

# **Guide to the Helene Mullins and Marie McCall Papers**

**YCAL MSS 767**



by Drew Adan and Lisa Conathan

2013-07-22

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Helene Mullins (1899-1991) .....	4
Marie McCall (circa 1903-1986) .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I. Helene Mullins Papers, 1870-1985 .....	6
Correspondence .....	6
Photographs .....	6
Writings .....	7
Series II. Marie McCall Papers, 1934-circa 1980 .....	8
Diaries .....	8
Writings .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 767

**CREATOR:** Mullins, Helene, 1899-1991

**TITLE:** Helene Mullins and Marie McCall papers

**DATES:** 1870-1985

**BULK DATES:** 1926-1985

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Helene Mullins and Marie McCall Papers consists of correspondence, writings, and photographs by and relating to the American authors and sisters Helene Mullins and Marie McCall. Correspondence is highly fragmentary, consisting chiefly of letters from Jean and Zohmah Charlot and John Hall Wheelock to Helene Mullins. Photographs depict Mullins and McCall from childhood to later adulthood, and also include portraits and snapshots of family members and friends. Writings include drafts of Mullins's poetry, an autobiographical novel by Mullins entitled *The Loving are Daring*, and the unpublished diaries of Marie McCall.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mullins>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mullins>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Serendipity Books on the Elizabeth Wakeman Dwight Memorial Fund, 1999.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Helene Mullins and Marie McCall Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Helene Mullins and Marie McCall Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat ZA MS 626, Uncat ZA File 406

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. This collection was processed, including organization into series and listing, in 2013.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Helene Mullins (1899-1991)

Helene Mullins (née Gallagher), American poet and novelist, was born in New York City in 1899, and was active from the 1920s (by which time she had already married Ivan Mullins) through the 1960s. She and her sister Marie McCall collaborated on their first novel, *Paulus Fy* (New York: Robert M. McBride & Company) in 1924. Mullins's breakthrough as an author came when a novel, *Convent girl*, and a volume of poetry, *Earthbound & other poems*, were published by Harper and Bros. in 1929. In 1935 she was involved in a near-fatal car accident, and soon thereafter she and McCall moved to Hollywood, California, for a lengthy convalescence. Except for this period, and time spent in Washington, D.C., during the Second World War, Mullins lived her entire life in New York City. She continued to publish poems (under the name Mullins, though she later married Linné Johnson) in journals and collected volumes until 1970. Helene Mullins died in Manhattan in 1991.

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## Marie McCall (circa 1903-1986)

Marie McCall (née Gallagher), American author and painter, date of birth recorded variously as circa 1903 or 1909. Marie McCall and her sister Helene Mullins spent much of their early adulthood living and working together. They collaborated on their first novel, *Paulus Fy* (New York: Robert M. McBride & Company) in 1924. McCall also published *The Evening Wolves* (New York: John Day Company, 1949), a novel inspired by Salem witchcraft. Born in New York City, McCall spent much of the latter half of her life in Woodstock, New York, where she died in 1986.

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## Scope and Contents

The Helene Mullins and Marie McCall Papers consists of correspondence, writings, and photographs by and relating to the American authors and sisters Helene Mullins and Marie McCall. Correspondence is fragmentary, consisting chiefly of letters from Jean and Zohmah Charlot and John Hall Wheelock to Helene Mullins. Photographs depict Mullins and McCall from childhood to later adulthood, and also include portraits and snapshots of family members and friends. Writings include drafts of Mullins's poetry, an autobiographical novel by Mullins entitled *The Loving are Daring*, and the unpublished diaries of Marie McCall.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Helene Mullins Papers, 1870-1985. II. Marie McCall Papers, 1934-circa 1980.

## Collection Contents

### Series I. Helene Mullins Papers, 1870-1985

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

The Helene Mullins Papers consists of correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed material that document the life and work of author Helene Mullins. Correspondence is fragmentary, consisting chiefly of letters from John Hall Wheelock and Jean and Zohmah Charlot. Writings of John Hall Wheelock and of Jean Charlot are filed with their correspondence. Photographs include snapshots and studio portraits of Mullins's parents, of Marie McCall, of the Charlot family, and of other friends, colleagues, and family members, dating from the late nineteenth century through the 1980s. Writings include a typescript draft of an unpublished novel, *The Loving are Daring*, as well as poems and prospectuses.

Organized into three subseries: Correspondence, Photographs, and Writings.

#### Correspondence

##### Charlot, Jean, and Zohmah Charlot

b. 1, f. 1	<i>Catalogue of the Prints of Jean Charlot</i> , printed version	1981
b. 1, f. 2	<i>What Do You Do With a Book?</i> , by Jean and Zohmah Charlot, proofs	undated
b. 1, f. 3	<i>Jean Charlot Retrospective</i> , printed version	1966
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Obra Pictoria de Jean Charlot</i> , printed version	circa 1968
b. 1, f. 5	"A Forgotten Novel of American Catholicism," review of Helene Mullin's <i>Convent Girl</i> , typescript	1985
b. 1, f. 6	Letters to Helene Mullins	1981-1991
Robinson, Edwin Arlington		
b. 1, f. 7	Letters to Helene Mullins	1926, 1928
Wheelock, John Hall		
b. 1, f. 8	"Easthampton," poem, holograph	1928 October
b. 1, f. 9	"The Letter," poem, holograph	undated
b. 1, f. 10	"Prayer to the Sun," poem, holograph, and greeting card	1930
b. 1, f. 11	"Silence (in memory of my father)," poem, holograph	undated
b. 1, f. 12	"There is a secret..." , poem, holograph	undated
b. 1, f. 13-27	Letters to Helene Mullins	1926-1972, undated

#### Photographs

b. 1, f. 28	Charlot family	1948, undated
b. 1, f. 29	Gallagher family	1870-1961
b. 1, f. 30	Helene Mullins	1917-1981

## Photographs (continued)

b. 2, f. 31	Marie McCall	1917-1981
b. 2, f. 32	Paintings by Marie McCall	1966-1982
b. 2, f. 33	Reception for Helene Mullins	1970 April 16
b. 2, f. 34	Friends, family, and pets	1953-1985, undated

## Writings

Arranged alphabetically by title. Reviews of various works are filed at the end.

b. 2, f. 35	"Between Two Worlds" (short story), typescript, copy	undated
b. 2, f. 36	"Chronicle of the Lives of Two Sisters" (prospectus for a novel), typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 37	<i>Convent Girl</i> (reviews), typescript, copy	undated
b. 2, f. 38	"Literary Reminiscences (Writers I have Known)" (prospectus for a memoir), typescript, copy	undated
b. 2, f. 39-40	<i>The Loving are Daring</i> (novel), typescript	undated
	"Maxwell Bodenheim" (essay)	
b. 2, f. 41	Draft, typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 42	Related clippings and correspondence	1958, undated
b. 2, f. 43	"Medical Examination," typescripts	undated
b. 2, f. 44	"Response to Birthday Greeting," (poem), typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 45	"The Sisters" (poem), typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 46	Reviews of writings by Helene Mullins	undated

**Series II. Marie McCall Papers, 1934-circa 1980***0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The Marie McCall Papers includes diaries of Marie McCall from 1934 to 1977, including some transcripts, a draft of the novel *Living Together*, and other writings of Marie McCall.

Organized into two subseries: Diaries and Writings. Diaries are arranged chronologically and writings are arranged alphabetically by title.

**Diaries**

Diaries are arranged chronologically, followed by transcripts.

b. 3, f. 47	Book 41	1957
b. 3, f. 48	Book 44	1958–58
b. 3, f. 49	Diary	1977 July-August
b. 3, f. 50	Diary	1983-1984
b. 3, f. 51	Diary	1985 May-August
b. 3, f. 52	Transcript of letters from "Fred", typescript	1934, undated
b. 3, f. 53	Transcript of letters from Seamus, typescript	1934, undated
b. 3, f. 54-56	Transcript of diary entries, typescript <i>3 Folders</i>	undated

**Writings**

Arranged alphabetically by title. Untitled works are filed at the end.

b. 3, f. 57	<i>Letters to Pop</i> , typescript	circa 1980
b. 3, f. 58	<i>Living Together</i> , typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 59	<i>The Long Adventure</i> , printed version	1946
b. 4, f. 60	<i>Nathaniel Moleskin and the Chinese Princess and Other Stories</i> , printed	1931
b. 4, f. 61	<i>We</i> , typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 62	<i>We are the Same Life</i> , typescript	1972 February
b. 4, f. 63	Chapters from and unfinished biography of Louis Eilshemius, typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 64-67	Notes and clippings <i>4 Folders</i>	undated
b. 4, f. 68	Reviews of Marie McCall's writings	undated



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

American literature -- 20th Century  
American poetry -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Photographic prints -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Charlot, Jean, 1932-  
Charlot, Zohmah  
McCall, Marie, 1909-  
Mullins, Helene, 1899-1991  
Wheelock, John Hall, 1886-1978

### **Contributors**

Mullins, Helene, 1899-1991  
McCall, Marie, 1909-