

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Katherine Leckie Papers
1914-1925
Mss Col 6304

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Table of Contents

Summary	iii
Provenance note	iv
Related materials note	iv
Biographical note	v
Scope and content note	vi
Arrangement note	vi
Series descriptions and container list	1
I. BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE, 1914-1918, N.D.	1
II. ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, 1915-1918, N.D.	1

Summary

- Main entry:** Leckie, Katherine
- Title:** Katherine Leckie papers, 1914-1925
- Size:** .75 linear feet (2 boxes)
- Source:** Donated in 1944 as part of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection
- Abstract:** Katherine Leckie was a suffragist and journalist who founded a feminist editorial consulting and lecture bureau in New York City. She was press and booking agent to Rosika Schwimmer for her 1914-1915 United States lecture tour, and worked as press manager for the Henry Ford Peace Expedition of 1915. Her papers consist of her business correspondence and subject files related to the Ford Peace Expedition, the Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation, and the International Congress of Women at The Hague. Materials in the subject files consist of printed matter, resolutions, and a small amount of financial material.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Preferred citation:** Katherine Leckie Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Provenance note

Katherine Leckie's papers were initially donated to the New York Public Library and processed as parts of Series E and Q of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection. In 2006 they were reprocessed and now constitute a separate collection, while remaining administratively within the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection.

Related materials note

Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection. The New York Public Library.

Lola Maverick Lloyd Papers. The New York Public Library.

Henry Ford Peace Expedition Records, 1915-1916 (DG018). Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

Biographical note

Katherine Leckie, a journalist, editorial consultant, and press agent, was born in Kingston, Ontario. Over the course of her career as a journalist she reported for the *Chicago Chronicle*, *Chicago American*, and the *New York Evening Journal*. She held editorial positions with the *Delineator* in 1907-1908, *Woman's Magazine* from 1908 to 1912, and the *Housekeeper* in 1913.

Following her career as a writer and editor, she founded her own New York-based editorial consulting and public relations firm, through which she met the Hungarian pacifist Rosika Schwimmer in 1914. Leckie managed Schwimmer's 1914-1915 United States lecture tour, contracting with women's clubs and pacifist organizations in over twenty states across the country to schedule Schwimmer as a speaker. The 1915 season was cut short, however, due to both women's attendance at the International Congress of Women at The Hague, and their involvement with the Henry Ford Peace Expedition of 1915-1916.

Leckie was hired as public relations and press manager for the Ford Peace Expedition, although her duties stretched far beyond public relations. In particular, she contributed to the process of selecting and courting guests for the expedition, and brought on the four female journalists who accompanied the voyage.

Following her time with the Ford Expedition, Leckie served as organizer of news distribution for the Conservation Division of the Food Administration in Washington D.C. in 1917, and the director of publicity for the Y.W.C.A. Free Milk for France campaign of 1918.

Katherine Leckie passed away in 1930.

Scope and content note

The papers consist of correspondence and subject files on various organizations with which Leckie was active.

The correspondence is arranged in three general sections: General, Rosika Schwimmer lectures, and materials related to the Ford Peace Expedition and Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation. Of interest in the latter are letters updating Leckie as to the developments of the Neutral Conference, missteps taken by Frederick Holt in Henry Ford's name, the perceived mistreatment of Rosika Schwimmer by conference leadership, and efforts to put together a reunion dinner. In addition, there is a complete manuscript of Louis P. Lochner's work *The Other Henry Ford*, presumably sent to Leckie with intent to get it published. The book was published as *America's Don Quixote, Henry Ford's Attempt To Save Europe* in 1924.

The Schwimmer correspondence consists of Leckie's 1914-1915 efforts on behalf of Madame Schwimmer's lecture tour and one folder related to a 1916 farewell dinner thrown in Schwimmer's behalf. Materials of interest in the Schwimmer tour materials include Schwimmer's list of lecture topics, mention of her appearance at Carnegie Hall, and the diverse range of women's groups and states represented in the correspondence, including organizations in the American South and West.

Prominent correspondents include Caro Lloyd, Lola Maverick Lloyd, and the Philadelphia physician, Gertrude Walker.

Subject files include materials related to the Ford Peace Expedition; the International Congress of Women at The Hague, which gave rise to Schwimmer's idea for the Peace Ship; the Women's Peace Party; and the People's Council of America. Materials within these files generally consist of printed matter, resolutions, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and a small amount of financial material and correspondence.

Several highlights of the subject files are the collection of statements made by Neutral Conference participants, in which they condemn the tack taken by the conference; and a typescript report and diary by Lewis Maverick which summarizes much of the conference. A fair number of the documents present in this series are typescripts.

Arrangement note

The Katherine Leckie Papers are organized in the following series:

- I. Business Correspondence, 1914-1925, n.d.
- II. Organizations and activities, 1915-1921, n.d.

Series descriptions and container list

I. Business Correspondence, 1914-1925, n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1-2	General, 1914-1925, n.d.
	3	Ford Peace Expedition and Neutral Conference, 1915-1916, n.d.
	4	Louis P. Lochner book manuscript, n.d.
	5-7	Rosika Schwimmer lecture correspondence, 1914 Apr-1925, n.d.
	8	Rosika Schwimmer Farewell Dinner, 1916 Aug

II. Organizations and activities, 1915-1921, n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	1	Ford Peace Expedition and Neutral Conference, 1915-1916, n.d.
	2	International Congress of Women at The Hague and Women's Peace Party, 1915-1918, n.d.
	3	The People's Council of America for Democracy and Peace, 1917 Mar-Jun, n.d.
	4	Newspaper clippings, 1921, n.d.