

**E.M. Delafield fonds**

RBSC-ARC-1164

Finding aid

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Rare Books and Special Collections  
University of British Columbia Library

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## **Fonds description**

### **E.M. Delafield fonds**

[ca. 1932 – 1963]

38 cm of textual material

38 photographs

**Biographical sketch:** The British author E.M. Delafield, 1890-1943, was the pseudonym of Edmée Elizabeth Monica Dashwood, the daughter of the novelist Mrs. Henry de la Pasture. Her pseudonym is a variant on her maiden name. In 1919, she married Arthur Dashwood and had two children, a son killed in the Second World War and a daughter named Ros Truelove.

In the First World War, she served as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse in Exeter and later worked for the Ministry of National Service at Bristol. Delafield published about forty novels and three plays. From her first novel, *Zella Sees Herself* (1917), her books were consistently best sellers. Her most popular novel was *The Diary of a Provincial Lady* (1930). Women were featured prominently in her writing. Delafield was also a popular lecturer, travelled extensively in the United States and Russia, and wrote about both countries. She was a contributor to *Punch* for eleven years and was known for her satire and wit. In addition, Delafield wrote several studies in criminology and on the Bronte family, and participated in and wrote a number of radio talks and plays.

**Custodial history:** The fonds had been donated in the 1970s by Ros Truelove, E.M. Delafield's daughter.

**Scope and content:** Fonds reflects E.M. Delafield's career and interests as a writer and lecturer in the early decades of the twentieth century. Some of the items in the fonds were also made or received by persons related to E.M. Delafield.

Textual records in the fonds consist of letters related to Delafield's research and writing on the British author Charlotte Yonge and unpublished manuscripts, plays, short articles, book reviews, and lectures written by Delafield pertaining to her interests in Charlotte Yonge, women, religion, the lives of the British upper class, and other subjects. The fonds also includes clippings, obituary notices, photographs, and records related to the writings of Lorna Lewis. Fonds consists of six series: Incoming letters; Manuscripts; Lecture notes; Newspaper clippings; Personal photographs; and Records related to Lorna Lewis.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

**Availability of other formats:** Microfilm copy available at UBC Library, Rare Books and Special Collections division.

**General note:** This RAD-compliant finding aid was made in 2009 by graduate students in the UBC Archival Studies program based on the finding aid made in 1976.

## **Series description**

### **Incoming letters**

[ca. 1936-1961]

0.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of incoming correspondence related to Delafield's interests in theatre, literature, and Charlotte Yonge. Series also includes a general box list of items in the Delafield fonds. The series is arranged alphabetically according to correspondent's last name.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

### **Manuscripts**

1932-1963

30 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of handwritten and typed novellas, short stories, plays, and book reviews relating to the various interests of Delafield. Novellas and short stories include *The Favourite*, *Feats On The Fiord*, *Shop Window*, *Feats*, *Provincial Lay in Wartime*, and *Straw Without Bricks*. Short stories include *Soviet Without Comment*, *To Speak My Mind*, and *As Others Hear Us*, as well as other various articles. Plays include *No Fury*, *Thorny Diadem*, and *To See Ourselves*. Book reviews include *Men Have No Imagination*, *Anglo Francaise*, *Career*, and *Why Get Married?* and numerous other articles. The series is arranged according to genre. The series also includes a subject file on Charlotte Yonge.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on content of the series.

**Restrictions on access, reproduction and publication note:** Rights to the manuscripts of E.M. Delafield held by Peters, Fraser & Dunlop Group, Ltd.

### **Lecture notes**

[194-?]

1 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of lecture notes on modern fiction, novel trends, writing techniques, books on war, Seattle Commune, minor Victorian novelists, children's literature and more. It also includes activity lists, itinerary notes and article clippings that are related to Delafield's lecture preparations.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on content of the series.

### **Newspaper clippings**

1943-1961, predominant 1947

3.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of newspaper clippings on various plays, short articles, book reviews written by or about Delafield. Also included are her obituaries. Memos accompany some clippings.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on content of the series.

### **Personal photographs**

[ca. 1910-1961]

26 photographs : b&w

12 photographs : nitrate negatives

**Scope and content:** Series consists of black and white photographs and negatives of Delafield's family, home and pets.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on nature of series.

### **Records related to Lorna Lewis**

[ca. 1947]

0.4 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of the typescript for Delafield's *Brides of Heaven* sent by Lorna Lewis to the Delafield family prior to the fonds' donation to UBC Library, and two news clippings pertaining to the writings of Lorna Lewis.

**Source of supplied title proper:** Title based on the name of the person predominantly responsible for the accumulation of the series.

**Restrictions on access, reproduction and publication note:** Rights to *Brides of Heaven* held by Peters, Fraser & Dunlop Group, Ltd.

## **File list**

### **Series:** Incoming letters

| <b>Location</b><br>(Box-file) | <b>File title</b> | <b>Date</b>   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1-1                           | Incoming letters  | ca. 1936-1961 |

### **Series:** Manuscripts

| <b>Location</b><br>(Box-file) | <b>File title</b>  | <b>Date</b>   |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 1-2                           | The favourite  | [193-?]       |
| 1-3                           | Feats on the fiord; Shop window  | [193-?]       |
| 1-4                           | Feats on the fiord (radio adaptation for children)                           | Oct. 1943     |
| 1-5                           | Gay life [correspondence and notes]  | 19 Sept. 1932 |
| 1-6                           | Gay life   | 11 Feb. 1933  |
| 1-7                           | Gwen   | [193-?]       |
| 1-8                           | Gwen   | Feb. 1963     |
| 2-1                           | Never call retreat, Provincial lady in wartime, and other unidentified plays | [ca. 1963]    |
| 2-2                           | Shop window  | [193-?]       |
| 2-3                           | Straw without bricks and other short stories                                 | 1936          |
| 2-4                           | Unidentified story   | [ca. 1940]    |
| 2-5                           | No fury  | [193-?]       |
| 2-6                           | Thorny diadem  | [193-?]       |
| 2-7                           | To see ourselves   | [before 1930] |
| 3-1                           | Book reviews and short articles  | [193-?]       |
| 3-2                           | Book reviews and short articles  | [193-?]       |
| 3-3                           | Book reviews and short articles  | [193-?]       |
| 3-4                           | Book reviews and short articles  | [193-?]       |
| 3-5                           | Book reviews and short articles  | 1935-1940     |
| 3-6                           | Subject file: Charlotte M. Yonge   | 1940          |

### **Series:** Lecture notes

| <b>Location</b><br>(Box-file) | <b>File title</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 3-7                           | Lecture notes     | [194-?]     |

### **Series:** Newspaper clippings

| <b>Location</b><br>(Box-file) | <b>File title</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 3-8                           | Book reviews      | 1947-1961   |
| 3-9                           | Obituary notices  | 1943        |

**Series:** Personal photographs

| <b>Location</b><br>(Box-file) | <b>File title</b> | <b>Date</b>     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 3-10                          | Delafield family  | [ca. 1910-1961] |

**Series:** Records related to Lorna Lewis

| <b>Location</b><br>(Box-file) | <b>File title</b>                     | <b>Date</b>   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 3-11                          | Brides of heaven                      | [before 1931] |
| 3-12                          | Book reviews on Mystery at lock house | Nov. 1947     |