

Lorna Novak:

An Inventory of Her Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Novak, Lorna.
Title:	Lorna Novak Papers
Dates:	1963-1966
Extent:	2 boxes, 1 galley folder (.5 linear feet)
Abstract:	The papers of this Texas author consist of drafts of her two novels.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03059
Language:	English
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Gifts of Lorna Novak, 1965, 1967
Processed by	Christopher Filippi, 1995
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Lorna Beth McCormick Novak was born in Amarillo, Texas, on April 27, 1927. Her father worked in advertising and Lorna enrolled in the University of Texas in 1945. Lorna belonged to a number of honorary societies during her stay at the University. She withdrew from the University in 1946 and married Gordon Shaw Novak, proprietor of Novak Construction Company. They lived in Amarillo, Texas, raising three children and publishing two novels, in 1963 and in 1966. Novak died in Amarillo in 2013.

Novak's principal literary genre is the novel. Her two published works include *Does It Make Into a Bed?* (1963) and *How Amelia Secured the Tie that Binds with a Very Loose Knot* (1966). She also wrote an original play for children, "Amorinda and the Caterpillar," as well as play adaptations on popular children's stories that includes "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Sleeping Beauty," which are not represented in the collection.

Scope and Contents

The Lorna Novak papers consist of original and carbon copy typescripts, printer's copies, and galley proofs of her two published works.

The collection represents Lorna Novak's two creative endeavors as a novelist. Examples of her revision process include unpublished versions of the novels and holographic editing of the final drafts. Each of the drafts is identified by Novak on the title page. Early drafts are not dated. Drafts entitled "The Swackhammer Nose" and "The Blight From the East" are earlier versions of *Does It Make Into a Bed?* "There's Nothing Else to Marry" is a first draft of Novak's second novel, *How Amelia Secured the Tie that Binds with a Very Loose Knot*. All drafts of the two novels are arranged alphabetically by title.

Index Terms

Subjects

Novelists, American--Texas

Document Types

First drafts

Galley proofs

box 1 folder 1-3 "The Blight From the East,"n.d. carbon typescript, second version,

Does it Make Into a Bed?, 1963

Printer's copy with holograph revisions

box 1 folder
4-6

Galley proof, Nov. 1966 (oversize housing)

How Amelia Secured the Tie that Binds with a Very Loose Knot, 1966

Late draft, publisher's copy, Jan. 1965

box 1 folder
7-8

Final draft with holograph revisions, April 1966 (folder 1 of 2)

folder 9

Final draft (folder 2 of 2)

box 2 folder 1

box 2 folder 2-5 "The Swackhammer Nose,"n.d. typescript, first version,

box 2 folder 6-7 "There's Nothing Else to Marry,"n.d. first draft with holograph revisions,