

Papers of
LORENA HICKOK
1913 - 1962

Accession Number: MS 59-2

The papers were presented to the Library by Lorena Hickok in 1958. They were kept closed until ten years after her death (until May 1, 1978) according to a provision in her deed of gift. Miss Hickok donated her copyrights in the papers to the United States Government. Copyrights in the writings of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in the papers have been retained. Information concerning them should be sought from her literary executor, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

Quantity: 8 linear feet (approximately 16,000 pages)

Restrictions: Material which might be used to embarrass, harass, or injure living persons has been closed.

Related Materials: Selected files in the Personal and Official Files of the Papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President of the United States, and in the papers of Mary Dewson, Harry Hopkins, Eleanor Roosevelt and Aubrey Williams.

LORENA HICKOK

1893 - 1968

Lorena Hickok was born on March 7, 1893, in East Troy, Wisconsin. Throughout her childhood, she traveled with her family through the upper midwest as her father followed his itinerant buttermaking trade. Her mother died when Miss Hickok was thirteen. Three years afterward she went to Battle Creek, Michigan, to live with her mother's cousin, Ella Ellie. There she attended High School, finishing in three years.

After a brief attempt at college, Miss Hickok took her first job with a newspaper, collecting personals for the Battle Creek Evening News. After a second and a third attempt at college, she decided to pursue a career in journalism. In the summer of 1919 she was appointed Sunday editor of the Minneapolis Tribune. The paper's managing editor, Thomas J. Dillon, gave her opportunities that were seldom given to a woman. He gave her a by-line and made her the paper's chief reporter, and for the next six years she covered politics and football and prepared editorials.

In 1926, Miss Hickok left the Tribune and, after a period of travel and ill-health, she went to New York. She worked, first, for about a year, for the Mirror. Then, in 1928, she began work with the Associated Press, where she again found an editor, Martin A. White, who did not restrict her to the few areas of the profession traditionally allotted to women. Her specialty was political reporting, and

she often shared campaign trains with dozens of her male colleagues.

In the summer of 1928, while she was covering the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee in New York City, Miss Hickok was introduced to Eleanor Roosevelt by Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary, Malvina Thompson. Mrs. Roosevelt was head of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee during the 1928 campaign, and Miss Hickok would on what she called "dull days" at Democratic National Headquarters wander down to the Women's Division and look for a story. The two women formed during this period a slight acquaintance.

Four years later, Miss Hickok was assigned by the Associated Press to cover the Presidential campaign of Franklin D. Roosevelt. She suggested that someone be assigned to cover Mrs. Roosevelt, but the A.P. resisted the idea until very late in the campaign when Roosevelt's victory appeared certain. In October 1932, Miss Hickok was assigned exclusively to Mrs. Roosevelt. For the final month of the campaign, and then for the four month interregnum period, the two women went everywhere together. By inauguration day, 1933, they had become close friends.

Miss Hickok's press coverage^P of Mrs. Roosevelt ended on inauguration day, and she returned to New York. She found that her friendship with Mrs. Roosevelt had compromised her ability to continue her work. As a consequence, she resigned from the Associated Press in late June 1933.

After a motoring trip with Mrs. Roosevelt through upstate New York, New England, Quebec and the Gaspe Peninsula, Miss Hickok began work, probably in August 1933, as a Chief Investigator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Her major duties in this position were to travel around the country and to report on both the effectiveness of local relief administrations and the physical and mental condition of those receiving relief. She also accepted from President Roosevelt in the spring of 1935 a special investigating assignment in connection with the administration of the National Emergency Council. During this period, Miss Hickok made two other extended trips with Mrs. Roosevelt: the first, in March 1934, to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; the second, in July 1934, to San Francisco, Sacramento, Yosemite National Park, and Nevada.

Miss Hickok resigned from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in late November 1936. In January 1937, she accepted a position as director of promotion for the New York World's Fair. In her first few months with the Fair, Miss Hickok established the pattern of living -- that is, of commuting from her Manhattan apartment to her weekend and holiday retreat at Moriches, Long Island, the "Little House" on the estate of William S. Dana -- which is much in evidence in her correspondence with Mrs. Roosevelt during these years.

She left the New York World's Fair in late January 1940, to take a post as assistant to the publicity director of the Democratic National Committee. Sometime shortly after the 1940 election, she transferred to the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee to

become its executive director. She lived, during these years in Washington -- as she occasionally had during her work with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration -- at the White House. In March 1945, she resigned her post because of ill-health.

From March 1945 until sometime in mid-1947, Miss Hickok lived in partial retirement, dependent for income primarily on the proceeds from her writing and on the generosity of her friends. She helped Eleanor Roosevelt and Congresswoman Mary Norton with several writing projects and was entered for a time on the latter's staff payroll. Sometime in mid-1947 she took a position with the women's division of the Democratic State Committee of New York. She may have held this post through 1952.

Beginning with Ladies of Courage (1954), which she wrote with Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Hickok wrote several books, including The Story of Franklin D. Roosevelt (1956), The Story of Helen Keller (1958), The Story of Eleanor Roosevelt (1959), The Touch of Magic: The Story of Helen Keller's Great Teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy (1961), Reluctant First Lady (1962), and The Road to the White House (1962).

Miss Hickok gave up her Moriches, Long Island, cottage sometime in the mid-1950's (maybe 1955) and moved to Hyde Park. She may have lived at Val-Kill cottage for several months in the fall of 1955, and perhaps longer. In late 1957 she was living in a cabin in the Lakewood Motor Court in East Park; by early 1960, she had moved to 19 Park Place in the village of Hyde Park, an address which she kept until her death on May 1, 1968.

The papers of Lorena Hickok consist of three series, the largest of which is the Eleanor Roosevelt-Lorena Hickok correspondence. There are approximately 2,300 of Mrs. Roosevelt's letters and 1,000 of Miss Hickok's present in the series. Although Mrs. Roosevelt's half of the correspondence is probably nearly complete for its inclusive years, Miss Hickok's is complete probably only for the years 1937 through 1940. An appendix at the end of this finding aid breaks down by year the approximate number of letters in the series by each correspondent. The second series, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration papers, holds copies of the reports which Miss Hickok submitted to Harry Hopkins. Although the originals of most of these reports are in the papers of Harry Hopkins, there appear to be four in this collection which are not. They are those submitted from Athens, Georgia, January 11, 1934; from Augusta, Georgia, January 14, 1934; from Jesup, Georgia, January 16, 1934; and from Moultrie, Georgia, January 23, 1934. The third series, a correspondence and subject file, contains, besides bits and pieces of correspondence with over fifty people, considerable correspondence with Mary Norton, Congresswoman from New Jersey, Marion Harron, a member of the United States Tax Court, and Alicent Holt, a former high school teacher of Miss Hickok's.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

CONTAINER

SERIES

1 - 10

The Eleanor Roosevelt-Lorena Hickok Correspondence, 1932-1962, and undated. 10 Containers

Correspondence, telegrams, transcripts of correspondence and of several of Mrs. Roosevelt's speeches and articles, itineraries, clippings, greeting cards and invitations, and a small volume of miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically, with itineraries, clippings, and miscellaneous and undated material gathered at the end of the series. The clippings included in this series are, with one or two exceptions, of Mrs. Roosevelt's My Day column. Those which were included with a letter have been attached to that letter; those which were loose have been gathered in a folder at the end of the series.

11 - 12

Federal Emergency Relief Administration Papers, 1933-1936 and undated. 2 Containers

Reports, fragments of reports and correspondence, an "Introductory Chapter," and miscellaneous correspondence and expense account material related to Miss Hickok's work as Chief Investigator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Arranged in two subseries, and thereunder chronologically, with miscellaneous and expense account material gathered at the end of the series.

13 - 18

Correspondence and Subject File, 1913-1962, and undated. 6 Containers

Correspondence, telegrams, manuscripts, newspaper copy, invitations, clippings, and financial and other miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and subject, and thereunder chronologically. Many of the correspondence items were enclosures from Mrs. Roosevelt to Miss Hickok. If the item was enclosed with a letter of Mrs. Roosevelt's, then the original of the enclosure was attached to its cover letter, and a copy was placed in this series. If the enclosure was loose, then it was simply filed in this series.

THE LORENA HICKOK PAPERS

The Eleanor Roosevelt-Lorena Hickok Correspondence

<u>CONTAINER</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
1	1932 March through November, 1933 December, 1933 Correspondence, Eleanor Roosevelt to Lorena Hickok, March through November, 1933: first typescript copy Correspondence, Eleanor Roosevelt to Lorena Hickok, March through November, 1933: second typescript copy January, 1934 February and March, 1934 April, 1934 May, 1934 June, 1934
2	July and August, 1934 September and October, 1934 November and December, 1934, and undated January and February, 1935 March through May, 1935 June, 1935 July, 1935 August, 1935 September, 1935 October, 1935 November, 1935 December, 1935, and undated
3	January and February, 1936 March and April, 1936 May, 1936 June, 1936 July, 1936 August, 1936 September and October, 1936 November, 1936 December, 1936, and undated
4	January, 1937 February, 1937 March, 1937 April, 1937 May, 1937 June, 1937 July, 1937 August, 1937 September, 1937 October, 1937

CONTAINERCONTENTS

The Eleanor Roosevelt-Lorena Hickok Correspondence - continued

- 5 November, 1937
 December, 1937, and undated
 January, 1938
 February, 1938
 March, 1938
 April, 1938
 May, 1938
 June, 1938
 July, 1938
 August, 1938
 September, 1938
- 6 October, 1938
 November, 1938
 December, 1938, and undated
 January, 1939
 February, 1939
 March, 1939
 April, 1939
 May, 1939
 June, 1939
- 7 July, 1939
 August, 1939
 September, 1939
 October, 1939
 November, 1939
 December, 1939, and undated
 January, 1940
 February, 1940
 March, 1940
 April, 1940
 May and June, 1940
- 8 July and August, 1940
 September and October, 1940
 November, 1940
 December, 1940, and undated
 January through May, 1941
 June and July, 1941
 August through December, 1941
 January through July, 1942
 August through December, 1942, and undated

CONTAINERCONTENTS

The Eleanor Roosevelt-Lorena Hickok Correspondence - continued

- 9 1943
 1944
 1945
 1946 and 1947
 1948 through 1955
 1956 through 1962, and undated
- 10 Mrs. Roosevelt's itineraries
 Clippings
 Not dated and miscellaneous

Federal Emergency Relief Administration Papers

- 11 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, August through
 October, 1933
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, November
 through December, 1933
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, January
 through February, 1934
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, March through
 April, 1934
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, May through
 August, 1934
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, September
 through December, 1934
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, 1935
 Lorena Hickok reports to Harry Hopkins, 1936
- 12 Excerpts from Lorena Hickok's letters to Eleanor
 Roosevelt and her reports to Harry Hopkins: August
 1933: Pennsylvania
 Excerpts from Lorena Hickok's letters to Eleanor
 Roosevelt and her reports to Harry Hopkins: August
 1933: West Virginia
 Excerpts from Lorena Hickok's letters to Eleanor
 Roosevelt and her reports to Harry Hopkins: September
 1933: Maine
 Excerpts from Lorena Hickok's letters to Eleanor
 Roosevelt and her reports to Harry Hopkins: September
 1933: Up-State New York
 Excerpts from Lorena Hickok's letters to Eleanor
 Roosevelt and her reports to Harry Hopkins: September
 through December, 1933: North and South Dakota,
 Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and New York City

CONTAINERCONTENTS

Federal Emergency Relief Administration Papers - continued

- 12 Excerpts from Lorena Hickok's letters to Eleanor Roosevelt and her reports to Harry Hopkins: 1934 through 1936: Alabama, Texas, California, West Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota, New York City "Introductory Chapter" [to a selection of Lorena Hickok's investigative reports?]
Miscellaneous correspondence related to Lorena Hickok's reports
Expense account and related materials

Correspondence and Subject File

- 13 A through M
Boettiger, John: 1936
Bunche, Ralph: 1962
"C": 1938
Chaney, Mayris: 1939?
Cook, Nancy: 1937
Corr, Maureen: 1953-57
Cutler, Mary: 1947-48
Dana, Ella: 1934-47
Davis, Alice: 1934
Dettner, F.C. (Prinz's veterinarian): 1943
Dewson, Mary: 1940-61
Dickinson, Ella: 1935-48
Dillon, Thomas and Clarissa: 1937-42
Douglas, Helen Gahagan: 1938-60
Edwards, India: 1945-52
Ellie, Ella: 1913-44
Elliott, Harriet: 1941-42
Enright, Adelaide: 1936- 38
Falke, Grace: ca.1937
Farley, James: 1939
Ferrarini, Marty: 1937-40
Fitzgerald, Katheryn: 1950-52
Flynn, Edward: 1940
Gellhorn, Martha: 1935-38
Harriman, Averell: 1955
Harriman, Florence Jaffray: 1952
Harron, Marion J.: 1942-43
Harron, Marion J.: January through August, 1944
- 14 Harron, Marion J.: September through December, 1944
Harron, Marion J.: January through May, 1945
Harron, Marion J.: June through August, 1945
Harron, Marion J.: Miscellaneous

CONTAINERCONTENTS

Correspondence and Subject File - continued

- 14 Haycraft, Howard: 1933-42
 Helm, Edith: 1936-46
 Hickok, Lorena: autobiographical manuscript (forward
 and chapters 1, 2, 7 and 13 only), ca.1949
 Hickok, Lorena: interview with, by John P. Broderick
 Hickok, Lorena: Associated Press stories about Mrs.
 Roosevelt, ca. Sept. 1932 to March 1933
 Hickok, Lorena: manuscript, an autobiography of the
 White House
 Hickok, Lorena: manuscripts about Mrs. Roosevelt,
 1945, 1946
 Hickok, Lorena: manuscript on Drew Pearson
- 15 Hickok, Lorena: personal and miscellaneous
 Hickok, Lorena: invitations to inaugural events, and
 related material
 Hickok, Lorena: miscellaneous financial material,
 1933 to 1951
 Holt, Alicent: 1936-50
 Hopkins, Harry: 1937
 Joseph, Nannine: 1951-62
 Keller, Helen: 1957
 Lash, Joseph: not dated
 Lindley, Betty: 1942
 Lovelace, Maud: 1949-50
 Lund, Muriel: 1948-53
- 16 Michelson, Charles: 1939-40
 Miller, Earl: 1933-39
 N through W
 The New York World's Fair: 1937-40
 Nice, Mary Louise: 1948-50
 Norton, Mary T.: 1941-45
 Norton, Mary T.: 1946-48
 Norton, Mary T.: 1949-52
 Norton, Mary T.: 1953-59
 Norton, Mary T.: Miscellaneous and unidentified
- 17 Norton, Mary T.: manuscript, Madam Congressman, The
 Memoirs of Mary T. Norton of New Jersey
 Perkins, Frances: 1940
 Perry, Frances: 1939-60
 Price, Virginia: 1945-48
 Rischel, Virginia: 1945
 Roosevelt, Anna: 1935-39
 Roosevelt, Belle: 1943-48

CONTAINER

CONTENTS

Correspondence and subject File - continued

- 17 Ross, Ann: 1940-43
 St. Johns, Adela Rogers: 1937
 Seagraves, Anna Eleanor (Sisty): ca.1935, 1962
 Simons, H. Austin: 1917-18
 Sproul, Kathleen: 1948-50
 Stewart, Gertrude: 1945-49
 Thompson, Malvina: 1933-53, and undated
 Tillett, Gladys: 1940-53
 Truman, Mrs. Harry: 1945
 Unemployment: 1962
 van Loon, Gerard Willem: 1938, 1960
 van Loon, Hendrik Willem: 1936-40, and undated
 Whalen, Grover: 1936-37
 White, Matt: 1938
 The White House: 1933-47
- 18 Miscellaneous and unidentified
 Clippings

APPENDIX

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT-LORENA HICKOK CORRESPONDENCE:

ITS INCIDENCE, BY CORRESPONDENT AND BY YEAR

	<u>ER to LH</u>	<u>LH to ER</u>
1932	1	1
1933	39*	3**
1934	236	20**
1935	231	17**
1936	310	46
1937	283	227
1938	289	195
1939	292	241
1940	213	137
1941	92	50
1942	46	26
1943	44	20
1944	30	20
1945	48	19
1946	20	1
1947	18	1
1948	12	-
1949	1	-
1950 through 1962	<u>102</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	2,336	1,024

* This is the number of holograph letters present for the year 1933. A typescript copy of what is apparently nearly the entire body of correspondence from Eleanor Roosevelt to Lorena Hickok, and which contains copies of 129 letters, is also present, and has been placed in the folder immediately following the combined 1933 holograph correspondence. The letters, as they appear in the typescript, have been edited. Not all the letters present in holograph are included in the typescript.

** Fragments of and excerpts from a few of Lorena Hickok's letters to Mrs. Roosevelt from the period 1933 through 1936 are present in the Federal Emergency Relief Administration series of this collection.