-1988

Sachs, Jane Ellen, 1918-2009
See:
Hodes, Jane Ellen (Sachs), 1918-2009

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