

Guide to the Stephen R. Pastore Collection on Sinclair Lewis

By Shelley Byron and Maria Bernier

Overview of the Collection

Repository: [Salve Regina University Special Collections](#), McKillop Library, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI
Collector: Stephen R. Pastore
Title: Stephen R. Pastore Collection on Sinclair Lewis
Dates: 1907-1997, bulk 1917-1950
Quantity: 80 linear feet of books plus 11.5 linear feet of records
Abstract: Collection of books, articles, correspondence, scripts, recordings, and ephemera related to twentieth-century American novelist Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951).
Collection #: SP 07
Location: Cabinets 7a, 7b, 8b
Language: English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Icelandic, Russian, Greek, Swedish

Biographical Note

Sinclair Lewis was born Harry Sinclair Lewis on February 7, 1885, in Sauk Center, Minnesota. He began reading as a young child and read often. His father, Edwin, was strict and often hard on Sinclair, who was sensitive and bookish in comparison to his older brothers, Fred and Claude. Lewis is said to have led a lonely childhood, and at the age of thirteen he ran away from home in an attempt to join the Spanish-American War as a drummer boy. Sinclair Lewis entered Yale University in 1903 but did not complete his Bachelor's degree until 1908. While he was at Yale, he was the editor of the Yale Literary Magazine, where he demonstrated his talents as a young writer.

After his graduation from Yale, Lewis held various jobs where he wrote "shallow, popular stories" that were purchased by many magazines. Lewis published his first book, *Hike and the Aeroplane*, in 1912, and several books and serial stories followed. In 1914, he married Grace Hegger, who worked at *Vogue* magazine. Lewis's serial novel about small-town life, *Main Street*, had astronomical success when it was published in 1920. He followed up with *Babbitt*, which was a satire on American capitalism, and his success continued throughout the 1920's. He was offered a Pulitzer Prize for his 1925 novel *Arrowsmith*, but he refused the award. Also that year, Grace and Lewis were divorced, and three years later he married journalist Dorothy Thompson. Throughout the late 1920s and 1930s, Lewis continued to write novels as well as articles for magazines.

Lewis was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1930 with special attention paid to his novel *Babbitt*. He published nine more books after winning his Nobel Prize. In 1942, at the age of 54, he met young actress Marcella Powers and fell in love with her. His marriage to Dorothy Thompson ended the same year. He died on January 10, 1951, and his last novel, *World So Wide*, was published posthumously.

For more information on Lewis's life, read *Sinclair Lewis: Rebel from Main Street* by Richard Lingeman (2002). For a complete bibliography of Lewis's writings, refer to *Sinclair Lewis: a Descriptive Biography*, by Stephen Pastore.

Scope and Contents

This collection was donated to Salve Regina University by Stephen A. Pastore, who spent many years acquiring various materials related to Nobel Prize-winning American author Sinclair Lewis and his works. It is divided into two sections: published books and non-book material.

Books:

Pastore collected multiple editions of each of Lewis's books, including some published in other languages, including German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Icelandic, Russian, Greek, and Swedish. In addition, he collected books about Lewis and books that referenced or related to him somehow, such as a history of the Yale class of 1907. Other books relate to Dorothy Thompson, Lewis's second wife. Also, Pastore recreated Lewis's personal library to some extent by purchasing copies of books that he was known to have read. The collection also includes approximately 11 titles by Theodore Dreiser, an influential contemporary of Lewis's.

Non-book material:

Pastore gathered copies of Lewis's published articles and theater scripts as well as audio recordings of his books and movies adapted from his works. He obtained photocopies from other archives of some of Lewis's personal correspondence, and he collected articles written about Lewis and miscellaneous instances of his name or references to his work. Also included in the collection are images of Lewis and items related to his boyhood home in Sauk Centre, Minnesota.

A unique portion of the collection is Pastore's research files that he compiled in preparation for the publication of his book *Sinclair Lewis: a Descriptive Bibliography: a Collector's and Scholar's Guide to Identification*, published by Yalebooks Press in 1997.

The collection contains a wide variety of physical formats, including vinyl records, audio cassettes, VHS video cassettes, photos, papers, and periodicals. All of the non-book materials are written or recorded in English.

Arrangement

The Pastore Collection was previously arranged by format, with periodicals, photos, papers, sound recordings, and videos all stored separately. The arrangement described here is designed to provide better thematic access to the collection and more efficient use of space. The periodicals are separated into two subseries: those featuring articles written *by* Lewis and those with articles written *about* Lewis. Likewise, other materials are listed near items of similar subject content.

The book collection is shelved together in the Special Collections room in LC call number order. The books can be searched in the library's catalog system and are not described further in this finding aid.

The non-book collection is arranged in the following series and subseries:

- Series 1. Writings by Lewis
 - Subseries 1.1. Articles by Lewis
 - Subseries 1.2. Lewis correspondence
 - Subseries 1.3. Lewis signatures
- Series 2. Writings and records about Lewis
 - Subseries 2.1. Articles about Lewis
 - Subseries 2.2. Bibliography by Stephen Pastore
 - Subseries 2.3. Images of Lewis
- Series 3. Adaptations of Lewis's works
 - Subseries 3.1. Stage
 - Subseries 3.2. Screen
 - Subseries 3.3. Sound recordings
- Series 4. Sauk Centre, MN
- Series 5. Miscellaneous

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is not restricted.

Physical Access: The Pastore Collection is housed in the Munroe Special Collections room of the McKillop Library. Appointments are strongly recommended and researchers will be required to register at the library's circulation desk. Overall, the materials included in the collection are in fair condition, but a few items are in poor condition.

Technical Access: A VHS player is required to watch movies, a cassette player is required to listen to cassettes, and a record player to listen to 33 1/3 and 45 RPM vinyl discs.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Various copying restriction apply, according to the Special Collections use policy. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be directed to the Special Collections Librarian. See also the Library's [copyright and publication statement](#). Salve Regina University does not own the copyright to any items in this collection.

Search Terms

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection. To find additional related materials, use these headings to search the HELIN catalog.

Persons:

Dreiser, Theodore, 1871-1945
Lewis, Sinclair, 1885-1951
Pastore, Stephen R., 1946-
Thompson, Dorothy, 1893-1961

Subjects:

Authors, American – 20th century
Novelists, American – 20th century

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], in SP 07: Stephen R. Pastore Collection on Sinclair Lewis, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections, McKillop Library, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

History of the collection:

1. Collection donated by Stephen Pastore in 1999.
2. Originally processed by Allen Antone, Special Collections Librarian.
3. Reprocessed in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 by Shelley Byron '09, Archives Assistant. Shelley rearranged the collection and moved it into more appropriate boxes.
4. New finding aid produced in 2009 by Shelley Byron '09, Archives Assistant, and Maria Bernier, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian.
5. Finding aid posted online in May 2009 by Olga Verbeek, Systems Librarian.
6. No additional accruals are expected.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the non-book materials in the collection.

Series 1: Writings by Lewis

The files in series 1 date from 1907 to 1950. This series contains articles and correspondence written by Lewis, as well as various samples of his signature.

Subseries 1.1: Articles by Lewis

This subseries consists of stories and articles written by Sinclair Lewis and published between 1907 and 1947 in various national magazines, such as *The Nation* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. Some of his longer stories and novels appeared in serializations over several issues of a magazine. Other articles often featured his opinions or his critiques of other authors' works. Most of the articles in this

subseries are present in original, complete issues of the magazines, but one of the articles appears only as a photocopy. Two oversized items are located in Box 15.

Box 1:

1. *American Magazine*, April 1921, "How I Wrote a Novel on Trains and Beside the Kitchen Sink."
2. *American Mercury*, October 1925, "Self-Conscious America."
3. *American Mercury*, October 1925, "Self-Conscious America." [duplicate]
4. *American Mercury*, January 1928, "The Man who Knew Coolidge."
5. *American Scholar*, Summer 1945, "The Artist, the Scientist and Peace."
6. *The Bookman*, November 1914, "The Passing of Capitalism."
7. *Book News Monthly*, March 1912, "John Ames Mitchell."

Box 2:

1. *The Century*, June 1917, "Young Man Axelbrod."
2. *The Century*, May 1921, "Floyd Dell."
3. *Coronet*, July 1941, "The Death of Arrowsmith"
[*Cosmopolitan*, see *Hearst's International*]
4. *Dearborn Independent*, March 1926, "How I Write and Why I Write."
5. *Golden Book Magazine*, July 1933, "Speed."
6. *Good Housekeeping*, May 1935, "The Golden Half-Century."
7. *Good Housekeeping*, May 1935, "The Golden Half-Century." [duplicate]

Box 3:

1. *Good Housekeeping*, May 1944, "There's No Excuse for Lateness."
2. *Harper's Magazine*, March 1921, "A Matter of Business."
3. *Hearst's International*, February 1918, "The Tamarack Lover."
4. *Hearst's International*, July 1918, "Mother Love."
5. *Hearst's International*, July 1918, "Mother Love." [duplicate]
6. *Hearst's International & Cosmopolitan*, September 1929, "What a Man."
7. *Hearst's International*, October 1929, "Keep Out of the Kitchen."
8. *Hearst's International*, July 1931, "City of Mercy."
9. *Hearst's International*, May 1947, "I'm an Old Newspaper Man Myself."

Box 4:

1. *Liberty*, September 6, 1941, "They Had Magic Then."
2. *Life*, July 4, 1907, "Maecenas Welches," in "Literary Zoo."
3. *Life*, August 1, 1907, "American Kiplings," in "Literary Zoo."
4. *Life*, October 10, 1907, "Editor's Who Write," in "Literary Zoo."
5. *Literary Digest International Book Review*, December 1922, "A Review of Reviewers."
6. *The Metropolitan*, March 1918, "Slip It to 'Em."
7. *The Nation*, May 30, 1923, "Minnesota the Norse State."
8. *The Nation*, August 29, 1923, "The Hack Driver."
9. *The Nation*, June 4, 1924, "I Return to America."
10. *The Nation*, June 4, 1924, "I Return to America." [duplicate]
11. *The Nation*, September 10, 1924, "Main Street's Been Paved."
12. *The Nation*, October 15, 1924, "Be Brisk with Babbitt, part 1"
13. *The Nation*, October 22, 1924, "Be Brisk with Babbitt, part 2"
14. *The Nation*, October 29, 1924, "Be Brisk with Babbitt, part 3"
15. *The Nation*, July 1, 1925, "An American Views the Huns."
16. *The Nation*, December 9, 1925, "Can an Artist Live in America?"

17. *The Nation*, July 25, 1928, "Sinclair Lewis on Mr. Lorimer and Me."
18. *The Nation*, March 6, 1929, "Publicity Gone Mad."
19. *The Nation*, December 18, 1929, "Devil Dog Rule."
20. *The Nation*, September 16, 1931, "A Letter to Critics."
21. *The Nation*, September 16, 1931, "A Letter to Critics." [duplicate]

Box 5:

1. *Newsweek*, October 4, 1937, "Onward Chicago."
2. *Outer's Book*, May 1907, "May Afield."
3. *Overland Monthly*, January 1908, "My California Lady." (Poem)
4. *Overland Monthly*, June 1926, "Gold in Umber."
5. *Overland Monthly*, July 1926, "My California Lady." (Poem)
6. *Redbook*, December 1932, "Anne Vickers." (part 5 of serialized version of novel)
7. *Saturday Review*, October 3, 1936, "Literary Felonies."
8. *Woman's Home Companion*, January 1907, "January Nights." (Poem)
9. *Woman's Home Companion*, May 1908, "The Awful Jungle."
10. *Writer's Digest*, June 1931, "On Receiving the Nobel Prize."

Box 6:

1. *Saturday Evening Post*, October 2, 1915, "Nature, Inc."
2. *Saturday Evening Post*, January 8, 1916, "If I Were Boss." (part 2)
3. *Saturday Evening Post*, February 17, 1917, "Twenty-four Hours in June."
4. *Saturday Evening Post*, March 17, 1917, "A Story with a Happy Ending."
5. *Saturday Evening Post*, April, 7, 1917, "Hobohemia."
6. *Saturday Evening Post*, July 28, 1917, "A Woman by Candlelight."
7. *Saturday Evening Post*, June 22, 1918, "The Shadowy Glass."
8. *Saturday Evening Post*, June 22, 1918, "The Shadowy Glass." [duplicate]
9. *Saturday Evening Post*, September 21, 1918, "The Swept Hearth."
10. *Saturday Evening Post*, January 11, 1919, "Moths in the Arc Light."
11. *Saturday Evening Post*, January 11, 1919, "Moths in the Arc Light." [duplicate]
12. *Saturday Evening Post*, February 15, 1919, "The Shrinking Violet."
13. *Saturday Evening Post*, February 22, 1919, "Things."

Box 7:

1. *Saturday Evening Post*, April 19, 1919, "The Cat of the Stars."
2. *Saturday Evening Post*, May 24, 1919, "The Watcher across the Road."
3. *Saturday Evening Post*, May 31, 1919, "Free Air, part 1."
4. *Saturday Evening Post*, June 7, 1919, "Free Air, part 2."
5. *Saturday Evening Post*, June 14, 1919, "Free Air, part 3."
6. *Saturday Evening Post*, June 21, 1919, "Free Air, part 4."
7. *Saturday Evening Post*, August 9, 1919, "The Enchanted Hour."

Box 8:

1. *Saturday Evening Post*, October 18, 1919, "Danger—Run Slow."
2. *Saturday Evening Post*, December 13, 1919, "Bronze Bars."
3. *Saturday Evening Post*, January 24, 1920, "Habeas Corpus."
4. *Saturday Evening Post*, May 29, 1920, "Way I See It."
5. *Saturday Evening Post*, December 11, 1920, "The Good Sport."
6. *Saturday Evening Post*, June 6, 1931, "Ring Around a Rosy."
7. *Saturday Evening Post*, September 12, 1931, "Land."
8. *Saturday Evening Post*, July 13, 1935, "Proper Gander."

Box 15:

- "A Letter to Critics" broadside, republished from *The Nation*, September 16, 1931
- "Samples: a book containing many fine pages from the books to be published by the Limited Editions Club in its seventh series, with a note on book collecting," 1935

Subseries 1.2: Lewis correspondence

This subseries includes copies of correspondence from Sinclair Lewis to some of his family members and acquaintances written between 1910 and 1950. The family members include his father, Edwin J. Lewis, his brother Claude, his nephew Freeman, his nieces Isabella and Virginia, and lastly Marcella Powers, the young actress Lewis was emotionally tied to. The letters in this subseries are all photocopies of original papers owned by other archives.

Box 10:

1. Correspondence to father Edwin J. Lewis, 1921-1926
2. Correspondence to brother Claude, 1921-1950
3. Correspondence to nephew Freeman, 1925-1930
4. Correspondence to niece Isabel, 1929-1950
5. Correspondence to niece Virginia, 1930-1950
6. Correspondence to Marcella Powers, 1942
7. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1910-1948

Subseries 1.3: Lewis signatures

This subseries contains several of Lewis's signatures. Some of the signatures are on loose papers, while others are on his correspondence. One is on an advertisement.

Box 10:

8. Signatures, undated

Series 2: Writings and records about Lewis

The files in series 2 date from 1922 to 1997. This series contains articles and other items about Lewis, including photographs of him and Stephen Pastore's research papers for his bibliography on Lewis. These are things about Lewis that were created by other people.

Subseries 2.1: Articles about Lewis

This subseries includes various articles written by others about Sinclair Lewis and his various works. The articles were published between 1922 and 1997. Two oversized items are located in Box 15.

Box 9:

1. *The American Mercury*, August 1930, "A Note as to Sinclair Lewis," by James Branch Cabell.
2. *The Bookman*, September 1922, "Literary Spotlight, xii: Sinclair Lewis," by John Chipman Farrar.
3. *Firsts the Book Collector's Magazine*, April 1997, "From Sauk Centre, Sinclair Lewis," by Stephen R. Pastore.
4. *Harper's Magazine*, October 1963, "The Tangled Romance of Sinclair Lewis and Dorothy Thompson," by Vincent Sheean.
5. *Life and Letters*, May 1929, "A Camera Man," by E.M. Forster.
6. *The Literary Digest*, December 1930, "Sinclair Lewis Struts His Stuff."
7. *Satire Newsletter*, Fall 1965, "The Sacred Rites of Pride," by Thomas C. Kishler
8. *Saturday Review*, October 19, 1935, Review of *It Can't Happen Here*.

9. *Time*, October 8, 1945, "Sinclair Lewis in U.S. Letters."
10. *Time*, October 8, 1945, "Sinclair Lewis in U.S. Letters." [duplicate]

Box 10:

9. Articles about Sinclair Lewis in books and periodicals (Authors B-H)
10. Articles about Sinclair Lewis in books and periodicals (Authors K-P)
11. Articles about Sinclair Lewis in books and periodicals (Authors R-V)

Box 15:

- *The New York Herald Tribune*, October 20, 1935, "Sinclair Lewis Faces Fascism in the US."
- *The New York Times Book Review*, March 16, 1997, "The Road to Babbittville."

Subseries 2.2: Bibliography by Stephen Pastore

One major contribution to the scholarship on Sinclair Lewis is the descriptive bibliography of all of Lewis's works, which was compiled and published by Stephen R. Pastore in 1997. In the collection are rough drafts of the bibliography and various papers documenting Pastore's research process and publication process.

Box 11:

1. Miscellaneous research papers
2. Correspondence regarding Lewis and his work and attachments, 1991-1997
3. Book lists in research process and bookseller invoices, 1996 and undated
4. Drafts of Appendix I and Notes, undated
5. Partial draft of bibliography, undated
6. Draft of bibliography without pictures, undated
7. Publishing forms and miscellaneous bills for bibliography, 1996-1997
8. Stephen Pastore author photographs, undated
9. "World So Wide – the Life Journey of Sinclair Lewis," by Stephen R. Pastore, 1997
10. Stephen Pastore correspondence regarding the bibliography, 1991-1997
11. Typed draft of bibliography
12. Photographs of Lewis book covers, to be printed in bibliography, 1996

Box 14:

1. Printer's copy of the Sinclair Lewis Bibliography by Stephen R. Pastore

Subseries 2.3: Images of Lewis

This subseries contains pictorial representations of Lewis, including photographs, drawings, and a reproduction of a painted portrait.

Box 15:

- Unframed b&w photographs of Lewis
- 'Sinclair Lewis of Main Street' by William Showalter (2 copies)

Framed portraits, hung on wall of Special Collections:

- Pen and ink, by Richard Hood
- Original pencil on paper drawing of cover illustration for *The Nation*, Vol. CXXVII, no. 3290 (July 25, 1928), by H. H. Knight, June 7, 1928
- B&W photograph
- B&W photograph framed with Lewis signature

Series 3: Adaptations of Lewis's works

The items in series 3 date from 1918 to 1998. Sinclair Lewis's works have been adapted into stage and film productions as well as audiobooks and other sound recordings. The collection contains scripts and playbills for various plays based on Lewis's novels and stories. This series also contains a list of all of the film adaptations from Sinclair Lewis's works as well as videocassette versions of some of them. The audio recordings in this series are read primarily by professional narrators, though Lewis does read his own work on two recordings.

Subseries 3.1: Stage

This subseries consists of copies of typed scripts for stage versions of Lewis's works as well as published playbills from various productions dated 1918-1998.

Box 12:

1. "Angela Is Twenty-Two," 1938
2. "Angela Is Twenty-Two," 1938
3. "Angela Is Twenty-Two," 1938
4. "Elmer Gantry," pp. 1 – 90, 1959
5. "Elmer Gantry," pp. 90 – 183, 1959
6. "Publish Glad Tidings," Act One
7. "Publish Glad Tidings," Acts Two and Three and Notes
8. "Queenie and the Jopes," Act One

Box 13:

1. "Queenie and the Jopes," Acts Two and Three, 1938
2. "Queenie and the Jopes," Act One, 1938
3. "Queenie and the Jopes," Acts Two and Three, 1938
4. "Dorothy and Red"
5. "Hobohemia," 1918
6. Playbills, 1934-1998

Subseries 3.2: Screen

This subseries contains VHS videocassettes of movies (1926-1968 and undated) adapted from Lewis's stories and novels. In addition, there are individual film descriptions printed from the Internet Movie Database and publicity materials from the 1960 film version of *Elmer Gantry*. The movie *Assassination Bureau* is based on a plot that Lewis sold to Jack London for a novel.

Box 13:

7. List of Sinclair Lewis works adapted for film, undated

Box 15:

- Publicity cards for *Elmer Gantry*, 1960

Box 16:

- *Ann Vickers*, 1933
- *Arrowsmith*, 1932
- *Assassination Bureau*, 1968
- *Babbitt*, 1934
- *Cass Timberlane*, 1947
- *Dodsworth*, 1936

- *Elmer Gantry*, 1960
- *Fun and Fancy Free* (includes Bongo, story by Lewis), 1947
- *Ghost Patrol*, 1936
- *Mantrap*, 1926

Subseries 3.3: Sound recordings

This subseries contains a handful of audio recordings dating from 1948-1998 of Sinclair Lewis stories. Most are read by professional narrators, but two feature Lewis's own voice. Some of the recordings are on audiocassette, while others are on 33 1/3 and 45 RPM vinyl records.

Box 15:

- "Mr. President from FDR to Eisenhower," 1953 (33 1/3 RPM)
- "Mr. President from FDR to Eisenhower," 1953 (45 RPM)
- "Patti Page Sings and Stars in *Elmer Gantry*," 1961 (33 1/3 RPM)
- *It Can't Happen Here*, read by Michael Lewis, 1973 (33 1/3 RPM)

Box 17:

- American Playhouse presents Sinclair Lewis live, short story and speech (1 audio cassette)
- *Babbitt*, read by Walter Huston, 1948 (1 audio cassette)
- *Babbitt*, read by George Guidall, 1998 (10 audio cassettes)
- *It Can't Happen Here*, read by Michael Lewis, 1973 (1 audio cassette)
- *Main Street*, read by Barbara Caruso, 1996 (13 audio cassettes)

Series 4: Sauk Centre, MN

The items in series 4 date from 1978 to 1997. This series contains a miscellaneous grouping of Sinclair Lewis ephemera and realia, such as a plate and coin from a celebration held in Sauk Centre in 1985 marking 100 years since his birth. Among other items, there is also information from a Sinclair Lewis Conference held in Sauk Centre in 1997, as well as recent pictures from the home where Lewis grew up.

Box 13:

8. US postage stamps and first day covers, March 21, 1985
9. Lewis Conference, Sauk Centre, MN, July 1997
10. Boyhood home and Babbitt maps

Box 18:

- Commemorative plate showing Lewis's boyhood home, 1978
- Commemorative plate from Lewis Centennial, 1985
- Commemorative coin from Lewis Centennial, 1985
- T-shirt from Lewis conference in Sauk Centre, 1997

Series 5: Miscellaneous

This series contains various miscellaneous items related to Lewis that were collected by Stephen Pastore, such as a signature of Lewis's second wife, Dorothy Thompson and a draft of the book *Henry Ward Beecher: An American Portrait* by Paxton Hibben, which Lewis was known to have read.

Box 9

11. *Courier*, 1996, "What's in a Name?: characterization and caricature in Dorothy Thompson criticism," by Frederick Betz

Box 13:

11. Pamphlet written by Dorothy Thompson and signature
12. Photograph of Louis Untermeyer, signed and inscribed to Lewis

Box 19:

- Typed draft of *Henry Ward Beecher: An American Portrait* by Paxton Hibben, circa 1927