Guide to the Lois Gladys Leppard papers, 1940-2007

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Author: Leppard, Lois Gladys.


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Background
Lois Gladys Leppard (1924-2008) was the author of popular series of children's mystery books, who also worked as a professional singer, actress, and playwright; resident of Greenville, S.C.; Leppard wrote her first book about Mandie in 1936 at age eleven, a work inspired by her mother's childhood experiences as an orphan in western North Carolina; although it was not published until 1985; Leppard studied at the New York School of Music and the Voice Beautiful Institute in New York under Glenn Morris Starkie. Leppard and her two sisters, Sibyl and Louise, sang professionally as the Larke Sisters, appeared in the operetta Bohemian Girl and were presented at Carnegie Hall. As a drama student, Leppard helped organize The Greenville Little Theater in her S.C. home town. During her career, she wrote several plays and was employed with Columbia Pictures.

Leppard's novels include dedications honoring various various family members, including her mother, Bessie A. Wilson Leppard; her father, James William Leppard (1886-1960); a brother, Arnold O. Leapard [sic] (1909-1975), an artist; and her son, Donn William Leppard
Summary of Contents
Letters and author's papers documenting the writing, editing, publication, and marketing of the "Mandie" juvenile fiction mystery series. These books feature stories about Amanda "Mandie" Elizabeth Shaw, a girl living in western North Carolina, ca. 1900, although several titles are set in Charleston, S.C., and elsewhere. Leppard cited the childhood experiences of her mother, Bessie A. Wilson Leppard who was an orphan, as the inspiration for many of the stories in this series.

Drafts, galleys, correspondence, historical research notes, and other materials. Includes letters and email exchanged with editors, fan clubs, materials relating to operation of the Mandie web site, calendars, audio cassette tapes, writers conference materials, professional affiliations (National Leauge of American Pen Women, Author's Guild, Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, North Carolina Writers' Network, etc.), ephemera and promotional materials. Carton 25 includes complete set of her books in the original Mandie series (40 titles); three Mandie Christmas-themed books; the final title in the series, Mandie: Her College Days (1 title); the Young Mandie series (7 titles); the Lily Adventures (2 titles) about a sixteen year old character who lives in Fountain Inn, S.C., the birthplace of Leppard's father, James William Leppard (1886-1960), and where her grandfather worked as a blacksmith; and a blank diary and datebook, "Mandie 1901," both illustrated.

Majority of collection documents Leppard's career as a writer; however Box 1 includes resumes, birth certificate, and other biographical information, including obituraries of the Leppard and related families. In 1995, Leppard began a spin-off series featuring sixteen-year-old Lily Masterson, whose adventures take place at the turn of the century in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, where Lois Gladys Lepprd's father was born, and where her grandfather was a landowner and blacksmith.

Box 1 includes five booklets, 1959-1966 about Libya reflecting Leppard's work as a civilian employee of Wheelus Air Base located five miles east of Tripoli, at the time the largest American air base outside the U.S.; titles include, A Reader's Guide to Libya and the Arab World (bibliography, 1959, 19 sheets) re Libya, North Africa, the Middle East, and Islam; the "Special Independence Issue" of the Libyan Review (No. 12 : Dec. 1966); and a orientation booklet re Libya, published 1961 by U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE
Pamphlet 40-1-1), includes many annotations updating or contradicting the information as printed, "Base Exchange has a large variety of items for sale," annotated with comment, "No!"; and printed description of the service-operated schools on base as equivalent to an education received in the U.S., includes annotation that this might be true "when the teachers are sober."

Visit the web site promoting the “Mandie” series of novels:
http://mandie.com

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1  1940 – 2000
   Biographical data, Vita, Employment history
   Correspondence re promotional website: http://mandie.com
   Editorial correspondence

2  1988-2007
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   Mahala Shaw
   Writers’ guilds activities,

3  Mandie books 1-7
   Edited copies; galleys, 1983-1986

4  Mandie Books 8-12
   Drafts; edited copies, 1987-1989

5  Mandie books 12-18
   Carbon copies; galleys, 1989-1991

6  Mandie books 18-19
   1989-2004
   New Horizons…College Years edited galleys
   Email correspondence

7  Mandie books 19-22
   Carbon copies, galleys, audio cassette tapes, 1989-2001

8  Mandie books 23-26
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      Galleys  
      Writers conferences |
| 11 | Mandie books 28-29  
      Galleys; carbon copies; writers conferences; 1997-2005 |
| 12 | Mandie books 23 and 30-31  
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| 13 | Mandie books 30 Christmas Surprise  
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| 14 | Mandie books 31-34 and 40  
      Carbon copies; galleys; book reviews, 1996-2005 |
| 15 | Mandie books 32-35 and Young Mandie 3-7  
      Carbon copies; galleys 1999-2002 |
| 16 | Mandie books 34-37 and 39-40  
      Carbon copies; galleys 2001-2004 |
| 17 | Mandie books 29 and 38-40  
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| 18 | Young Mandie 1-2  
      Final copies; galleys, 1999 |
| 19 | Young Mandie 2 and Lily Adventures 1-2  
      Galleys; correspondence, 1996-2003 |
| 20 | Mandie’s Cookbook and Mandie and Joe’s Christmas Secret (play)  
      1977-1995 |
| 21 | Cookbook and recipes; writers conferences  
      1996-1999 |
| 22 | Email correspondence and Mandie-themed diary/calendar  
      1994-2005 |
| 23 | Writers conferences  
      1984-1989 |
24 Writers conferences
   1967-2002

25 Complete set of LGM’s novels, 1983-2006 (55 bd. vols.)

   Mandie Books
   (Main Series) Vols. 1-40
   Christmas Specials 3 v.
   Datebook/calendar 1 v.
   Diary 1 v.
   Mandie: Her College Days 1 v.

   The Lily Adventures Vols. 1-2