

Loula Grace Erdman Book Manuscript

This collection contains the working manuscript for the fiction book *The Short Summer* written by Missouri-born author Loula Grace Erdman.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Loula Grace Erdman
Title: Loula Grace Erdman book manuscript
Dates: 1958
Size: 1 box, 18 folders
Location: SC49

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Publication note: *The Short Summer* was published in 1958 by Dodd, Mead and Company.

Related collections in other repositories: Loula Grace Erdman collection, Cornette Library, West Texas A & M University

Acquisition information: Unknown, 1974?

Custodial history: Transferred to Missouri Valley Special Collections from the Main library office in 1994. The manuscript and an accompanying copy of the published book may have been part of the library's circulating collection at one time.

Citation note: Loula Grace Erdman book manuscript (SC49), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/historical note

Loula Grace Erdman was born in 1898 near Alma, Missouri, daughter of Augustus F. and Mollie Erdman. After teaching for several years, she earned her bachelor's degree in 1931 from Central Missouri State College (now University of Central Missouri) and earned her master's degree from Columbia University in 1941.

Erdman became interested in creative writing early in her life, she said because it was fun. Her first novel, *Separate Star*, was published in 1944. Her third novel, *The Years of the Locust*, has a Missouri setting. All together she wrote 21 books during her career as well as numerous short stories and articles. Most of her books had either a Missouri or Texas setting. She was the recipient of several literary awards. These included the Dodd, Mead-Redbook Award and American Girl Award, the Texas Institute of Letters Awards in 1962, 1974 and the Steck Vaughn Award in 1974.

West Texas State College (now West Texas A&M University) became her teaching home starting in 1945 when she became assistant professor of English. Loula Grace Erdman never married and she died in 1976 and is buried in Missouri.

Scope and content note

This 336-page manuscript is contained in 17 folders and includes the typewritten manuscript for her ninth novel, *The Short Summer*, a work of young adult fiction set in rural Missouri in the summer of 1914. The manuscript contains holographic corrections by the author in pen and pencil. Also included are photocopies of two articles from the *Kansas City Star* about the book and the author, and what appear to be the original catalog cards for this book from the Kansas City Public Library's card catalog.

The collection also includes a copy of the published book (c1958) which appears to have been taken from the library's circulating collection. The first sheet of the manuscript reads: "Working Manuscript The Short Summer By Loula Grace Erdman, 1958."

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, February 1995.