



ArchivesSpace

## Carolyn Chute collection, 1984-2009

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library  
University of New England  
716 Stevens Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103  
[cmiller10@une.edu](mailto:cmiller10@une.edu)  
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Maine Women Writers Collection
<b>Creator:</b>	Chute, Carolyn
<b>Title:</b>	Carolyn Chute collection
<b>ID:</b>	0056
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1984-2009
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.5 linear feet 13 folders
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Carolyn Chute collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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Carolyn Chute was born Carolyn Penny in Portland, Maine in 1947. At the age of sixteen, Chute dropped out of high school and married almost immediately. The couple had a daughter named Johanna, and then divorced, leaving Chute to support her child by working several odd jobs, which included driving a school bus, waitress, and potato farm worker. After marrying her current husband, Michael Chute, in 1978, Chute completed her high school education and took classes at the University of Maine. She started to write stories while attending a writing workshop at the university, and her work was published in magazines such as *Grand Street* and *Ploughshares*. She was also a part-time suburban correspondent for the *Portland Evening Express*. During this time she started work on her most well known novel, *The Beans of Egypt, Maine* (1985). The novel was well received, becoming a bestselling and critically acclaimed book. Her novel gave Maine its most prominent position in the literary world at the time. Chute's graphic, bold, and unflinchingly honest portrayal of rural life has not had many counterparts in recent decades, especially not among women writers. Her other novels include *Letourneau's Used Auto Parts* (1988), *Merry Men* (1994), and *Snow Man* (1999). Recently she has become the leader of a non-partisan group of Maine citizens known as the Second Maine Militia. She also publishes *The Fringe*, a monthly collection of in-depth political journalism, short stories, and intellectual commentary on current events. She currently resides in Parsonsfield, Maine.

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## Collection Scope and Content

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This collection consists almost entirely of newspaper and magazine interviews with the author and reviews of her publications. The material reveals a great deal about her personal life and how it influences her writing. There is also information about her involvement in the 2nd Maine Militia which she founded in 1995, premised on the negative aspects of the influences of corporations on the working class. Also in the collection is an audiotape of Chute's speech at the University of Hartford in 1986 in addition to video material of her presentation at Maine Women Writers, University of New England, 2002, and ephemera relating to a 1989 Stonecoast's Writers' Conference.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized as a single series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Access

Collection is open for research.

## Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish, please contact the Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Parsonsfield (Me.)
- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- Clippings
- Audiocassettes
- Country life -- Maine
- Country life -- Fiction
- Maine -- Fiction
- Chute, Carolyn
- Chute, Carolyn
- 2nd Maine Militia

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Interviews, reviews, 1984	Box 5	Folder 001
Interviews, reviews, 1985	Box 5	Folder 002
Interviews, reviews "Stepping into the Light", 1985	Box 5	Folder 003
Interviews, reviews "Small Town, Big Time", 1985	Box 5	Folder 004
Interviews, reviews, 1986-1989	Box 5	Folder 005
Interviews, reviews, 1991-2002	Box 5	Folder 006
Interviews, reviews, 1995-1996	Box 5	Folder 007
Interviews, reviews, 2002, 2009	Box 5	Folder 007a
Interviews, reviews, undated	Box 5	Folder 008
Publisher's press release "The Beans of Egypt, Maine", undated	Box 5	Folder 009
Invitation to Maine release of film "The Beans of Egypt, Maine", 1994	Box 5	Folder 010

Stonecoast Writers' Conference, 1985	Box 5	Folder 011
"Cuba's Continuing Struggle" dedicated to Carolyn Chute, 2002	Box 5	Folder 012
Anne Elizabeth Penny obituary (Chute's mother), 2012	Box 5	Folder 015