

Eleanor Risteen Gordon, Ph.D.
1924-1996, n.d.

Creator: Eleanor Risteen Gordon, Ph.D (1935-1994)

Extent: 8.5 linear ft.

Processor: Beth Loch, February 2012

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: The copyright of materials created by Eleanor Risteen Gordon was transferred to the WLA.

Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Eleanor Risteen Gordon. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: Eleanor Risteen Gordon's papers were donated by her husband, Henry Gordon on October 3, 2009. The materials were received by the Women and Leadership Archives from the donor on September 25, 2009 (WLA2009.38).

Separations: 5.75 l. ft. of extraneous and duplicate material was removed and discarded.

Collection Updates: WLA graduate assistant Beth Loch processed with collection in 2012. WLA graduate assistant Laura Pearce updated and corrected the finding aid in 2013.

See Also: University of Illinois, Chicago Archives, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences—Department of English Records.

Biographical History

Eleanor Risteen was born to Herbert and Esther Risteen in Baraboo, WI on July 11, 1935. Eleanor was the middle child, with an elder brother (Landon Risteen) and a younger sister (Betty Risteen Hasselkus). Eleanor's father was one of the foremost crossword puzzle creators, contributing many of them to the pages of *The New York Times*.

After high school, Eleanor continued her studies in literature at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where she was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa sorority. She graduated with her B.A. in June of 1957 and subsequently pursued her PhD at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). While at the University of Wisconsin, Madison she met Henry Gordon and the two were married September 12, 1959. Henry and Eleanor had a son (Jared), followed by a daughter (Naomi). Henry worked in advertising for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Dr. Gordon taught at UIC's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1975 until 1988. She began as a teaching assistant while working toward a Master's Degree in English. In 1977, she became a lecturer in English while continuing work toward a Ph.D. in rhetoric and composition and eventually became a Professor of Literature and Composition. In 1988 and 1989, Dr. Gordon commuted to Omaha, where she taught as an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Gordon, who enjoyed widespread publication of her poetry, also wrote free-lance articles. She was an editor for the Chicago feminist magazine *SHE: Serving Human Equality* in the 1970s. Besides her short stories and poetry writings, Dr. Gordon was also an antique jewelry authority who wrote many articles on the subject. She co-wrote a book with Jean Nerenberg entitled *In Praise of*

Plastic. The manuscript also appeared as a shortened version called *Early Plastic Jewelry* in such publications as "The Antique Trader" (November 26, 1974).

A resident of Evanston, IL Dr. Gordon was highly involved in her local community, volunteering at the YMCA and giving poetry readings at Evanston Public Library. Dr. Gordon was also a participant in a bowling league and bowled a 300 game during league play in 1986. Gordon also spent time sketching and drawing; in her artwork Gordon focused on landscapes, still life, and women's fashions.

On March 16, 1994, at the age of 58, Eleanor Gordon passed away. In her memory Henry Gordon organized and published her poetry in one work, *Naming the Colors: Poems by Eleanor Risteen*. The manuscript was published in a limited number.

Scope and Content

The Eleanor Risteen Gordon, Ph.D. Papers contain materials related to her activities as a professor at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), artist, and writer. This collection also includes many items regarding Eleanor's education, providing a vivid picture of women's education from high school to graduate work. Materials include correspondence, newspaper articles, artwork, handwritten notes, books, photographs, and three-dimensional objects. The records are arranged alphabetically within each series.

Series 1: Biographical, 1925-1996, n.d., Box 1

Series contains materials relating to Dr. Gordon's childhood, family, and artwork. Other materials include her World War II ration books, driver's license permit, safety deposit box item list, and knitting instructions for "Eleanor's Beret." Other materials include her cremation/death records, Dr. Gordon's memorial materials, Esther Risteen's (her mother's) estate papers, and Illinois Women's Bowling Association Awards.

Series 2: Correspondence, 1946-1996, n.d., Boxes 1-3

This series contains Dr. Gordon's personal and professional correspondence. A majority of the correspondence are letters sent between Eleanor and her family while she attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison from 1953-1957. Other materials relate to the publication of her writings (poetry and short stories), and her time as a professor at University of Illinois, Chicago and University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Series 3: Education: 1948-1993, n.d., Boxes 3-8

Includes the educational materials of Dr. Eleanor Gordon as both a student (high school to graduate work) and a professor (assistant and full). Materials include class notebooks and essays from high school and university covering numerous subjects, High School Minnewaukan Yearbooks from 1950-1952, high school anniversary reunion booklets, and student evaluations. Her diplomas from Baraboo High School, UWM B.A., and M.A. from UIC (1953, 1957, and 1977 respectively) are included. The series also holds her student activity materials; high school band contest score cards, conference programs, Phi Beta Kappa materials from UIC, and graduation materials.

Series 4: Published Materials and Writings, 1924-1996, n.d., Boxes 8-14

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The largest series in the collection, it includes Dr. Gordon's published and unpublished writings. Her father's, Herb Risteen, published crossword puzzles (1980-1989) are listed in this series. The series consists of journals, magazines, and newspapers in which Dr. Gordon was published; *Chicago Magazine* (1979-1992), *Two Hand News* (1977-1980), *Poetry Out of Wisconsin* (1980), and many more. Also in this series are rough and final drafts of Dr. Gordon's poetry, short stories, and the manuscript she wrote with Jean Nerenberg, *In Praise of Plastic* (1976). Her poetry and short stories are listed alphabetically by title. The early and final drafts of *Naming the Colors: Poems by Eleanor Risteen*, a memorial book of Dr. Gordon's poetry published by her husband, Henry Gordon are also listed in this series.

Subseries 4A: Newspapers, 1952-1985, n.d., Box 15

This subseries includes newspapers and newspaper articles relating to Dr. Gordon's writings and interests. It includes four papers and various articles including: *American Observer* (1952), *Haymarket: Progressive Journal of Politics and Arts* (1985), *New York Times Magazine* (1954-1981), and *SHE: Serving Human Equality* (1975-1978). Newspaper editions are missing within year spans.

Series 5: Audiovisual Materials, 1928-1987, n.d., Box 14

The smallest series in the collection, it contains floppy discs (5x5 in.), negatives, and photographs. The floppy discs hold copies of Dr. Gordon's dissertation and her vitae. The negatives contain images of plastic jewelry used in her research and publications. The pictures are of Eleanor, her childhood, family, and plastic jewelry.

Series 6: Oversized and 3D Materials, 1941-1986, n.d., Box 16

This series holds Dr. Gordon's bowling awards, oversized artwork, high school awards, and scrapbooks. The undated artwork includes cartoons and sketches. Two scrapbooks are included; one on Eleanor's childhood and the other on her early drawings. Other 3D materials included are a handkerchief stitched with Eleanor's name, bowling patches/pins, and her high school letters and pins.

Subjects:

Professor
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of Wisconsin—Madison
New York Times
Evanston Free Public Library (Evanston, Ill.)
Poetry and the arts

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Biographical, 1925-1996, n.d.			
1	1	Address Book and Rolodex	n.d.
	2	Baby Book	1925-1936
	3	Baptismal Booklet	1935
	4	Certificate of Appreciation: Evanston Township High School	n.d.
	5	Childhood Artwork	n.d.
	6	Chicago Women Writers' Conference Program	1980
	7	Cremation/Death Records	1994
	8	"Declaration of Trust"	1992
	9	Drawing: Man	n.d.
	10	Drawings/Sketches: Landscapes, Stills, and Maps	n.d.
	11	Drawings/Sketches: Women	n.d.
	12	Esther Risteen's Estate Papers	1962-1991
	13	European Trip Itinerary and Home Care Instructions	1976, n.d.
	14	Evanston Public Library Memorial	1983, 1994, n.d.
	15	Historical Drawings/Sketches	n.d.
	16	Illinois Women's Bowling Association Awards	1986
	17	Knitting Instructions: Eleanor's Beret	n.d.
	18	Lists of Places to Submit Poetry	n.d.
	19	Memorial Service: Invitation Lists	n.d.
	20	Memorial Service: Materials	1994
	21	Notes from England Trip	n.d.
	22	"Our Wedding Day" Booklet	1959
	23	Passport	1984
	24	Personal Affiliation Cards	1973-1994, n.d.
	25	Poetry Reading Invitations	1996
	26	Political Cartoons	n.d.
	27	Safety Deposit Box Item List	1985
	28	Short Biography	n.d.
	29	Voluntary Service Award	1992
	30	Wisconsin Temporary Driver's Permit	1952
	31	World War II Ration Books	n.d.
Series 2: Correspondence, 1946-1996, n.d.			
	32	Eleanor's Poetry Collection	1995
	33	"Garbage: A Letter to Eleanor Gordon"	n.d.
	34	General Correspondence	1946
	35	General Correspondence	1953-1989
	36	General Correspondence	1990-1996
2	1	General Correspondence	n.d.

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2	Get Well Cards and Letters after Eleanor's Stroke	1989-1990, n.d.
3	<i>In Praise of Plastic</i> Publishing	1977-1979
4	Interdepartmental Correspondence: University of Nebraska, Omaha	1989
5	Letters and notes regarding the Modern Language Association (MLA) Conferences	1977-1981, n.d.
6	Letters of Condolence	1994, n.d.
7	Letters to Parents	1967
8	Letters to Parents and Sister	1953
9	Letters to Parents and Sister	1954
10	Letters to Parents and Sister	1955
11	Letters to Parents and Sister	1956
12	Letters to Parents and Sister	1957
13	Letters to Parents and Sister	1958
14	Letters to Parents and Sister	1960-1962
15	Orders for <i>Naming the Colors: Poems</i>	1995-1996, n.d.
16	Postcards	1980-1996, n.d.
17	Publications	1973-1975
18	Publications	1976-1978
19	Publications	1979-1981
20	Publications	n.d.
21	Publication and Article on Christopher Smart	1981-1987
22	Special Occasion Cards	n.d.
3	1 Special Occasion Cards to Henry Gordon	n.d.
	2 University of Nebraska, Omaha	1988-1990, n.d.
	3 University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC)	1981
	4 UIC Candidacy Examination	1985
	5 University of Wisconsin, Madison (UWM)	1954-1956
	6 Wedding Invitation	n.d.

Series 3: Education: 1948-1993, n.d.

3	7 Civics Course Paper Outline	1951
	8 Class Notebook: American Institutions	n.d.
	9 Class Notebook: Art History	1956, n.d.
	10 Class Notebook: Biology	1950-1951
	11 Class Notebook: Classics	n.d.
	12 Class Notebook: Comparative Literature	1956-1957
	13 Class Notebook: Comparative Literature A	1955-1956
	14 Class Notebook: Comparative Literature B	1956
	15 Class Notebook: Creative Writing	n.d.
	16 Class Notebook: Economics 1A	1954-1955, n.d.
	17 Class Notebook: Economics 144	1956-1957, n.d.
4	1 Class Notebook: English	1954-1955

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	2	Class Notebook: English II	n.d.
	3	Class Notebook: English Literature	n.d.
	4	Class Notebook: English 32 B	1953-1954
	5	Class Notebook: English 127 B	n.d.
	6	Class Notebook: English 170 A	1955-1956
	7	Class Notebook: English 170 B	1956, n.d.
	8	Class Notebook: English 174	1956, n.d.
	9	Class Notebook: Historical Geography	1956, n.d.
	10	Class Notebook: History	1955-1956
	11	Class Notebook: History of American Thought and Culture	1956
	12	Class Notebook: History 151	1957
	13	Class Notebook: Philosophy	1956
	14	Class Notebook: Physiology	n.d.
5	1	Class Notebook: Political Science	1956-1957
	2	Class Notebook: Zoology	1953-1954
	3	Class Notes: Arts	n.d.
	4	Class Notes: "Bleak House" and "Dramatis Personae"	n.d.
	5	Class Notes (Typed): Classics	n.d.
	6	Diplomas	1953, 1957, 1977
	7	Early Syllabi Drafts	1981, n.d.
	8	English Class Literature Critiques	n.d.
	9	English Department Roster	n.d.
	10	English 101 Assignment	n.d.
	11	English Papers (University)	1975-1981
	12	English Papers (University)	1982-1983
	13	English 385 and 386 Class Materials	1981-1982, n.d.
	14	Graduate Seminar Notes: Piers Plowman Seminar	1980, n.d.
	15	High School Band Contest Score Cards	n.d.
	16	High School Course Work	1948-1950, n.d.
6	1	High School Graduation Invitations and Programs	1953
	2	High School Junior Year Course Work	1951-1952, n.d.
	3	High School Minnewaukan Yearbook	1950
	4	High School Minnewaukan Yearbook	1951
	5	High School Minnewaukan Yearbook	1952
	6	High School Plays	1932-1951, n.d.
	7	High School 30 th Anniversary Reunion Booklet	1983
	8	High School 35 th Anniversary Reunion Booklet	1988
	9	High School 40 th Anniversary Reunion Booklet	1993
	10	Inter-fraternity Conference Materials	1955
	11	Model Essay Collection, Composition 101	1978
	12	Personal Notebook (Handwritten)	1987, n.d.
	13	Personal Notes (Handwritten): Untitled	n.d.
	14	Phi Beta Kappa Materials	1957, n.d.

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	15	Phi Kappa Phi Membership	1957
	16	Philosophy Course Exercises and Notes	1982, n.d.
	17	Psycholinguistics Course Notes and Paper	1982, n.d.
	18	Rhetoric Course Packet	1989
	19	Student Evaluations	1977-1978
7	1	Student Evaluations	1989
	2	Student Records	1940-1987
	3	Student Study List Card	1954-1955
	4	Undergraduate Junior Year Class Schedule	1955
	5	University Course Study Note Cards	n.d.
	6	University English Papers	1975-1981
	7	University English Papers	n.d.
	8	University Essays	1976-1978
	9	University Essays	n.d.
	10	University Final Exams	1985, n.d.
	11	University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC) Commencement Program	1989
	12	UIC Dissertation Agreement	1988
	13	UIC English M.A. Qualifying Manuscript	1957
8	1	UIC English Papers	1983, n.d.
	2	UIC Student Evaluation Data	1978-1979
	3	UIC Student Evaluation Data	1989
	4	UIC Student Evaluations	1977, n.d.
	5	UIC Student Evaluations	1979, n.d.
	6	UIC Teaching Theory Material	1977, n.d.
	7	University of Wisconsin, Madison (UWM) Graduation Materials	1957
	8	UWM Undergrad Class Schedules	1957, 1958
	9	UWM Honorary Sorority Certificates	1954-1957
	10	UWM Senior Yearbook , Honors	1957

**Series 4: Published Materials and Writings,
1924-1996, n.d.**

8	11	“A Day in the Life”	n.d.
	12	“Another Chicago Magazine”	1977-1978
	13	“Anthology”	1983
	14	“Art Deco: Chicago” Manuscript	n.d.
	15	Article Edited by Gordon	n.d.
	16	“Arts and Events”, Theater Article	1983
	17	“Banyan Anthology 2”	1982
	18	“Banyan Press Anthology”	1977
	19	“Changing Rhetorics of Plastic Jewelry”	1990, n.d.

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9	1	Chicago Creative Writers Directory	1981
	2	“Chicago History”	1979-1980
	3	“Chicago Magazine”	1979-1992
	4	“Chicago Poetry Letter News”	1984
	5	“Chicago’s Art Deco Terra Cottas” Article	1978, n.d.
	6	“Chicago’s Art Deco Terra Cottas” Article with Notes	n.d.
	7	“December”	1976, 1981
	8	“Earthquake on Ada Street”	1979
	9	Eleanor Gordon’s Obituaries	1994
	10	“EPOS”	1976
	11	Evanston Art Center Newsletter	1993
	12	Evanston Public Library Poetry Awards Booklet	1994
	13	“Everywoman’s Jewelry” Articles	n.d.
	14	Far West Popular Culture Association Conference Entry	1988
		Essay	
	15	“FIT: A One Act Play”	1986, n.d.
	16	“Fundamentals of Cataloging and Classification”	1995
	17	“Garland Court Review”	1975
	18	“Greater Golden Hill Poetry Express”	1980
10	1	Herb Risteen’s Published Crossword Puzzles	1980-1989
	2	<i>In Praise of Plastic</i> : Chapters 1-6	n.d.
	3	<i>In Praise of Plastic</i> : Early Manuscript Draft	1976, n.d.
	4	<i>In Praise of Plastic</i> : Early Manuscript Draft	n.d.
	5	<i>In Praise of Plastic</i> : Outline and Chapter Three	n.d.
	6	“In Their Spaces”	1979
	7	“I Only Laugh When It Hurts”, Poetry Article	n.d.
	8	“Jean’s Journal”	1975
	9	“Journal of Popular Culture”	1980
	10	“King Home” Newsletter	1991
	11	“Lake Superior Review”	1979
	12	<i>Le Symbolisme</i> (French)	1924
	13	Literary Reviews and Notes (Handwritten)	n.d.
	14	“Maenad”	1982
	15	“Menomonie Review”	1982
	16	“Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography”	1989
11	1	“Modern Poetry Studies”	1983
	2	“Naming and Creating”: Dennis School Students	n.d.
	3	<i>Naming the Colors</i>	n.d.
	4	<i>Naming the Colors</i> : Binding	1995-1996, n.d.
	5	<i>Naming the Colors</i> : Early Manuscripts, 1 of 2	n.d.
	6	<i>Naming the Colors</i> : Early Manuscripts, 2 of 2	n.d.
	7	<i>Naming the Colors: Poems by Eleanor Risteen</i> (unbound)	n.d.

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	8	National Women's Council Program	1977
	9	Newspaper Articles (Photocopied)	1953-1986
	10	"North Shore" Magazine	1980
	11	Notes on Feminist Writers (Handwritten)	n.d.
	12	"Open Stock"	1980
	13	"Ornament" Magazine	1980
	14	"Overtures"	1986
	15	"POEM"	1978
	16	Poems: A-D	n.d.
12	1	Poems: E-M	n.d.
	2	Poems: M-P	n.d.
	3	Poems: R-T	n.d.
	4	Poems: U-W	n.d.
	5	Poems: Untitled	1979, n.d.
	6	"Poetry &"	1977, n.d.
	7	Poetry and Women's Newsletters	1978-1985
	8	Poetry Newsletters: "Two Hands News"	1977-1980
	9	<i>Poetry Out of Wisconsin</i>	1980
	10	Poetry Reading Fliers	1982, n.d.
	11	"Primavera"	1977
	12	"Popular Culture Review"	1980
13	1	Publications of the Modern Language Association of America (PMLA) Directory	1989
	2	Qualifying Manuscript: "Days Are My Fears"	1957
	3	"RHINO"	1976-1978
	4	"RHINO"	1979-1987
	5	"Scheherazade and the Postman"	n.d.
	6	"Significance of the Art Deco Movement in Chicago", Essay	n.d.
	7	Short Stories: A-De	1976, n.d.
	8	Short Stories: Do-J	n.d.
	9	Short Stories: L-W	n.d.
	10	"Skywriting 9"	1979
	11	"Spoon River Quarterly"	1980
	12	"Stairway to the Stars"	1977
14	1	"Uncle"	1980-1981
	2	Untitled Article with Notes for "SHE"	n.d.
	3	"Yankee"	1977
Subseries 4A: Newspapers, 1952-1985, n.d.			
15	1	"American Observer"	1952
	2	"Haymarket: Progressive Journal of Politics and Arts"	1985

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3	“New York Times Magazine”: Herb Risteen’s Crossword Puzzles	1954-1981
4	Oversized Newspaper and Magazine Articles	1977-1979, n.d.
5	“SHE: Serving Human Equality”	Nov. 1975-Feb. 1977
6	“SHE: Serving Human Equality”	1977
7	“SHE: Serving Human Equality”	1977
8	“SHE: Serving Human Equality”	1978

Series 5: Audiovisual Materials, 1928-1987, n.d.

14	4 Floppy Discs: Eleanor’s Dissertation and Vita (5X5)	n.d.
	5 Negatives: Plastic Jewelry	n.d.
	6 Photograph Album: Family, Part I	1946-1973, n.d.
	7 Photograph Album: Family, Part II	1946-1973, n.d.
	8 Photographs: Eleanor	n.d.
	9 Photographs: Eleanor’s Childhood	n.d.
	10 Photographs: Family	1928-1987
	11 Photographs: Family	n.d.
	12 Photographs: Group Gatherings	1954, n.d.
	13 Photographs: Plastic Jewelry	n.d.
	14 Photographs: Women’s Style	n.d.

Series 6: Oversized and 3D Materials, 1941-1986, n.d.

16	1 Bowling Award Patches	1971-1976, n.d.
	2 Bowling Award Pins	1986, n.d.
	3 Cartoons	n.d.
	4 Drawings/Sketches	n.d.
	5 Handkerchief	n.d.
	6 High School Letters and Pins	n.d.
	7 Scrapbook: Eleanor’s Childhood	1941, n.d.
	8 Scrapbook: Special Occasion Cards and Artwork	n.d.
FF4	1 Sketches on the back of Wallpaper, Oversized Landscape Sketch	n.d.