

# Helen Barolini:

## An Inventory of Her Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

---

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Barolini, Helen, 1925-2023
<b>Title:</b>	Helen Barolini Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1959-1989, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	2 document boxes (0.84 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Spanning 1950 to 1989, the collection consists of the research files for Italian American author Helen Barolini's <i>Festa: Recipes and Recollections of Italian Holidays</i> (1988) and a typescript for <i>Love in the Middle Ages</i> (1986).
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-00228
<b>Language:</b>	English; some documents in Italian
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
<b>Use Policies:</b>	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
<b>Restrictions on Use:</b>	Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Centers' Open Access and Use Policies.

---

### Administrative Information

**Preferred Citation** Helen Barolini Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-00228). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

**Acquisition:** Gifts, 1990 (G 8695) and 1991 (G 8942)

**Processed by:** Irene Lule, June 2018

**Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

---

## Biographical Sketch

Helen Barolini was born on November 18, 1925, in Syracuse, New York. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1947 and Columbia University in 1959. Barolini married Italian writer, Antonio Barolini, on July 26, 1950 with whom she had three daughters. Antonio died in 1971. Throughout her life, Barolini has worked in various positions including translator, instructor, associate editor for *Westchester Illustrated*, and as a librarian in Westchester, New York. Barolini lived in both the United States and Italy.

Barolini was first published in 1966 with a book of poetry, *Duet*, alongside her husband. Her first novel, *Umbertina*, was published in 1979. She was also the editor of the anthology, *The Dream Book: An Anthology of Writings by Italian-American Women* (1985). The following year, she published *Love in the Middle Ages* (1986), which was followed by *Festa: Recipes and Recollections of Italian Holidays* (1988). Since 1991, Barolini published an additional eight books and also contributed to periodicals and anthologies. Her work "explored the challenges of assimilation, as well as the hard-won victories of feminist emancipation experienced by Italian American women" (*New York Times*, 2023). Barolini received several awards and fellowships including the Susan Koppelman Award, a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and fellowships and residencies with the Rockefeller Foundation, MacDowell Colony, and Yaddo.

Helen Barolini died at the age of 97 at her home in Hastings-on-Hudson in New York on March 29, 2023.

---

## Sources:

"Helen Barolini." *Contemporary Authors Online*, <http://galenet.galegroup.com> (accessed June 2018).

"Helen Barolini, Chronicler of Italian American Women, Dies at 97." *The New York Times*, 20 April 2023. (accessed November 2024).

"Book Publications." *Helen Barolini*, <http://www.helenbarolini.com/works.htm> (accessed June 2018).

---

## Scope and Contents

Spanning 1959 to 1989, the collection consists of the research files for Helen Barolini's *Festa: Recipes and Recollections of Italian Holidays* (1988) and a typescript for *Love in the Middle Ages* (1986).

Subseries A. *Festa: Recipes and Recollections of Italian Holidays* is primarily comprised of research files for *Festa*, the bulk of which are recipes and research notes about Italian holidays. Other items include transcripts, clippings, and programs. Dates in parentheses reflect the original date of the photocopied item. For example, a clipping with the date listed as "Clipping (1982), undated" means that the article was printed in 1982, but the date the photocopy was made is unknown. The original order of the folders was slightly altered to better reflect the order of the book. The original titles of the folders are in single quotation marks.

The condition of the materials is fair. There is a number of discoloration from newspaper clippings and the original folders. Additionally, a small number of documents have stains, which have been placed in polyester sleeves.

Subseries B. *Love in the Middle Ages* includes one typescript of the novel with the original title, *Run for your Life*. Several portions of the typescript are photocopies. The first folder includes the cover design and layout for the novel. The material is undated and in good condition. There is some minor wear to the edges.

---

## Related Material

Helen Barolini Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries

---

## Index Terms

### People

Barolini, Helen, 1925-

### Subjects

American literature--20th century.

Authors--20th century.

Cooking, Italian.

Holiday cooking.

Italian American women authors.

Italy--Social life and customs.

### Document Types

Clippings (information artifacts).

Manuscripts.

Recipes.

Research notes.

Typescripts.

---

**Series I. Works 1959-1989, undated**

## Subseries A. Festa: Recipes and Recollections of Italian Holidays, 1959-1989, undated

'Family memoirs.' Postcards and notes, 1976-1984, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.1
'Illustrations.' Photocopies of food illustrations in books and a clipping from Modern Maturity (April-May 1985 edition), undated	<b>Container</b> 1.2
'Italo Calvino.' Notes, copy of letter sent to Calvino by Barolini (24 November 1984), typescript with revisions of the introduction, clipping regarding Calvino's death (1985), 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.3
'Notes; Preface.' Correspondence, notes, typescript with revisions of the preface, list of all menus, addenda, book outline, and index and issue of Nitizie Dall'Italia (No. 17, May 1985), 1981-1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.4
'December.' Notes, recipes, chapter outline and index, 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.5
'Advent recipes.' Notes, recipes, photocopies (undated), 1956-1957, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.6
'St. Nicholas' (Saint Nicholas). Recipes, copy of diary entry from 26 January 1975, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.7
'Completed Recipes: S. Lucia' (Saint Lucy). Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1978-1985), chapter menus, an issue of Il Giornalino (Vol. 11, No. 2, December 1987), 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.8
'Xmas Eve' (Christmas Eve). Notes, recipes, clipping and photocopied clipping (December 1985, undated), 1985, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.9
'Xmas Day' (Christmas Day). Notes, recipes, clippings (1982, undated), front page of Il Giornalino (Vol. 9, No. 2, December 1985), chapter menus, 1984-1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.10
'San Stefano, Dec. 26 and the Rest of Xmas Week' (Saint Stephen). Notes, recipes, photocopy of pages 91-92 of Art Treasures of the Vatican (1950), undated	<b>Container</b> 1.11
'January.' Recipes, chapter index, and chapter menu, 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.12
'La Befana Jan. 6th' (Christmas Witch). Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1968, 1986-1987), chapter menus and outlines, 1984-1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.13

'February.' Recipes and chapter index, 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.14
'Menu and Completed Recipes: Carnival.' Notes, recipes, photocopied clipping (undated), addenda, chapter menu, 1987, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.15
'San Biagio, S' Agata, St. Valetine' (Saint Blaise, Saint Agatha, Saint Valentine). Notes, recipes, photocopied clippings (1986, undated), chapter menu and outline, 1986-1987, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.16
'Mardi Gras.' Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clipping (1980, undated), chapter menu, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.17
'March.' Recipes and chapter index, 1986-1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.18
'Completed recipes: S. Giuseppe' (Saint Joseph). Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1981-1988), typescript, addenda, 1985-1989, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.19
'Holy Week.' Notes, recipes, clippings and and photocopied clippings (1987, undated), menus, 1985-1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.20
'April.' Recipes, clipping (28 August 1988), chapter index and menu, 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.21
'Pasqueria' (Easter). Correspondence, notes, recipes, photocopied clippings (1984, undated), chapter menus, 1984-1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.22
April's Fool. Notes, recipes, chapter outline and menus, an issue of Il Giornalino (Vol. 11, Nol. 5, March 1988), front page of Il Giornalino (Vol. 10, Nol. 5, March 1987), 1985-1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.23
'April Feasts.' Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1985, undated), addenda, 1984-1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.24
'May.' Notes, recipes, chapter menus and index, clippings and photocopied clippings (1975, 1985, undated), copy of diary entry regarding visit to Robert and Sally Fitzgerald's home in Italy (1973), 1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.1
'June.' Notes, recipes, chapter menu and outline, clippings and photocopied clippings (undated), 1986-1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.2
'July.' Notes, recipes, chapter menus, typescript, clippings (1984-1987), flyer (Italian, 1972), 1985, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.3
'August.' Notes, recipes, chapter menus, clippings and photocopied clipping (1987, undated), 1985-1986, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.4
'September.' Notes, recipes, chapter menus, correspondence, clippings and photocopied clippings (1975-1982), program (Italian, 1984), 1985-1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.5

'October.' Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1981-1987, undated), chapter menus, programs, addenda, typescript, 1986-1987, undated **Container**  
2.6

'Saints.' Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1960, 1985-1986, undated) 1984-1986, undated **Container**  
2.7

'November.' Notes, recipes, clippings and photocopied clippings (1984-1986, undated), chapter menus, 1983-1988, undated **Container**  
2.8

Subseries B. Love in the Middle Ages, undated

Typescript with minor revisions and front cover design and layout, undated **Container**  
2.9

Typescript with minor revisions, undated **Container** 2.10