

Ruth Lisa Schechter Papers ***1964-1986, undated***

Creator: Ruth Lisa Schechter (1917-1989)

Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact wlarchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright resides with the estate of Ruth Lisa Schechter.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Ruth Lisa Schechter Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Unknown

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Processing Information: Finding aid updated December 2025.

Biographical History

Ruth Lisa Schechter was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1917. She grew up in New York City. Throughout much of her life, Schechter worked in New York hospitals. She began writing seriously in the 1960s and worked as a poetry therapist at a rehabilitation center. She served as a mentor for young poets, lectured at colleges, and participated in many poetry readings. Schechter was a member of PEN and of the Poetry Society of America. She also founded the Croton Council of the Arts and edited the Croton Review.

Schechter published many collections of poetry throughout her career. These included: *Near The Wall of Lion Shadows*, *Moveable Parts*, *Suddenly Thunder*, *Off Shore*, *Moving Closer*, *Double Exposure*, *Clockworks*, *Speedway*, *Chords & Other Poems*, *Many Rooms in a Winter Night*, and *Twelve Arrangements for A Japanese Tea Garden/Haiku*. Her writings were also published in over one hundred and fifty journals and six anthologies. Her poetry addresses many themes including the Vietnam War, women's roles, and civil rights. Schechter also served as poet-in-residence at Mundelein College beginning in 1969. Schechter continued writing poetry until her death on May 2, 1989.

Scope and Content

The Ruth Lisa Schechter Papers consist of 2 linear feet (4 boxes), spanning from 1964 to 1986 with some undated material. This collection is divided into two series: Professional and Writings. The bulk of this collection is the poetry of Schechter. The collection is organized alphabetically.

Series 1: Professional 1965-1973, Box 1

Contains limited material relating to Schechter’s career, as well as articles and information regarding Schechter’s association with Mundelein College.

Series 2: Writings, 1964-1986, undated, Boxes 1-4

Includes Schechter’s poetry and numerous notes. Frequently, these poems are grouped with earlier versions of her poems and include handwritten notes.

Subjects:

- Poetry
- Schechter, Ruth Lisa (1917-1989)
- Women Poets

| Box | Folder | Title | Dates |
|-----|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | <i>Ruth Lisa Schechter Papers 1964-1986, undated</i> | |
| | | Series 1: Professional, 1965-1973 | |
| 1 | 1 | Correspondence and notices | 1965, undated |
| 1 | 2 | Mundelein College Poet-in-Residence | 1968-1973 |
| | | Series 2: Writings, 1964-1986, undated | |
| 1 | 1 | 1971 | undated |
| 1 | 2 | A Day Below Zero | 1968 |
| 1 | 3 | Accident | 1969-1970 |
| 1 | 4 | Accident at the Red Light | undated |
| 1 | 5 | Afternoons in Mahogany | undated |
| 1 | 6 | Alan, Carlos, Theresa | undated |
| 1 | 7 | Along Missouri | 1970 |
| 1 | 8 | Amnesia | 1969-1970 |
| 1 | 9 | Anatomy | undated |
| 1 | 10 | And We Are Strangers to Each Other | 1964 |
| 1 | 11 | Are Moving | undated |
| 1 | 12 | Atlantic Beach | 1968 |
| 1 | 13 | Ballad for Carlos | undated |
| 1 | 14 | Be Proud, The Repose | 1967-1968 |
| 1 | 15 | Beach | 1967 |
| 1 | 16 | Before the Blow Falls | undated |
| 1 | 17 | Bound Together | undated |
| 1 | 18 | The Bridge | undated |

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|---|----|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 19 | Bronx | 1970-1972 |
| 1 | 20 | But No One Answered | undated |
| 2 | 1 | Che Guevara | 1968 |
| 2 | 2 | Christmas | 1968 |
| 2 | 3 | The Collection | undated |
| 2 | 4 | The Contract of Sacred Names | 1969 |
| 2 | 5 | Counting to Twelve | 1969 |
| 2 | 6 | Crazy with Chrysanthemums | undated |
| 2 | 7 | Chalk White | undated |
| 2 | 8 | Curtain Call | undated |
| 2 | 9 | Cycle | undated |
| 2 | 10 | The Day the Bell Broke | 1964 |
| 2 | 11 | The Devil's Vaudeville | 1970 |
| 2 | 12 | Doll | 1969 |
| 2 | 13 | Don't Move! | undated |
| 2 | 14 | Down Johnnycake Hill | 1968 |
| 2 | 15 | Dream of Black Tulips | 1969 |
| 2 | 16 | Dreamwalking | 1971 |
| 2 | 17 | Either/Or | 1969 |
| 2 | 18 | Family | 1970 |
| 2 | 19 | Fasten Your Seat Belt! | 1968 |
| 2 | 20 | Five on the Floor | 1970 |
| 2 | 21 | Flick | undated |
| 2 | 22 | Gliding | 1967 |
| 2 | 23 | Gunhill Road | undated |
| 2 | 24 | I Do Not Accept, I Do Not Accept | undated |
| 2 | 25 | In a Half Note of Intuition | undated |
| 2 | 26 | In the Dream These Three | undated |
| 2 | 27 | In the Beginning | 1971 |
| 2 | 28 | In the Body of the Combo | undated |
| 2 | 29 | In the Laughing Gas from Tennessee | 1969-1970 |
| 3 | 1 | Island | 1968 |
| 3 | 2 | Lake Mahopac, New York | 1966-1967 |
| 3 | 3 | Like You | 1967 |
| 3 | 4 | Keyboard | 1972 |
| 3 | 5 | Kiss the Torah, It's a Festival! | 1967 |
| 3 | 6 | Make a Tree of Words | undated |
| 3 | 7 | Many Rooms in a Winter Night | 1968 |
| 3 | 8 | Montauk Point | undated |
| 3 | 9 | Message for a Moving Highway | undated |
| 3 | 10 | Near the Wall Lion Shadows | undated |
| 3 | 11 | New Jersey | 1966 |
| 3 | 12 | Night Letter to Evanston | 1968 |
| 3 | 13 | No Visitors Allowed | undated |
| 3 | 14 | November 17 th | undated |

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|---|----|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 3 | 15 | October | undated |
| 3 | 16 | Off the Avenue of Americas | 1970 |
| 3 | 17 | Off Route 28 | undated |
| 3 | 18 | On a Peaceful Day | 1968-1969 |
| 3 | 19 | On the Grass of Parnassus | undated |
| 3 | 20 | On the Limits of a Plot | undated |
| 3 | 21 | Out on a Limb | 1970 |
| 3 | 22 | Outside on the Dial | undated |
| 3 | 23 | Palm has Many Lines | undated |
| 3 | 24 | Passing the Yankee Stadium | 1967-1969 |
| 3 | 25 | Poems: Fragments and Untitled | undated |
| 3 | 26 | Postcard from Dachau | 1965 |
| 3 | 27 | Provincetown | undated |
| 3 | 28 | Quarter Notes | undated |
| 3 | 29 | The Rain Forest | undated |
| 3 | 30 | Rape | undated |
| 3 | 31 | Regency Room at the Pierre | undated |
| 4 | 1 | Science Fiction | undated |
| 4 | 2 | Sea Lion | 1968 |
| 4 | 3 | Signs of Summer | undated |
| 4 | 4 | Skipping Others | 1968 |
| 4 | 5 | Somebody's Child | 1968-1969 |
| 4 | 6 | Suddenly Thunder | 1968 |
| 4 | 7 | Sun Dial | undated |
| 4 | 8 | Survivors | undated |
| 4 | 9 | Temperature Changes | undated |
| 4 | 10 | Terre Des Hommes | 1966-1967 |
| 4 | 11 | The Remains | undated |
| 4 | 12 | This Woman | undated |
| 4 | 13 | Thursday | undated |
| 4 | 14 | Translations from the Russian | 1970-1971 |
| 4 | 15 | Translations of the Exile | undated |
| 4 | 16 | Trees are Moving | undated |
| 4 | 17 | Two Pine Trees | 1968 |
| 4 | 18 | Visions of 400 Sunrises | 1972 |
| 4 | 19 | Visit to Syracuse | undated |
| 4 | 20 | Voyeur | undated |
| 4 | 21 | Waiting to Go | undated |
| 4 | 22 | Walden Pond Revisited | 1970 |
| 4 | 23 | War | undated |
| 4 | 24 | Washington Square Fantasy | undated |
| 4 | 25 | What is there? | 1968 |
| 4 | 26 | What was the Composer Playing? | 1970 |
| 4 | 27 | When Daffodils in Central Park Turned Up | 1970 |
| 4 | 28 | When We Meet | undated |

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|---|----|------------------------------------|---------|
| 4 | 29 | While the Whole World Was Watching | undated |
| 4 | 30 | Who are you? | undated |
| 4 | 31 | Whose Society is This? | 1970 |
| 4 | 32 | Your Face Speaks | 1971 |