

GUIDE TO THE MASHA AND WILLIAM TYLER “BILLY” ARMS PAPERS

Biographical: Clara Herriot Eriksen was born in Fitchburg, Mass., in 1909 to Clara and Andrew Eriksen. Clara changed her name to Masha Eriksen, and married Roy Schatt in the 1930s; they divorced and she married William Tyler Arms (also divorced) in 1941. After studying photography at the Kings Studios in Washington, DC, Masha became a well-known photographer, specializing in portraits. She had many exhibits over the years, mainly in Franklin County, Mass. Masha died in 2005 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Deerfield, alongside her husband. William Tyler “Billy” Arms, son of Richard C. and Ellen Root Arms, was born in 1904 in Deerfield, and died in 1970. William’s varied career began as a columnist for the *New York Times*. His publications include *The History of Leyden Massachusetts, 1676-1959* (1959) and *Salute to Courage* (1966). Both Masha and Billy were active in politics, town events, and environmental causes.

Their papers consist of correspondence, clippings, exhibit info, financial and medical records, scrapbooks, calendars, research notes, and ephemera. Gift of the Estate of Masha Arms, 2005.

BOX 1: Papers of Masha Arms:

- Folder 1: Biographical information
- Folder 2: School/education information
- Folder 3: Franklin County Home Care
- Folder 4: Legal documents
- Folder 5: King Smith Studios
- Folder 6: Medical records
- Folder 7: Organizations and memberships
- Folder 8: Red Cross
- Folder 9: Social Security

BOX 2: Letters to Masha (Schatt) Arms:

- Folder 1: Letters, 1930-1941
- Folder 2: Letters, 1940s
- Folder 3: Letters, 1950s
- Folder 4: Letters, 1960s
- Folder 5: Letters, 1970s
- Folder 6: Cards, 1970s
- Folder 7: Sympathy cards and letters to Masha, 1970
- Folder 8: Letters, 1980s
- Folder 9: Cards, 1980s
- Folder 10: Cards and letters, 1990s
- Folder 11: Cards and letters, 2000-2005
- Folder 12: Cards and letters, undated
- Folder 13: Letters from Masha- 1950s+

BOX 3: Correspondents by name; letters to Masha Arms

- Folder 1: Rev. Henry Bartlett letters, orders of worship, articles, etc.
- Folder 2: Edna Chandler letters, articles, cards [maiden name White]
- Folder 3: Anne Fessenden letters, clippings, etc.

Folder 4: Anne Fessenden cards, 1970s-1990s, n.d.
Folder 5: Glenda Johnson letters
Folder 6: Lucy Pratt letters to and from Masha
Folder 7: Edna White (see folder 2) tapes, booklet, article, program [married name Chandler]

BOX 4: Miscellaneous - Masha Arms

Folder 1: Addresses
Folder 2: Artwork
Folder 3: Book, tape and lecture notes
Folder 4: Book publication/writing correspondence and notes re: photography
Folder 5: Deerfield Valley Arts Association
Folder 6: Miscellaneous invitations, programs, and brochures
Folder 7: Notebooks on trips, Transcendental Meditation, poetry
Folder 8: Photos and photocopies of photos
Folder 9: Sketches
Folder 10: Photo sales with notes
Folder 11: St. James Church (Greenfield) - letters
Folder 12: Masha's 90th birthday celebration - cards, guest register
Folder 13: Cards, clippings, and letters regarding environmental activities
Folder 14: Theater programs and information
Folder 15: Political correspondence
Folder 16: PVMA correspondence

Box 5A: Personal calendars of Masha Arms

1957; 1969; 1973-1979; 1980; 1985; 1992-1997

Box 5B: Personal calendars, address books, and funeral register of Masha Arms

Calendars: 1991; 1997; 1998 (2); 1999/2000; 2000; 2001(2); 2002; 2003; 2004(2);
six address books and funeral register (2005).

Box 6 (oversize):

Scrapbook, scrapbook folder, transcripts of tapes, Pioneer Photography in 35mm Field typescript

BOX 7: Exhibits of Masha Schatt/Arms

Folder 1: Exhibit list
Folder 2: Exhibit notes
Folder 3: King Smith Studio School- brochures, articles, etc. (1936+)
Folder 4: 1938 Hech & Co.'s Camera Shop Exhibit on photography (1938)
Folder 5: Alexandria, VA, library - exhibit of Masha Schatt, 1941
Folder 6: Washington, DC, library - exhibit of Masha Schatt, 1941
Folder 7: Jones Library (Amherst, MA) exhibits, 1942, 1951
Folder 8: Greenfield (MA) Public Library exhibits, 1951, 1957, 1981, 1983
Folder 9: Leyden (MA) home exhibits, 1958, 1962
Folder 10: Roberston Memorial Library (Leyden, MA) exhibit, 1961
Folder 11: Bridge of Flowers exhibits (Shelburne Falls, MA)- 1961, 1970
Folder 12: Rug show of Nellie Arms (Leyden, MA) 1962
Folder 13: "Pioneer Photographer in 35 mm Field" at Franklin County Trust Bank, 1981
(also held at Greenfield Community College, lower gallery)
Folder 14: Forbes Library (Northampton, MA), 1983

Folder 15: "Women at Work" – Greenfield Comm. College gallery, Greenfield, MA, 1984
Folder 16: "Women of Vision" - Berkshire Comm. College, Pittsfield, MA, 1984
Folder 17: "Woman and Camera" - Pioneer Valley Institute at Greenfield Comm. College, 1990
Folder 18: "Drawing with Lights" - Memorial Hall Exhibit, Deerfield, MA- 1999
Folder 19: Fitchburg Historical Society tea and talk, 2000
Folder 20: Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield, MA, Masha Arms Photographer, 2002
Folder 21: Miscellaneous price lists, supplies, etc.
Folder 22: "Photography career of Masha Arms" (clipping)
Folder 23: Association of Craftsmen, *Bulletin*, letters, brochures.

BOX 8: Robert Frost Exhibit and Frost family

Folder 1: Robert Frost Exhibit at Jones Library (Amherst, MA), 1983
Folder 2: Correspondence, etc. re: Robert Frost from his daughter, Leslie Frost Ballantine
Folder 3: Information on Leslie Frost Ballantine
Folder 4: Articles and clippings on Robert Frost

BOX 9: Transcendental Meditation (TM)

Folder 1: Articles on TM by Masha Arms; award and house resolution
Folder 2: Correspondence, letters, and cards-1970s
Folder 3: TM events, 1970s and 1980s
Folder 4: TM exercises and booklets (printed)
Folder 5: TM notes and bills
Folder 6: Pictures of Maharishi
Folder 7: Newspaper advertisements of TM classes offered by Masha
Folder 8: Articles on TM
Folder 9: Clippings and newsletters related to TM
Folder 10: Order of Essences correspondence, mostly undated
Folder 11: Self Realization Fellowship correspondence (1960s)
Folder 12: SIMS (Student Intl Meditation Soc.) correspondence, 1970s -1980s
Folder 13: Trip to Spain to attend TM conference, 1972

BOX 10: Newspaper clippings and printed material

Folder 1: Greenfield Comm. College inc. GCC TV, 250th
Folder 2: General photography
Folder 3: Miscellany
Folder 4: Political clippings, letters and flyers
Folder 5: Obituaries and people clippings
Folder 6: Travel
Folder 7: Williams College info (Billy was an alum)

BOX 11: Billy and Masha joint correspondence

Folder 1: Undated correspondence
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1940s
Folder 3: Correspondence, 1950s
Folder 4: Correspondence, 1960s
Folder 5: Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 6: Correspondence from Maria Gregoire
Folder 7: Letters to Billy and Masha from Elliot Marple
Folder 8: Letters re: *Salute to Courage* from Daniel Mead, literary agent

Folder 9: Letters from Robert and Fannie Von Reuss-Chanberg
Folder 10: Letters from Lucy Pratt, 1930s-1960s
Folder 11: Political correspondence, 1965- 1 item

BOX 12: Papers of William Tyler (Billy) Arms

Folder 1: Biographical information
Folder 2: Church programs
Folder 3: Death certificate
Folder 4: Correspondence re: disability insurance/social security
Folder 5: Divorce papers
Folder 6: General financial papers
Folder 7: Income tax returns
Folder 8: Investments
Folder 9: Last will and testament
Folder 10: Legal documents
Folder 11: Medical information
Folder 12: Memorial service, letters of condolence (see also Masha papers, Box 2, fol. 7)
Folder 13: Post Office job
Folder 14: School related items
Folder 15: World War II items

Box 13: Correspondence of William Tyler (Billy) Arms

Folder 1: Letters from Billy
Folder 2: Medical correspondence re: his sister, Charlotte
Folder 3: Letters from "Emily" (1st wife?), 1930s
Folder 4: Correspondence, undated
Folder 5: Letters from his sister, Adelaide Arms Oswald
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1915-1949
Folder 7: Correspondence, 1950s
Folder 8: Correspondence, 1960s
Folder 9: Correspondence, 1970s
Folder 10: Letters to and from his brother-in law, Charles (Lem) Kelly [Jane Arms Kelly's husband]
Folder 11: General Naglee research for Antionette Spruyt
Folder 12: Letters from Lucy Pratt to Billie
Folder 13: Correspondence and articles re: Al Oickle of the *Greenfield Recorder*
Folder 14: Correspondence, notes, etc. re: railroads

Box 14: Diaries of William Tyler (Billy) Arms:

Folder 1: 1916, 1919, 1923, n.d.
Folder 2: 1931-1941
Folder 3: 1948-1952
Folder 4: 1953-1957
Folder 5: 1959-1968
Loose volumes in box: Daily Aide, 1944; 2 *Yankee* magazines, 2 composition books

Box 15: Papers relating to Leyden

Folder 1: Church Woods
Folder 2: Correspondence and articles re: Leyden
Folder 3: Letters re: *History of Leyden*

Folder 4: Newcomb folder on Leyden

Folder 5: Leyden history

Folder 6: Leyden water Supply

Folder 7: Leyden town activities

Box 16: Scrapbook box- oversize

3 scrapbooks: *Salute to Courage*; Leyden 150th anniversary; memorabilia
with folder of certificates, diplomas, etc. (outside of box)