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## **Finding Aid to the Lois Rather papers, circa 1877-1996 (bulk 1945-1985)**

Finding Aid written by Lara Michels

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California, 94720-6000

Phone: (510) 642-6481

Fax: (510) 642-7589

Email: [bancref@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:bancref@library.berkeley.edu)

URL: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/>

2012

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## Finding Aid to the Lois Rather papers, circa 1877-1996 (bulk 1945-1985)

**Collection Number:** BANC MSS 98/61 c

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California

Finding Aid Written By:

Bancroft Library staff

Date Completed:

May 2013

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### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Lois Rather papers

**Date (inclusive):** circa 1877-1996

**Date:** (bulk 1945-1985)

**Collection Number:** BANC MSS 98/61 c

**Creators :** Rather, Lois, 1905-

**Extent:** Number of containers: 8 cartons, 1 oversize box, 1 cardfile box (Linear feet: 10.75)

**Repository:** The Bancroft Library

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**Abstract:** Papers of Lois Rather, printer, writer, and proprietor, along with her husband Clif Rather, of the Oakland, California-based Rather Press.

**Languages Represented:** Collection materials are in English

**Physical Location:** Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

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**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Lois Rather papers, BANC MSS 98/61 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

**Alternate Forms Available**

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

**Acquisition Information**

The Lois Rather papers were gifted to the Bancroft Library by Paul Padgette in 1998-1999.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Rather, Lois, 1905--Archives

Rather Press

Rather, Clif

Rodecape, Deforest Allen

Padgette, Paul. Correspondent

Printers--California--Oakland.

Women printers--California--Oakland

Women in the book industries and trade--California--Oakland

Women authors, American--California--Oakland

Private presses--California--Oakland

**Accruals**

No additions are expected.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Bancroft Library staff in 2013.

**Biographical Information**

Lois Rather was a printer, writer, and proprietor, along with her husband Clif Rather, of the Oakland, California-based Rather Press. The press was located in a private home in Oakland and, except for making the paper, all press operations were performed by the Rathers themselves. Lois was born in Chicago in 1905 and moved to California with her family in 1925. She received her teaching credential from San Francisco State College and worked as a teacher and director with the San Francisco Children's Theater. She served as research supervisor of the Works Progress Administration Federal Theater from 1935-1936. For some years, Lois worked as a typist and editor for the graduate thesis shop at the University of California, Berkeley and did some transcription and historical research for Lawrence Kinnaird and Herbert Bolton. She married DeForest Rodecape, a librarian at UC Berkeley, in 1936. After Rodecape's death in 1943, Rather taught in the Oakland Public Schools (mostly kindergarten). In 1969, Lois Rather resigned from teaching and devoted her energies to the Rather Press.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection consists of correspondence (mostly dating from 1970 to 1996), Lois Rather's writings and notes, printed materials from the Rather Press, printed materials from other presses and institutions, correspondence between Lois Rather and Paul Padgette (and related materials), early papers, and assorted other papers. The collection focuses mostly on the years of the Rather Press, though it does include writings from Rather's earlier life. Aside from a few manuscript drafts of writings for the WPA's Federal Theater Project, the collection does not document Rather's work on that project in any detail.

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**Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1940-1995**

**Physical Description:** Carton 1

**Scope and Content Note**

General correspondence dating from 1970 to 1995; correspondence with Dr. Larson, Glenn Wessels, Helen Lee, Dr. David Palmer, Dan Solo, the Sakuma family, Carol Cunningham, Jim Weygand, Carol and Mark Van Doren, Sherwood Grover, Paul Walker, San Francisco Archive of Performing Art, Silverado Museum, and assorted personal friends and family members.

Series 2: **Writings and notes. circa 1930-1994**

**Physical Description:** Carton 2-4; Carton 5, folder 1-9

**Scope and Content Note**

Assorted writings (published and unpublished) of Lois Rather, including manuscripts of books and stories. Also includes notes on dance, Susan B. Anthony, and family history.

Series 3: **Rather Press printed materials and printing notes. circa 1969-1996**

**Physical Description:** Carton 5, folder 10-27; carton 6; carton 7, folder 1-2; oversize box 1; cardfile box 1

**Scope and Content Note**

Various items printed by the Rather Press, including many written by Lois and Clif Rather. Also includes notebooks and notes on the printing process at the Rather Press. Oversize box 1 includes an account book for the Rather Press. Cardfile box 1 consists of an index card mailing list and an alphabetical card file of recipients of Rather Press publications.

Series 4: **Printed materials from other printers and institutions. circa 1960-1990**

**Physical Description:** Carton 7, folder 3-26; carton 8, folder 1-7

**Scope and Content Note**

Printed materials from other presses and institutions, including the Hart Press, the Book Club of California, the Roxburghe Club, Les Lloyd, Mills College, the Gleeson Library, Paul Livingston, Edwin R. Willis, Norman Strouse, the Glovers, the Bancroft Library, the Scarlet Ibis Press, and Lawton and Kennedy. Also includes assorted printed items from a range of institutions.

Series 5: **Correspondence with Paul Padgette and related papers. circa 1974-1996**

**Physical Description:** Carton 8, folder 8-13

Series 6: **Early family papers. 1877-1880**

**Physical Description:** Oversize box 1

**Scope and Content Note**

Four letters to various recipients from Kate and Henry Jackson of Walla Walla, Washington. Also includes one Power of Attorney form and one photograph (carte de visite) of an unidentified girl. On the back of the photograph is written: "Is this cousin Kate."

Series 7: **Assorted other papers. circa 1940-1994**

**Physical Description:** Carton 8, folder 14-25

**Scope and Content Note**

Clif Rather's 1963 trip scrapbook; writings of DeForest Rodecape; memorial card for Lois Rather; a few photographs of Lois and Clif Rather; clippings about the Rather Press; some biographical materials; and an illustration (Noah's Ark) by Joyce Lancaster Wilson.