

Clara and Rudolf Kirk papers

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Summary Information

Repository	University Archives, Texas State University
Title	Clara and Rudolf Kirk papers
Date [inclusive]	1964-1970
Extent	0.84 Linear feet 2 document boxes
Location note	Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice may be required for use.
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

[Item name, date.] Series 90.400.Friends.1970.Kirk. University Archives, Texas State University.

Biographical/Historical note

Clara Marburg Kirk (1898-1976) received her doctorate degree from University of Chicago after developing an extensive background in 17th and 18th century literature. She taught at such prestigious schools as Bryn Mawr, Vassar, and Rutgers. She also studied abroad, at the University of Brussels for one year as Fulbright Research Scholar, and in England tracking down and studying the letters of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn (which she later turned into a book) under a grant from the American Learned Societies. After an extended stay at Rutgers, Kirk moved to San Marcos in 1963 with her husband, fellow Rutgers English professor Rudolf Kirk (1898-1989) when he accepted a teaching position at Southwest Texas State College. He retired in 1967. Clara Kirk served as President for the League of Women Voters from 1967-1968. Clara Kirk later accepted a position as head librarian for Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and oversaw the Moncure Conway Collection housed there.

Some of her published works include: *Mr. Pepys and Mr. Evelyn*, *Types of English Poetry*, *William Dean Howells*, *Charlotte, Temple, Howells and the Art of his Time*, and *Oliver Goldsmith*. Almost all of the material in the University Archives pertains to her work on Goldsmith. She, along with her husband, also published numerous essays on poetry and worked often with William Dean Howells. They wrote introductions for several of his works, including *Traveler from Altruria*, and created their own collection of his materials. The Kirk-Howells collection, now housed at the Van Pelt library at the University of Pennsylvania, contains over 200 books, five scrapbooks, and photos, clippings, and magazine articles about Howells.

Some, if not all, of the material in the Kirk files was donated by Dr. Rudolf Kirk in approximately 1970. Some of the materials contain handwritten notes to that effect.

Scope and Contents note

Drafts, manuscripts, and galleys concerning the writing of Clara Kirk's book "Oliver Goldsmith" compose the majority of the collection. Also included are personal papers and photographs, journals and newsletters, and clippings concerning Dr. Rudolf Kirk's mentor and colleague Dr. Hardin Craig.

The collection is arranged into 5 series: Personal Papers, Drafts, Manuscripts, Galleys, and Newsletters/Clippings/Articles. The first series includes a letter of introduction by Professor Robert Walts, explaining how he first met the Kirks, as well as two photographs and a photocopy of the front page of the New York Times.

Series two through four pertain to Clara Kirk's book on Oliver Goldsmith. The first is Drafts, divided into chapters and usually including two drafts of each. Manuscripts contains three different sets, the first only

a few chapters long, the next two the full length of the book. The Galleys series contains three galleys from the publisher.

Series five contains newsletters and journals and is subdivided into two subseries. The first contains documents pertaining to or addressed to the Kirks, usually Rudolf Kirk. The second includes articles and information on Dr. Hardin Craig, professor and friend of Dr. Rudolf Kirk.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives, Texas State University April 12, 2005

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers without restriction.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Papers donated by Dr. Rudolf Kirk.

Bibliography

Kirk, Clara. Oliver Goldsmith.

Kirk, Clara. Mr. Pepys and Mr. Evelyn.

Houston, Ralph. Rosemary for Remembrance: a Memoir Commemorating the Department of English, Southwest Texas State University in its 75th Anniversary Year.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Personal papers 1967-1970	1	1
Scope and Contents note		
<p>One letter and two photographs make up this series. Robert Walts, English Professor at Southwest Texas State College, explains how he met the Kirks for the first time in a brief letter of introduction. There are also two photographs. One is dated 1967 and pictures Clara Kirk, Professor Charles Sellers, and Dean Samuel H. Magill at the opening of the Moncure Conway Collection at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, where Kirk served as head librarian. There is also a photo of Dr. Rudolf Kirk, captioned as having been taken by Tim Price of the Hays County Citizen. Also included is a photocopy of the front page of the New York Times on January 20, 1898, the day of Rudolf Kirk's birth.</p>		
"Oliver Goldsmith" drafts 1964-1966		
Scope and Contents note		
<p>This series is arranged by chapters, then by chronological order. Chapters are separated into folders, and some include the original folders with handwritten titles and notes. Most contain two or more drafts. The folders begin with the introduction and ascend through all five chapters to notes and bibliography. One section of the introduction contains a date, 1964, but no other dates are found. The chronology of the drafts was determined by author's notes indicating "original draft" on the exterior of most of her folders.</p>		
	Box	Folder
Introduction	1	2

"Oliver Goldsmith" manuscripts

Chapter 1	1	3
Chapter 2	1	4
Chapter 3	1	5
Chapter 4	1	6
Chapter 5	1	7
Notes and bibliography	1	8

"Oliver Goldsmith" manuscripts 1966**Scope and Contents note**

These manuscripts serve as a stepping stone between the drafts and the galleys. One contains only chapters two and three but was not included with the drafts because they had already been placed into a folder together. All the drafts in the previous series were found in individual folders by chapter. The second two manuscripts are complete, and the chronology was determined by author's notes.

	Box	Folder
Chapter 2-3	1	9
Complete manuscript (1 of 3)	1	10
Complete manuscript (2 of 3)	1	11

"Oliver Goldsmith" galleys

Complete manuscript (3 of 3)	2	1
Final manuscript	2	2-3
"Oliver Goldsmith" galleys 1966, undated	Box	Folder
	2	4-6

Scope and Contents note

This series contains three galleys returned to the author by the publisher for proofreading. The first is undated. The other two date from June 23, 1966 and November 11, 1966. All three contain handwritten notes.

	Box	Folder
Undated	2	4
June 1966	2	5
November 1966	2	6

Journals, newsletters, and clippings 1964-1969**Scope and Contents note**

This series is divided into two subseries. The first contains newsletters and journal articles relating to the Kirks. It includes a 1964 journal article by Helen C. White with the author's note to the Kirks, several editions of the Johnsonian Newsletter addressed to Dr. Rudolf Kirk, a journal article by the Kirks from 1967, and an advertisement for the Twayne's English Author Series, on which Clara Kirk's Oliver Goldsmith is outlined. There is also an article about the Kirk-Howells collection from a 1969 issue of the "Library Chronicle."

Journals, newsletters, and clippings

The second subseries contains information about Dr. Hardin Craig. One article highlights Craig's teaching career while another memorializes Craig after his death. There is also a magazine, AMEPNKA, No.77, from Russia, containing an article on Dr. Craig written in Cyrillic.

	Box	Folder
Materials related to Clara and Rudolf Kirk 1964-1969	2	7
Materials related to Hardin Craig 1964, 1968	2	8