Background

David H. Keller was born in Philadelphia in 1880.

Although Keller’s name is not as well known as those of many of his pulp-writing colleagues (such as Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, Robert Bloch, and a host of other science fiction luminaries), he was, in his day, a major figure in the world of speculative fiction. Indeed, Hugo Gernsback, the electrical-engineer-turned-publisher of such magazines as Amazing Stories and Science Wonder Stories, was so impressed by Keller’s contributions to his publications that he coined the term “Kelleryarns” to describe stories that attained the sort of psychological depth and insight that were the hallmarks of Keller’s tales. Keller is sometimes credited with pushing science fiction in a new direction, one that championed interiority and emotion over mere gadgetry and predictions.

Scope and content

The Keller Collection is organized in eight series:

1. Contributions to pulp magazines—science fiction, fantasy, other fiction
2. Contributions to pulp magazines—health and hygiene
3. Early works, tear sheets, and wartime nonfiction
4. Special editions and illustrations
5. Fanzines, reviews and references, bibliographies, and artifacts of fandom
6. Correspondence
7. Manuscripts and typescripts
8. Family heirlooms and miscellany

Series 1 contains most of the pulp magazines in which Keller’s stories appeared from the late 1920s through the early 1960s. There are approximately 160 issues of 35 different titles, primarily science-fiction- or fantasy-themed.

Series 2 consists of Keller’s contributions, both as a writer and as an editor, to health- and hygiene-related pulp magazines. This series contains 30 issues of 7 different titles.

Series 3 is divided into three parts: Keller’s early works (late 1890s through early 1900s), a selection of tear sheets (stories that were published and removed from their magazines), and Keller’s wartime nonfiction (the newsletter from his medical battalion during World War II).

Series 4 contains special editions of Keller’s fiction as well as artists’ illustrations of his work that appeared in various pulp magazines.
Series 5 relates to science fiction fandom. The first segment of this series contains fanzines and trade zines, informal publications by fans and for fans, published from the 1930s through the 1960s in the United States, Britain, and Canada. Keller often contributed stories, articles, or letters to these zines. The second segment consists of reviews of Keller’s work and references to the man and his oeuvre in a variety of sources. The third segment features bibliographies from various stages in Keller’s career. The fourth segment, termed “artifacts of fandom,” includes items that capture the essence of fan culture, from an advertisement for a convention to a who’s-who of science fiction fans.

Series 6 consists of correspondence between Keller, his editors, his fans, and his friends. This series includes over 120 letters exchanged by Keller and August Derleth (co-founder, with Donald Wandrei, of the Arkham House press) between 1947 and 1949.

Series 7’s manuscripts and typescripts span the length of Keller’s writing career and include published and unpublished works in bound and loose formats.

Series 8 contains Keller family heirlooms and a few items that defied or didn’t bear enough detail for categorization.

In addition to these series, there are also two parts of the collection that have been cataloged and separated: a small selection of pulp magazines, and Keller’s published novels.

Administrative information

Accession information: Donated by the Keller family (?) in the 1980s.

Provenance: The collection was held in the Closed Stacks of McCabe Library until May 2005, when it was transferred to the Rare Book Room.

Processing information: A preliminary inventory was taken at the time of the collection’s accession (?); it was processed more fully and accompanied by a finding aid in July 2005.

Additional descriptive information

Separated material:

Added entries

Inventory
**Note:** When possible, the use of a penname by Keller has been recorded; frequently-used names include Henry Cecil, Cecilia Henry, Jacobus Hubeliaire (or Jacob Hubler), Monk (or Matthew) Smith, and Amy Worth (primarily in *10 Story Magazine*). In some publications, if Keller published under a pseudonym, a checkmark or arrow appears in the table of contents alongside his contribution.

**Series 1: Contributions to pulp magazines—science fiction, fantasy, other fiction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magazine/Magazine Quarterly</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Wonder Stories</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929: July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazing Detective Tales</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930: June, September</td>
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<td>Amazing Stories</td>
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<td>1926: April</td>
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<td>1928: February, April, June, September, November</td>
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<td>1929: March, July, August</td>
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<td>1930: January, February, May</td>
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<td>1931: April, May, September</td>
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<td>1932: June, December</td>
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<td>1933: July, October</td>
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<td>1934: January, August</td>
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<td>1935: February, May</td>
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<td>1937: August, October</td>
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<td>1956: April</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
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<td>1961: January (x2), April</td>
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<td>1966: August, December</td>
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<td>1967: April</td>
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<td>1968: June</td>
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<td>Amazing Stories Quarterly</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928: Fall</td>
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<td>1929: Summer, Fall</td>
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<td>1930: Spring, Fall</td>
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<td>1930/31: Winter</td>
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<td>1931: Summer</td>
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<td>1933: Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avon Fantasy Reader</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>n.d.: no. 2 (x2)</td>
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<td>1948: no. 6</td>
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<td>1950: no. 14</td>
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<td>Cosmic Stories</td>
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<td>1941: July</td>
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<td>Fantastic Stories</td>
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<td>1965: September</td>
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<td>Fantastic Story Magazine</td>
<td>Box 2</td>
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<td>1951: Summer</td>
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<td>Future Combined with Science Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942: February</td>
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<td>Title</td>
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<td>Future Science Fiction</td>
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<td>1958: April</td>
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<td>1959: February</td>
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<td>Galaxy Magazine</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>1958: November</td>
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<td>Magazine of Horror</td>
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<td>1968: September (x2), November</td>
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<td>1969: March, May (x3), July (x2), September</td>
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<td>Marvel Science Stories</td>
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<td>1938: November</td>
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<td>Marvel Tales</td>
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<td>1934: May (x2), Winter</td>
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<td>Narraciones Terroríficas</td>
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<td>1942: vol. 35</td>
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<td>1944: vol. 42</td>
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<td>Oriental Stories</td>
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<td>1932: Summer</td>
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<td>Other Worlds Science Stories</td>
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<td>1951: March</td>
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<td>Paris Nights</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>1929: December</td>
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<td>Les Primaires</td>
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<td>1937: July, August</td>
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<td>1938: June</td>
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<td>1939: May-June</td>
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<td>Saturday Review</td>
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<td>1955: November 12</td>
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<td>Science Fiction Adventure Classics</td>
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<td>1969: Fall</td>
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<td>1967: Fall, Winter</td>
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<td>Science Fiction Quarterly</td>
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<td>1942: Winter (x2)</td>
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<td>Science Wonder Stories</td>
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<td>Scientific Detective Monthly</td>
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<td>1930: February</td>
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<td>Startling Mystery Stories</td>
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<td>1968/69: Winter</td>
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<td>Startling Stories</td>
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<td>1941: May</td>
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<td>Stirring Science Stories</td>
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<td>1941: February, April, May</td>
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<td>Strange Stories</td>
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<td>1939: June</td>
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<td>Tales of Wonder</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>n.d.: no. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938: Autumn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939: Summer</td>
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10 Story Book (as Amy Worth)  
1929: November  
1930: January, September, October  
1931: January (x2), September, October  
1932: January, September  
1933: September/October, December  
1934: March  

10-Story Detective  
1947: October (x2)  

Thrilling Wonder Stories  
1950: August  

Uncanny Stories  
1941: April  

Weird Tales  
1928: July, September  
1929: January, April, October, November, December  
1930: April, October  
1931: June-July  
1932: March, May  
1934: January, February, March  
1937: October, n.d. (October)  
1938: January, July  
1939: December  
1941: January  
1942: March, September, November  
1943: January  

Wonder Stories  
1931: August  
1934: March, June, September  
1935: January  

Wonder Story Annual  
1952  

Series 2: Contributions to pulp magazines—health and hygiene  

Facts of Life  
1937: January, February, March, April, June, August, September, October, November  
1938: January, February, March, April, May, June, October, November  
1939: January  

Health Digest  
1936: June  

The Modern Psychologist  
1935: October  

Psychology  
1932: February  

Sexology  
1956: June
Successful Living

Your Body

1934: May

1928: October
1929: January, April, June
1930: Spring
1937: November
1938: October, December-January

Series 3: Early works, tear sheets, and wartime nonfiction

Early works, arranged chronologically

“Aunt Martha” (as Monk Smith)
  n.d. (1895)
“A Phenomenon of the Stars”
  The Mirror, February 1897
“Judge Not”
  The Red and Blue (University of Pennsylvania),
  November 1899
  + poem: “In the Night”
“The Silent One”
  The Red and Blue, November 1900
“A University Story” (as Henry Cecil)
  Presbyterian Journal (University of Pennsylvania),
  December 1901
“The Birth of a Soul” (as Henry Cecil)
  The White Owl, January 1902
“A Three Linked Tale” (as Matthew Smith)
  The White Owl, March 1902
“The Winning of the Bride” (as Henry Cecil)
  The White Owl, March 1902
  + poems: “Unto Everlasting,” “L’Envoi,” “A Melody”
“The Great American Pie House” (as Cecilia Henry)
  The White Owl, April 1902
“Mother Newhouse” (as Henry Cecil)
  The White Owl, May 1902
  + poem: “A Mother’s Song”
“The Greatness of Duval”
  Ursinus Weekly, October 1902

Tear sheets, arranged chronologically

“Dragon’s Blood”
  Fanews, 1929
“Creation Unforgivable”
  Weird Tales, April 1930
“The Pent House”
  Amazing Stories, February 1932
“The Thing in the Cellar”
  Kensington News and West London Times,
  April 10, 1936 (x2)
“Helen of Troy”
Loki, 1948

Tear sheets

“The Golden Bough”  
Marvel Tales, 1935

“The Dust in the House”  
Weird Tales, July 1938

“The Tailed Man of Cornwall”  
Weird Tales, November 1929

“The Thirty and One”  
Marvel Science Stories, November 1938

“The Bridle”  
Weird Tales, September 1942

“The Conquerors”  
Science Wonder Stories, December 1929

Wartime nonfiction

The Med-Lee: News Digest of the 9th Medical Battalion  
1941: November 12, November 19, November 26, December 10

Series 4: Special editions and illustrations

Special edition: “Figment of a Dream”  
Baltimore: Anthem, 1962 (x2)

Special edition: “The Final War”  
Portland, OR: Perri Press, 1949

Special edition: “The Garden of Fear” (Robert E. Howard)  
Los Angeles: Crawford, 1945

--includes “The Golden Bough”

Special edition: “The White Sybil” (C.A. Smith)  
“Men of Avalon” (DHK)


Special edition: “The Television Detective”  
1938 (x2)

Special edition: “The Thing in the Cellar”  
Millheim, PA: Bizarre Series, n.d. (1940?) (x2)

Special edition: “The Thought Projector”  
NY: Stellar, 1929

Special edition: “Waters of Lethe”  
Great Barrington, MA: Kirby, 1937

Special edition: “Wolf Hollow Bubbles”  
NY: ARRA, n.d. (x2)

Illustration: “The Bride Well”

Illustration: “Creation Unforgivable”

Illustrations: The Devil and the Doctor illustrations

Illustrations: “Figment of a Dream”

Illustration: “Heredity”

Illustrations: By Roy Hunt
Series 5: Fanzines, reviews and references, bibliographies, and artifacts of fandom

Fanzines: A – Cam
   Alien Culture
       1949: January, July
   British Scientifiction Fantasy Review
       1938: March
   Camber
       1962: no. 13 (x2)

Fanzines: Can – D
   Canadian Fandom
       1948: February (x2), May
   Chronoscope
       1948: Autumn
   Cosmic Tales
       1939: Summer (x2)
   Destiny
       1953: Spring

Fanzines: F – Fano
   Fan Artisan
       1948: May
   Fan Warp
       1953 (?): vol. 1, no. 1
   Fanciful Tales of Time and Space
       1936: Fall
   Fanomena
       1947: September
       1948: March

Fanzines: Fans – Fantasy C
   The Fanscient
       1948: Winter (x2), Fall (x3)
       1949: Fall
   Fantasy Commentator
       1947: Spring
       1948: Winter, Summer (x2)
       1948/49: Winter
       1949: Spring
       1951/52: Winter

Fanzines: Fantasy F – Fantasy T
   The Fantasy Fan
       1934: July
   Fantasy Magazine
       1934: April
   Fantasy Review
       1947/48: December-January
       1948: June-July
   Fantasy Times
       1945: December (x2)
       1947: August, September, November
1948: April (x2), May (x2), June
1950: February 2
1954: June

Fanzines: Fanz – Gh
  The Fanzine from Kentucky
    n.d.: April, no. 3
  The Futurian
    1939: January
  The Galleon
    1935: September-October (x2)
  Ghuvna
    n.d.: vol. 1, no. 2

Fanzines: Go – Gro
  The Gorgon Fantasy Features
    1948: January (x2)
  Grotesque
    1952: December

Fanzines: H – If
  Helios
    1937: October-November
  HKLPLOD
    1962: June (x3)
    n.d.: no. 3
  If!
    1948: June, October (x2)
    1949: January

Fanzines: Im – In
  The Imaginative Collector/Dawn
    1951: May
  Indiana Fantasy
    1951/52: Winter
  International Observer of Science and Science Fiction
    1935: November
    1937: January

Fanzines: It – K
  IT
    1951: May (x2), August
  Jabberwocky
    1948: Fall (x2)
  Kalki
    1966: July
    n.d. (1968): vol. 11, no. 2
  The Kay-Mar Trader
    n.d.: June-July, vol. 2, no. 4
  Kotan
    1948: September

Fanzines: L – Ma
  Leer
    1949: August
  Light
    1949: January
Loki
1948: Spring, Summer
The Lovecraft Collector
1949: October
Macabre
1948: June
Masque
n.d.: vol. 2, no. 1

Fanzines: Mi – Mu
Mirage
1961: vol. 1, no. 3
1963/64: Winter (x2)
The Moon Puddle
1948: June (x2)
The Mutant
1949: September

Fanzines: N
The National Fantasy Fan
1948: February, June, August
Nekromantikon
1950: Summer
The New Futurian
1954: Summer, Autumn
NFFF Trader
n.d.

Fanzines: O
Obelisk
1961 (x3)
Operation Fantast
1950: March, June (x2)
1951: Autumn
Other Worlds
1948: February

Fanzines: P – Pe
Paradox
n.d.: #3 (x4)
1965: July, December (x3)
Peon
1948: October (x2), December

Fanzines: Po – Science Fa
Portals
1957: November
Primal
1948: Autumn
PSFS News
1945: July
Science, Fantasy and Science Fiction
1949: January (x3), April
Science-Fantasy Correspondent
1936: November-December

Fanzines: Science Fi – Scienti-S
Box 7
Science Fiction
n.d.: vol. 1, no. 4

Science Fiction Digest
1933: February, March, July

Science-Fiction Times
1960: October

Scientifantasy
1949: Winter

Scientifiction Stories
1954: June

Scienci-Snaps
1940: April, Summer

Fanzines: Scienti-T – Sk

Scienti-Tales
1939: January

Shangri-La
1948: May-June, July-August

Si-Fan
1960: December (x2)

Sky Hook
1952/53: Winter (x2)

Fanzines: Sp – T

Spacehound’s Gazette
1948: Summer (x2)

Spacewarp
1950: January

Spearhead
1948: August
1950: Summer (x3)

Triton
n.d.: no. 2 (x2)

Fanzines: U – V

Utopian
1952: June

Variant
1947: May, September

The Vortex
1947: no. 2 (x2)

Reviews

The Homunculus
Super Science, March 1950

The Homunculus
Thrilling Wonder Stories, April 1950

The Lady Decides
Preview by Sam Moskowitz, n.d.

Life Everlasting
Blurbs from multiple sources, n.d.

Life Everlasting
Willard Hallam Bonner, n.d.

Life Everlasting
Max Herzberg, Newark Sunday News.
April 25, 1948 (x2)

Life Everlasting

The Daily Record (Stroudsburg, PA), June 4, 1948

“Solitary Hunters” and “The Abyss”

“Is Keller Bugs? Or, the Fate in the Abyss”

Weaver Wright, n.d.

“Solitary Hunters” and “The Abyss”

Philip Gray, Fantasy Commentator, n.d.

“Solitary Hunters” and “The Abyss”

Daily Record (Stroudsburg, PA), January 5, 1949

Reviews: By Cynthia Carey and “Kellerfan” (possibly Celia Keller?)

“A Brief Review of Keller’s ‘Beautiful’ Works”

n.d.

“‘The Solitary Hunters’ and ‘The Abyss’”

Unsigned but in original “Cynthia Carey” file, n.d.

Response to poem “Keller Can’t Write”

Signed “Kellerfan,” n.d.

Response to Charles Peter Brady’s review of Life Everlasting

n.d.

Letter to editor of Amazing Stories

n.d. (x2)

“In Defense of Dr. David H. Keller”

Fanews Magazine, n.d.

--contains text of the letter to the editor of Amazing Stories

Letter to editor of Startling Stories

November 22, 1947

Review: “The Things in the Keller Collection”

Harry Warner, Jr., from Horizons, n.d.

Reviews: Keller mentioned in letters and editorials in Weird Tales

n.d. (1930s)

Review: Article about Keller in the Sunmont Bee

August 17, 1937

Reference: Keller quoted in “Castrate All Pedophilacs for Protection of Children,” The Confidant, September-October 1937

--handwritten note in margin: “Tawdry but…”

Reviews: Prime Press announcement

New editions of DHK’s The Eternal Conflict and The Lady Decides, n.d. (1949?)

+ drafts

Bibliographies


From Life Everlasting (1947) (x6)

4 handwritten and typed pages—including contributions to fanzines and appears to continue the Life Everlasting bibliography (1950s)

“Keller, David H. (1880-)”

6 pages, compiled by A.W.L. (?), 4 September 1960

“A checklist of the non-professional writings of David H. Keller, M.D.” Compiled by Bruce Robbins, printed in Paradox #7 (April 1966)

Fandom: Announcement for science fiction convention
n.d.
Fandom: “Thumbnails of Personalities in the Eastern SF World”
Celia Keller, n.d.

Fandom: Amateur Science Review
January 1937

Fandom: Fancyclopedia
John Bristol, published by Forest J. Ackerman for NFFF, 1944

Fandom: TorCon Report
Toronto convention, July 3-5, 1948

Fandom: “The Vain Angel” (Thomas H. Carter) and
“No Greater Dream” (Joe Kennedy), 1949

Fandom: Space Travel—When and How?: The Opinions of 65
Leading Men of Science and Science Fiction on Space Flight’s
Possible Future
Gerry de la Ree, August 1953

Fandom: National Fantasy Fan Federation roster
October 1960

Fandom: Who’s Who in Science Fiction Fandom
Compiled by L.D. Broyles, 1961

Series 6: Correspondence

Note: Arranged chronologically, with the Keller-Derleth correspondence ordered separately.

Postcard to ? Keller, Esq. from DHK (?)
July 25, 1918

Farnsworth Wright to DHK
n.d., no first page

DHK to Farnsworth Wright
July 29, 1930

Farnsworth Wright to DHK
August 2, 1930

Regis Messac to DHK
January 20, 1931

Popular Fiction Publishing Company to DHK
February 27, 1932

Regis Messac to DHK
March 10, 1932

Farnsworth Wright to DHK
March 17, 1932

Oriental Stories to DHK
October 6, 1932

Popular Fiction Publishing Company to DHK
April 20, 1933

Farnsworth Wright to DHK
April 20, 1933

Jacobus Hubelaire (penname of DHK) to editor of Marvel Tales
March-April 1935

DHK to editor of Marvel Tales

---see letter of December 4, 1947
March-April 1935
--see letter of December 4, 1947
+ tear sheet of published Keller and Hubelaire letters

Regis Messac to DHK
   May 28, 1935
Contract between DHK and Selwyn Blount
   March 1, 1936
Christine Campbell Thomson to Julius Schwartz
   March 23, 1936
Julius Schwartz to DHK
   April 20, 1936
DHK to Christine Campbell Thomson
   April 23, 1936
DHK to ? re: April 23, 1936 letter to Christine Campbell Thomson
   April 23, 1936
   --postscript, unknown addressee
Christine Campbell Thomson to DHK
   May 4, 1936
DHK to Christine Campbell Thomson
   May 17, 1936
Christine Campbell Thomson to DHK
   June 17, 1936
Regis Messac to DHK
   November 30, 1936
Regis Messac to DHK
   May 23, 1937
Regis Messac to DHK
   June 26, 1937
Regis Messac to DHK
   August 14, 1937
Regis Messac to DHK
   August 7, 1939
Martin Goodman to DHK
   August 18, 1947
"Extract from a letter to Donald Wolheim"
   September 5, 1947 (x3)
DHK to Lamont Buchanan/Weird Tales
   September 18, 1947 (x2)
Paul (?) to DHK
   December 4, 1947
   --see transcribed letters of March-April 1935
Walter Gillings to DHK
   January 22, 1949
Ben Indick to DHK
   May 21, 1949
   + review of The Lady Decides
DHK to Reynal and Hitchcock
   September 8, 1949
DHK to Mervyn Peake
   September 17, 1949
DHK to Jim of Prime Press
October 7, 1949
  + drafts of ad for The Eternal Conflict
  Mervyn Peake to DHK

October 20, 1949
  Lee (Charles Lee Riddle) to DHK

November 23, 1949
  Charles Lee Riddle to DHK

December 2, 1949
  DHK to Lee (Charles Lee Riddle)

December 8, 1949
  DHK to Michael Rosenblum

September 10, 1954
  DHK to P. Schuyler Miller
      May 21, 1956

March 23, 1958
  Richard A. Frank to Celia Keller
      September 23, 1958

September 26, 1958
  Floyd C. Gale to DHK
      October 11, 1958

October 11, 1958
  H.L. Gold to DHK
      October 18, 1958

Postcard to Celia Keller from ?

October 23, 1958
  Philip Gray to DHK
      January 29, 1959
      + mss of 2 stories, “Soulless in Galilee” and “The Superfluous Rooster”

August 18, 1962
  Dave (?) of Camber zine to DHK

DHK and August Derleth
      --approximately 120 letters from 1947-1949

**Series 7: Manuscripts and typescripts**

Bound manuscripts and typescripts

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Kellers of Hamilton Township</td>
<td>1922 (x2)</td>
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<td>The George Whitesell Families</td>
<td>1925</td>
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<td>The Book Seller and Other Stories (as Henry Cecil)</td>
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<td>The Stone Fence (as Henry Cecil)</td>
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<td>Life is What You Make It: A Fairy Story (as Henry Cecil)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Fighting Woman: A Story of Revolt (as Henry Cecil)</td>
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<td>Tales from Underwood</td>
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1939
The Stone Fence, Part Two

1939
The Sign of the Burning Hart and Other Short Stories by Henry Cecil
1939
--“Collected and edited by Professor Henry Scherer of the
Hubler Memorial College”

Children of Pan
1949
--revision of Life is What You Make It