



Guide to the Mary Sames Tucker Papers, 1936-1967

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6
Correspondence Series, 1936-1966 and undated	6
Printed Materials and Clippings Series, 1950-1967 and undated	6

Summary

Collection Title:

Mary Sames Tucker papers, 1936-1967

Creator:

Tucker, Mary Sames

Abstract:

Piano teacher, of Lexington, Va. Personal correspondence from and about the author, Carson (Smith) McCullers, piano student of Mrs. Tucker in Columbus, Ga., and lifelong friend. Topics include McCullers' personal life, marital problems, and poor health. Mrs. Tucker was the wife of Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston Tucker.

Extent:

0.2 Linear Feet
62 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01310

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/tuckermarysames/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Sames Tucker Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The Mary Sames Tucker Papers are dated from 1936 to 1967, and are divided into two series, the **Correspondence Series** and the **Printed Materials and Clippings Series**. The bulk of the first series consists of letters written by Carson McCullers to her former piano teacher, Mary Tucker. They reveal the closeness of the relationship between the two women (Tucker is often referred to as a 'foster mother'). Other letters are addressed to Carson's husband Reeves; her mother, Marguerite Smith; and her physician and longtime friend, Mary E. Mercer. Together, the correspondence documents the writer's relationships, marital problems, and especially the suffering caused by her chronic poor health. The **Printed Materials and Clippings Series** contains several clippings of obituaries that appeared in newspapers after the death of McCullers and a booklet published by the Empire Theatre.

Biographical/Historical

A native of Columbus, Georgia, and wife of a U.S. Army officer, Albert Sidney Johnston Tucker. Was Carson McCullers's piano teacher and remained a long-term close friend and life-long correspondent.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Mary Sames Tucker Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 1968.

Processing Information

Processed by Pavla Vesela and other staff, May 15, 2004

Encoded by Pavla Vesela, Brittany E. Wilson, Paula Jeannet Mangiafico, Michael Shumate, 2006

Encoding updated by Meghan Lyon, February 2010

The Mary Tucker Papers were formerly part of the Collections on Carson McCullers.

Accession 1968-0172 is described in this finding aid.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Related materials include the Carson McCullers Papers, the Virginia Spencer Carr Papers, the Mary E. Mercer Collection of Carson McCullers-Mary Tucker

Correspondence, and the Edwin Peacock Papers, all housed at Duke University's David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Women authors -- Relations with men
- Women authors -- Biography
- Authors, American -- Biography
- Tucker, Mary Sames
- McCullers, Carson, 1917-1967

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1936-1966 and undated

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Contains primarily correspondence to Mary Tucker by Carson McCullers, Reeves McCullers, Marguerite Smith, and Mary E. Mercer. There are also several letters written by Carson McCullers to Mary Tucker's daughter, Virginia. The items are arranged in chronological order.

1936-1966 and undated	Box 1
1936-1966 and undated (photocopies of above correspondence)	Box 1

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Printed Materials and Clippings Series, 1950-1967 and undated

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents note

Contains brief obituaries published after the death of McCullers and a booklet issued by the Empire Theatre to accompany the production of *The Member of the Wedding*. The items are arranged in chronological order.

1950-1967 and undated

Box 1

[Return to Table of Contents](#)