

Lorraine Passovoy Papers
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DuSable Museum of African American History
02/29/2012
Chicago, IL

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Summary Information

Repository	DuSable Museum of African American History
Title	Lorraine Passovoy Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1974-1984
Date [inclusive]	1963-1989, bulk 1974-1984
Extent	10.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Lorraine Passovoy (1919-1990) was an author and researcher whose work focused on Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, the founder of Chicago. The Lorraine Passovoy papers spans from 1963-1989, with the bulk of material from 1974-1984. The papers reflect Passovoy's extensive research and writing about the life of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable. Her drafts, manuscripts, and collected research material make up the majority of the collection. Personal and professional correspondence, medical and financial documents, newspaper clippings, and personal material are included in the collection. The Lorraine Passovoy papers are arranged into three series.</p>

Biographical Note

Lorraine Passovoy (1919-1990) was an author and researcher whose work focused on Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, the founder of Chicago. Her published works include *The Mysterious Coat Button* (Perdam Press, Urbana, IL, 1979), *Point Sable and Chicago, 1778-1780* (L. Passovoy, 1982), and *The Black Root* (1983). She frequently collaborated with Virginia Julien, a Jean Baptiste Point DuSable scholar. During the late 1960s, Passovoy published a series of historical essays under the pseudonym Altai Margit in *Hyde Park-Kenwood Voices*, a monthly neighborhood newspaper. From 1968 to 1973, Passovoy served on Mayor Richard M. Daley's Committee for a Point Sable Monument. The committee was responsible for the relocation of the DuSable Museum of African American History to the Washington Park Field House in Hyde Park. Passovoy lived in the Kenwood neighborhood of Chicago and Champaign, Illinois. She was a member of the Northern Illinois Unit of the Herb Society of America.

Scope and Contents note

The Lorraine Passovoy papers spans from 1963 to 1989 with the bulk of material from 1974-1984. It is arranged into three series, "Lorraine Passovoy Writings," "Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Research," and "Personal Material." The papers reflect Passovoy's extensive research and writing about the life of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, the founder of Chicago. Her drafts, manuscripts, and collected research material make up the majority of the collection. Other material in the papers include personal and professional correspondence, medical and financial documents, documents pertaining to the Herb Society of America, newspaper clippings, and personal items. Of note in this collection is a complete manuscript of "Black Chief," an unpublished historically documented narrative of DuSable's life. Researchers interested in John Baptiste Point DuSable and the history of Chicago will find the Lorraine Passovoy papers useful.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DuSable Museum of African American History 02/29/2012

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- DuSable, Jean Baptiste Point
- Julien, Virginia
- Passovoy, Lorraine
- Useni Eugene Perkins

Subject(s)

- African American--History.
- Chicago
- Chicago (Ill.)--History.
- Herb Society of America
- The Passovoy Defect

Series I: Lorraine Passovoy Writings,

Collection Inventory

Series I: Lorraine Passovoy Writings, undated

Scope and Contents note

This series contains manuscripts and drafts of Passovoy's published and unpublished works, the majority of which focus on Jean Baptiste Point DuSable. Notable writings include "Black Chief," an unpublished historical narrative about DuSable, "The Point Sable Documents," which was the basis for Black Root, The Mysterious Coat Button, a children's book about DuSable, and "Point DuSable Documents," a bibliographic list of primary sources regarding DuSable.

	Box	Folder
Letter to Scott Meredith Literary Agency, 1980	1	1
Black Chief Manuscript, 1980	1	2-9
Black Chief Manuscript, 1980	2	10-17
Black Chief Draft, undated	3	18-36
Black Chief Draft, undated	4	37-57
Black Chief Draft, undated	5	58-70
Black Chief Draft, undated	6	71-82+

Series I: Lorraine Passovoy Writings,

The Point Sable Documents, undated	7	83- 103 The Point Sable Documents
The Point Sable Documents, undated	8	104-108
The Black Root, 1983	8	109
		Box
The Black Root (oversized), 1983		16
	Box	Folder
Bibliography on Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, undated	8	110
Point Sable and Chicago 1778-1780, 1982	9	111-112
The Mysterious Coat Button, undated	9	113-118
The DuSable Lost and Found, undated	9	119-120
Jeannot, undated	9	121
A Point on the Compass Marked Liberty, undated	10	122
John Jones, The Tailor Who Altered History, undated	10	123
Looking for the People Who Remember, undated	10	124

Series II: Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Research,

What's Going on Here, undated	10	125
From Every Man to His Fellow, undated	10	126
It's a Wise Town that Knows Its Own Father, undated	10	127
Unidentified Drafts, undated	10	128-138

Series II: Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Research, 1964-1987**Scope and Contents note**

This series is comprised of material gathered by Passovoy while she researched and wrote about Jean Baptiste Point DuSable. It includes copies and transcriptions of primary documents, and correspondence with archives, libraries, historical societies, and publishing agencies. "Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Research" is arranged into three subseries, "Research Files," "Literary Correspondence," and "Note Cards."

Subseries 1: Research Files, 1964-1986**Scope and Contents note**

"Research Files" contains the material collected by Passovoy while she studied and wrote about Jean Baptiste Point DuSable. The subseries is primarily comprised of photocopies and transcribed notes from archives, libraries, and historical societies, along with correspondence between Passovoy and these institutions. The subseries also includes a signed copy of "DuSable, The Black Chief," a play by Useni Eugene Perkins that was put on at the DuSable Museum of African American History.

Box**Folder**

Subseries 2: Literary Correspondence,

Correspondence, 1964-1986	11	139-173
Research and Correspondence, 1964-1986	11	174-181
Research and Correspondence, 1968-1986	12	182-201
Research, undated	13	202-237
Research, undated	14	238-257
Research, undated	15	258-276
Research (oversized), undated	16	277- 278
Research (oversized binder), undated	16	279
Research, undated	17	280-286
“DuSable, The Black Chief” by Useni Eugene Perkins, 1984	17	287
Mayor Richard M. Daley’s Committee for a Point Sable Monument, 1968	17	288
Flexidisc: “Songs and Chats,” and Unidentified Cassette, undated	17	289
Microfilm, undated	17	290
Subseries 2: Literary Correspondence, 1968-1987		

Subseries 2: Literary Correspondence,**Scope and Contents note**

This subseries contains correspondence related to Passovoy's efforts to publish her writings. It includes correspondence with Virginia Julien, publishers, and literary agencies. "Literary Correspondence" is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Miscellaneous, 1968-1970	18	291
Roy Porter, 1969-1980	18	292
Virginia Julien, 1971-1984	18	293
Authors Guild, 1975	18	294
Negro History Bulletin, 1976	18	295
NBC, 1976	18	296
Journal of Negro History, 1976-1978	18	297
Miscellaneous, 1977	18	298
Scott Meredith Literary Agency, 1981	18	299
New York Public Library, 1981	18	300
Greenwood Press, 1984	18	301

Subseries 3: Note Cards,

The International Black Heritage Collection, 1984	18	302
Checagou Du Sable Fort Dearborn Historical Commission, Inc., 1985	18	303
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1985	18	304
American Visions, 1987	18	305
Smithsonian, 1987	18	306
W.W. Norton & Co., undated	18	307
Chicago Magazine, undated	18	308

Subseries 3: Note Cards, undated**Scope and Contents note**

“Note Cards” contains three boxes of note cards compiled by Passovoy during her research. The note cards are housed in their original containers. Note: Box 27 contains note cards that were found after the collection was processed.

Box

Notecards, undated	19
Notecards, undated	20
Notecards, undated	21

Series III: Personal Material,

27

Notecards, undated

Series III: Personal Material, 1963-1989**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material that is not directly associated with Passovoy's research on Jean Baptiste Point DuSable. It is arranged into five subseries, "Personal Correspondence," "Medical and Financial Documents," "Herb Society of America," "Personal Items," and "Newspaper Clippings."

Subseries 1: Personal Correspondence, 1970-1989**Scope and Contents note**

This subseries contains Passovoy's personal correspondence, the majority of which is with her sister, Louise. "Personal Correspondence" is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Personal Correspondence, 1970, 1978	22	309
Personal Correspondence, 1983	22	310
Personal Correspondence, 1987-1988	22	311
Personal Correspondence, 1989	22	312
Personal Correspondence, undated	22	313

Subseries 2: Medical and Financial Documents, 1971-1989 (Bulk, 1987-1989)

Subseries 3: Herb Society of America,**Scope and Contents note**

This subseries contains medical and financial documents from the late 1980s, when Passovoy's health was in decline. There are also two journal articles, a newspaper clipping, and a letter relating to the Passovoy Defect, a blood disorder named after Passovoy's niece, Carey.

	Box	Folder
Medical and Financial Documents, 1987-1989	22	314-338
Medical and Financial Documents, 1971-1989	23	339-353

Subseries 3: Herb Society of America, 1963-1989 (Bulk, 1986-1989)**Scope and Contents note**

This subseries contains material related to Passovoy's involvement in the Northern Illinois Unit of the Herb Society of America. It includes meeting minutes, member lists, newsletters, and drafts of a book that the Society was writing.

	Box	Folder
Herb Society of America, 1963-1989	23	354-360
Herb Society of America, 1986-1989	24	361-362
Herb Society of America Binder, circa 1986	24	363

Subseries 4: Personal Items, undated**Scope and Contents note**

Subseries 5: Newspaper Clippings,

This subseries includes publications, notebooks, and other material collected by Passovoy.

	Box	Folder
Personal Items, undated	24	364-366
Personal Items, undated	25	367-373

Subseries 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1968-1969**Scope and Contents note**

This subseries includes copies of Hyde Park-Kenwood Voices, a neighborhood newspaper, that Passovoy published a series of articles in under the pseudonym Altai Margit during the late 1960s.

	Box
Hyde Park-Kenwood Voices, 1968-1969	26