



**Research Papers on Julia Peterkin  
SCHS #530.00**

**Creator:** Williams, Susan Millar.

**Description:** 4.5 linear ft. (12 boxes); 33 audio cassettes.

**Biographical/historical note:** Julia Mood Peterkin, a native of Laurens County, S.C., was a Pulitzer Prize winning author. She married William George Peterkin in 1903 and her principal residence was at Lang Syne Plantation near Fort Motte, S.C. The Peterkins had one child, William "Bill" George Peterkin, Jr.

**Scope and content:** Collection chiefly consists of research notes, as well as copies of primary and secondary sources relating to a biography of Julia Mood Peterkin (published in 1997 as *A Devil and a Good Woman, Too: The Lives of Julia Peterkin*) by Susan Millar Williams. Included are copies of the correspondence of Julia Peterkin, the correspondence of Frances Frost and Irving Fineman, and copies of articles and other writings by Peterkin. Julia Peterkin's correspondents include H. L. Mencken, Carl Sandburg, Lyle Saxon, and David L. Chambers of the Bobbs-Merrill publishing company. Research material covers topics such as Gullah culture and language, the Harlem Renaissance, Irving Fineman, Fort Motte (S.C.), the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Peterkin and Mood family history, Doris Ulmann, and Isaac Weston. Also found in this collection are the research papers of Noel Polk, who was collecting material about Julia Peterkin in the 1970s; and audio cassette recordings of interviews with various persons who knew Julia Peterkin.

**Preferred citation:** Williams, Susan Millar. Research papers on Julia Peterkin, 1961-1994. (0530.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**BOX 1**

Copies of Peterkin correspondence; and notes on the correspondence:

- 1 Julia Peterkin correspondence, 1926-1929.
- 2 Julia Peterkin correspondence, 1930-1940.
- 3 Julia Peterkin correspondence: miscellaneous letters.

- 4 Julia Peterkin correspondence: letters from various repositories.
- 5 Julia Peterkin correspondence: letters from the Library of Congress (NAACP records).
- 6 Julia Peterkin correspondence: Bobbs-Merrill correspondence and notes, 1926-1927.
- 7 Julia Peterkin correspondence: Bobbs-Merrill correspondence, 1928-1929.
- 8 Julia Peterkin correspondence: Bobbs-Merrill correspondence, 1929-1930.
- 9 Julia Peterkin correspondence: Bobbs-Merrill correspondence, 1931-1935.
- 10 William G. Peterkin letters: letters of condolence, 1961 (original material).

#### BOX 2

- 1 Julia Peterkin correspondence: letters relating to *Black April*, 1926-1927.
- 2 Julia Peterkin correspondence: letters relating to *Black April*, 1928-1932.
- 3 Julia Peterkin correspondence: letters relating to *Bright Skin*, 1931-1932.
- 4 Julia Peterkin correspondence: letters relating to *Green Thursday*, etc.
- 5 Julia Peterkin correspondence: correspondence with Mrs. Margaret Behrend.
- 6 Julia Peterkin correspondence: correspondence with H. L. Mencken.
- 7 Julia Peterkin correspondence: correspondence with Carl Sandburg.
- 8 Julia Peterkin correspondence: correspondence with Lyle Saxon.
- 9 Julia Peterkin correspondence: correspondence with Elizabeth (Elsie) S. Sargeant.
- 10 Julia Peterkin correspondence: correspondence with Scribners.

#### BOX 3

- 1 Notes on the correspondence of Julia Peterkin (1927).
- 2 Notes on the correspondence of Julia Peterkin (1928-1929).
- 3 Notes on the correspondence of Julia Peterkin (1930s).
- 4 Correspondence of Noel Polk, 1969-1972.
- 5 Correspondence of Noel Polk, 1974-1976.
- 6 Noel Polk research and notes.
- 7 Noel Polk bibliography of Julia Peterkin's writings.

- 8 Noel Polk essay on Julia Peterkin.
- 9 Notes on the Bobbs-Merrill correspondence.
- 10 Correspondence of Frances Frost and Irving Fineman, 1931-1932.

BOX 4

- 1 Correspondence of Frances Frost and Irving Fineman, 1933-1934.
- 2 Correspondence of Frances Frost and Irving Fineman, 1935-1937.
- 3 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Ashes (1931).
- 4 Writings of Julia Peterkin: A Baby's Mouth (1922).
- 5 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Boy-Chillen (1943).
- 6 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Bright Crown of the Year (1932).
- 7 Writings of Julia Peterkin: [My Credo].
- 8 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Daddy Harry (1924).
- 9 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Diamond Ring (1930).
- 10 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Foreman (1924).
- 11 Writings of Julia Peterkin: From a Plantation (1923).
- 12 Writings of Julia Peterkin: review of *Gone With the Wind* by JP (1936).
- 13 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Greasy Spoon (1929).
- 14 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Heart Leaves (1929).
- 15 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Ideal Woman for a Man-Made World (1929).
- 16 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Imports from Africa.
- 17 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Manners.
- 18 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Maum Lou.
- 19 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Merry-Go-Round.
- 20 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Missy's Twins.
- 21 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Negro Blue and Gold.

- 22 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Negro in Art.
- 23 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Old Uncle Mose.
- 24 Writings of Julia Peterkin: One Southern View-Point.
- 25 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Over the River.
- 26 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Plantation Christmas.
- 27 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Poems of Julia Peterkin.
- 28 Writings of Julia Peterkin: A Proudful Fellow.
- 29 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Right Thing.
- 20 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Scarlet Sister Mary (the play).
- 21 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Seeing Things.

#### BOX 5

- 1 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Silhouettes.
- 2 Writings of Julia Peterkin: The Sorcerer.
- 3 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Studies in Charcoal.
- 4 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Venner's Sayings.
- 5 Writings of Julia Peterkin: What I Believe.
- 6 Writings of Julia Peterkin: Whose Children?
- 7 Writings of Julia Peterkin: A Woman Looks at the Agricultural Program.
- 8 Reviews of JP's writings: *Black April*.
- 9 Reviews of JP's writings: reviews of *Bright Skin* and *Black April*.
- 10 Reviews of JP's writings: reviews in the *New York Times*.
- 11 Reviews of JP's writings: various works.
- 12 Articles and other writings about JP and her work: article, 1991.
- 13 The Art of Writing (an interview with JP).
- 14 Article by Brainard Cheney, 1992.

- 15 Biographical sketch, 1939.
- 16 Essay by Thomas H. Landess (“Scarlet Sister Julia”).
- 17 Article: A Secretary’s Souvenir (1975).
- 18 Notes on a dissertation about JP, 1965, by Louis Lee Henry.
- 19 Article on JP in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*.
- 20 “Lang Syne’s Miss”
- 21 Excerpt from the diary of H. L . Mencken.
- 22 The Passionate Mind
- 23 *South Carolina Bibliographies*, 1956.
- 24 *Names in South Carolina*.
- 25 “My Search for the Real Julia Peterkin” (1990) by Susan Millar Williams.
- 26 Article in the Converse College Bulletin, 1980.
- 27 Article in Brookgreen Journal, 1994.
- 28 Essay from *Distinguished Women of Laurens County*.
- 29 Miscellaneous articles about JP.
- 30 Miscellaneous newspaper and magazine articles.
- 31 Miscellaneous newspaper and magazine articles.
- 32 Miscellaneous newspaper and magazine articles.

#### BOX 6

- 1 Articles and other writings about JP and her work: Springtime Pilgrimage, 1938.
- 2 Memoir by [Artemas] Darby.
- 3 Material from Clemson University.
- 4 Innocence Abroad.
- 5 *New York Times* articles about JP’s Pulitzer Prize.
- 6 Our Julia, by Elizabeth Boatwright Coker.

- 7 Material collected by Mrs. John von Lehe.
- 8 Anonymous biographical sketch of JP.
- 9 Master's thesis, 1956, by Marilyn Price Maddox.
- 10 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: The Land Called Chicora.
- 11 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Brookgreen.
- 12 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Town Theater (Hedda Gabler, etc.)
- 13 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: writings on southern literature.
- 14 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Jose C. Orozco.
- 15 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Elizabeth Hawes.
- 16 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: New York nightclub life.
- 17 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: article about writing saved by JP.
- 18 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Sumter County, S.C.
- 19 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: MacDowell Colony.
- 20 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Carl Van Vechten.
- 21 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: divorce in South Carolina.
- 22 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: South Carolina proverbs and folklore.
- 23 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Home to Harlem (McKay).
- 24 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Liberalism in the South.
- 25 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: plantation societies.
- 26 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Eleventh House, by Hudson Strode.
- 27 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Ethel Barrymore.
- 28 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: sharecropping.
- 29 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: Writers on the Left.
- 30 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: research material from Converse College.
- 31 Research articles and notes, excerpts, etc.: miscellaneous notes and research.

## BOX 7

- 1 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: Preface to Peasantry.
- 2 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: On the Real Side.
- 3 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: Growing Up in the Black Belt.
- 4 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Big Sea.
- 5 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: Walter White and the Harlem Renaissance.
- 6 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: Mary Heyward.
- 7 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Black Border (and other writings) by Ambrose E. Gonzales.
- 8 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Negro in the Carolina Lowcountry.
- 9 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Negro Speaks for Himself.
- 10 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: When the Negro was in Vogue.
- 11 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: writings by Samuel Gaillard Stoney.
- 12 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: And Once Again—the Negro.
- 13 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: Learning How to Be Black.
- 14 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Negro's Inhibitions.
- 15 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Negro Press.
- 16 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: Gullah.
- 17 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: writings by Lorenzo Dow Turner.

- 18 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: race, lynching.
- 19 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Book of Negro Folklore.
- 20 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: The Negro in American Fiction.
- 21 Research articles and notes relating to African Americans and Gullah: miscellaneous notes.
- 22 Research articles and notes arranged alphabetically by subject: Elfrida Barrow.
- 23 Research articles and notes: Bobbs-Merrill.
- 24 Research articles and notes: Breadloaf Writers Conference.
- 25 Research articles and notes: Theodosia Burr.

#### BOX 8

- 1 Research articles and notes: Dulles family.
- 2 Research articles and notes: Samuel Duncan.
- 3 Research articles and notes: Irving Fineman.
- 4 Research articles and notes: Irving Fineman.
- 5 Research articles and notes: Fineman family life.
- 6 Research articles and notes: Fort Motte.
- 7 Research articles and notes: Frances Frost.
- 8 Research articles and notes: Lang Syne Plantation, Lang Syne cemetery, and the McCords.
- 9 Research articles and notes: H. L. Mencken.
- 10 Research articles and notes: Ovariectomy.
- 11 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Archer family.
- 12 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Mood family.
- 13 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Henry Mood's autobiography.
- 14 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Julius A. Mood.



15 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Recollections of Alva Mood.

BOX 9

1 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Peterkin family and graveyard.

2 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Julia Peterkin's wedding.

3 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: autobiographical writings of Genevieve Peterkin.

4 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: letters of condolence, 1961.

5 Research articles and notes: Peterkin family and relations: Julia Peterkin's scrapbook.

6 Research articles and notes: Poetry Magazine.

7 Research articles and notes: Poetry Society of South Carolina.

8 Research articles and notes: Carl Sandburg.

9 Research articles and notes: Doris Ulmann.

10 Research articles and notes: Isaac Weston.

11 Research articles and notes: miscellaneous.

12 Bibliographies.

13 Chronologies.

14 Miscellaneous printed material: "Minerva Finds a Voice: The Early Career of Julia Peterkin" (dissertation, 1987); and "A Blossom of the Night-Blooming Cereus," a novel by Richard E. Haymaker (1981).

BOX 10

1 Research articles and notes: Enter Madame (a play).

2 Research articles and notes: *Scarlet Sister Mary*.

3 Research correspondence.

4 Research correspondence: Thomas H. Foster.

5 Research correspondence: responses to queries.

6 Research of Harlan Greene.

## BOX 11

- 1 Interview notes and transcripts: Burgess family members.
- 2 Interview notes and transcripts: Veronica Gerald.
- 3 Interview notes and transcripts: Faith Rehyer Jackson.
- 4 Interview notes and transcripts: Ashleigh Mood.
- 5 Interview notes and transcripts: Peterkin family members.
- 6 Interview notes and transcripts: Genevieve Peterkin.
- 7 Interview notes and transcripts: Helen Rosa.
- 8 Interview notes and transcripts: Stubbs family members.
- 9 Interview notes and transcripts: Agenora von Lehe.
- 10 Interview notes and transcripts: Agenora von Lehe and Charlotte Walker.
- 11 Interview notes and transcripts: Ella Weeks Walker.
- 12 Interview notes and transcripts: Jackie Whitmore.

## BOX 12

Microfilm and audio cassette recordings:

- 1 Three reels of microfilm from the Lilly Library at Indiana University: boxes are labeled “Bobbs-Merrill mss, Julia (Mood) Peterkin” and contain correspondence and other records dating July 1927 to October 1940; and one reel relating to *Scarlet Sister Mary*.
- 2 Audio cassettes (33 cassettes) containing recordings of interviews with the following:  
  
Agenora von Lehe  
Burgess family members  
Genevieve Peterkin  
Elizabeth Boatwright Coker  
Helen Peterkin