



## Papers of Omah Scott Horton

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### Collection Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Papers of Omah Scott Horton
<b>Call Number:</b>	MS 79-04
<b>Size:</b>	2.5 linear feet
<b>Acquisition:</b>	Donated by Omah Scott Horton's son and daughter-in-law, Frank B. and Frances Horton, 1979
<b>Processed By:</b>	LWM, 11-8-1979; Reprocessed by SMC, 4-17-1998; MN, 1-2009
<b>Note:</b>	None
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None

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### Literary Rights

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### Restrictions

None

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### Content Note

This collection of Omah Scott Horton's papers include her diaries, correspondence, literary works, art works, photographs, scrapbooks, financial documents, and memorabilia which reflect her personal life as well as her professional career as a poet which spanned over fifty years, from 1918 to 1972.

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### Biography

Omah Scott was one of three daughters and four sons born to Francis Marion Scott and Sarah Dawson Scott. Born 31 May 1884, Omah grew to adulthood on the family farm in Hickory Hill, Missouri. She finished the eighth grade at a rural school near Hickory Hill, and then worked as a long-distance telephone operator in Jefferson City, Missouri. While working at the telephone company, she met her future husband who was employed as a lineman and electrician.

Omah married Fred D. Horton in 1907 and during the next eleven years she followed her husband to cities in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Nebraska where he was employed by public utility companies. Three sons were born to her during this time: LeRoy (1908), Francis (1914), and Fredric (1918).

In the fall of 1918, Omah joined her husband in Wellington, Kansas, where he had taken the position of City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Utilities. In January of 1919, Fred Horton boarded a train in Wellington to journey to a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, but he never reached his destination and was never seen nor heard from again. Omah's pride and responsibility to her three small children did not allow her to dwell on the grief and frustration she felt at not knowing the fate of her husband. She concentrated her efforts on earning an income in any way possible, which meant selling baked goods and garden produce, raising and dressing chickens, entering contests, and submitting poems for publication. Thus began her career as a poet under the name of Scott Horton.

When May Williams Ward moved to Wellington in 1933, the two poets began their close friendship which lasted until Omah's death in Wellington on 16 October 1972.

Scott Horton's poetry appeared in magazines such as Collier's and Good Housekeeping, and in newspapers such as the New York Times and the Kansas City Star. A collection of her poetry entitled Even the Leaves was published in 1957. She was a member of the Kansas Authors Club and the Poetry Society of Kansas.

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## Detailed Description: Series Listing

<a href="#">Series 1</a>	Box 1 FF 1-9	Diaries, 1935-1972
<a href="#">Series 2</a>	Box 1 FF 10-20	Correspondence From Omah Scott Horton
<a href="#">Series 3</a>	Box 1 FF 21-Box 2 FF 14	Correspondence to Omah Scott Horton
<a href="#">Series 4</a>	Box 2 FF 15-18	Miscellaneous Correspondence
<a href="#">Series 5</a>	Box 2 FF 19-Box 4 FF 12	Literary Works
<a href="#">Series 6</a>	Box 4 FF 13	Art Work
<a href="#">Series 7</a>	Box 4 FF 14-15	Organizations
<a href="#">Series 8</a>	Box 4 FF 16	Photograph
<a href="#">Series 9</a>	Box 5 FF 1-2	Scrapbooks
<a href="#">Series 10</a>	Box 5 FF 3	Clippings
<a href="#">Series 11</a>	Box 5 FF 4-7	Financial Documents
<a href="#">Series 12</a>	Box 5 FF 8-12	Miscellaneous
<a href="#">Series 13</a>	Hanging Rack	Oversized Art Work

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## Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

### Series 1 – Diaries

Box 1	FF 1	May-June 1935
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Box 1	FF 2	Desk Diary, 1940-1944
Box 1	FF 3	Loose leaf pages, 1 January 1940-12 January 1946
Box 1	FF 4	Loose leaf pages, 24 January 1946-26 December 1949
Box 1	FF 5	Loose leaf pages, 1 January 1950-4 December 1958
Box 1	FF 6	Loose leaf pages, 5 December 1958-29 July 1972
Box 1	FF 7	Vacation to Ozarks, October 1952
Box 1	FF 8	Christmases, 1937-1972
Box 1	FF 9	Loose leaf pages, undated

### **Series 2 – Correspondence from Omah Scott Horton**

Box 1	FF 10	To husband, Fred D. Horton, 1916-1918
Box 1	FF 11	Unsent letters to husband after his disappearance (January 1919)
Box 1	FF 12	To son, Roy Horton, 1926-1936
Box 1	FF 13	To son, Francis (Frank) Horton, 1935-1944
Box 1	FF 14-15	To son, Fredric Horton, 1939-1947
Box 1	FF 16	To future daughter-in-law, Kay Wooldridge, 1945
Box 1	FF 17	To sister, Ellen Scott Clay, 1959-1972 and undated
Box 1	FF 18	To niece, Ruth Clay Olinger, 1932
Box 1	FF 19	To editors and publishers, 1945-1972
Box 1	FF 20	Miscellaneous, 1971 and undated

### **Series 3 – Correspondence to Omah Scott Horton**

Box 1	FF 21	From husband, Fred D. Horton, 1911-1918
Box 1	FF 22	From son, Roy Horton, 1926-1930
Box 1	FF 23-24	From son, Francis (Frank) Horton, 1933-1966
Box 1	FF 25	From son, Fredric Horton, 1937-1971
Box 2	FF 1	From son, Fredric Horton, 1937-1971
Box 2	FF 2	From daughter-in-law, Margaret Horton, 1943
Box 2	FF 3	From daughter-in-law, Frances Wible Horton, 1939-1952

Box 2	FF 4	From grandchildren, 1951-1965 and undated
Box 2	FF 5	From mother, Sarah Dawson Scott, 1922
Box 2	FF 6	From father, Francis Marion Scott, 1918
Box 2	FF 7	From sister, Ellen Scott Clay, 1920
Box 2	FF 8	From brother, Alfred Scott, 1940-1943
Box 2	FF 9	From brother, Arthur Scott, 1917
Box 2	FF 10	From brother, Edgar Scott, 1918
Box 2	FF 11	From niece, Ruth Clay Olinger, 1942-1966
Box 2	FF 12	From May Williams Ward, undated
Box 2	FF 13	From editors and publishers, 1939-1969
Box 2	FF 14	Miscellaneous, 1935-1971

#### **Series 4 – Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Box 2	FF 15	From Fred Horton to son, Roy Horton, 1911
Box 2	FF 16	From Roy Horton to father, Fred Horton, 1918
Box 2	FF 17	From Frank Horton to brother, Fredric Horton, 1939; to May Williams Ward, 1944
Box 2	FF 18	To Fred Horton from business associate, J. F. Schaefer, 1918

#### **Series 5 – Literary Works by Omah Scott Horton**

Box 2	FF 19	Biographical Writings
Box 2	FF 20	Published book, <i>Even the Leaves</i> , copy of book
Box 2	FF 21	Published book, <i>Even the Leaves</i> , notes
Box 2	FF 22	Unpublished book, "ABC Rhymes"
Box 2	FF 23	Unpublished book of poetry compiled for son, Francis Horton, Christmas 1944
Box 2	FF 24	Unpublished book, "A Ladder of Rhymes"
Box 2	FF 25	Unpublished book, "Out of Control"
Box 2	FF 26	Periodicals in which works were published

Box 2	FF 27	Contest entries (this notebook also includes household accounts, June 1941-April 1943)
Box 2	FF 28	Greeting Cards
Box 2	FF 29-30	Miscellaneous manuscripts of titled poems, A-Z
Box 3	FF 1-22	Miscellaneous manuscripts of titled poems, A-Z
Box 3	FF 23	Miscellaneous manuscripts of untitled poems
Box 4	FF 1	Notebook of typed poems with occasional notes by Omah Scott Horton
Box 4	FF 2	Program including poem by Omah Scott Horton
Box 4	FF 3	Proverbs
Box 4	FF 4	Reviews of Omah Scott Horton's poetry
Box 4	FF 5-6	Short stories, essays, and articles
Box 4	FF 7	Speeches
Box 4	FF 8-12	Miscellaneous notes

### **Series 6 – Art Work**

Box 4	FF 13	Art work by Omah Scott Horton. See also Series 13.
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### **Series 7 – Organizations**

Box 4	FF 14	Kansas Authors Club
Box 4	FF 15	Quill and Arts Club

### **Series 8 – Photograph**

Box 4	FF 16	Photograph of Omah Scott Horton
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### **Series 9 – Scrapbooks**

Box 5	FF 1	Scrapbook of literary career, 1950s and 1960s
Box 5	FF 2	Scrapbook of World War II Clippings, 1941-1943

### **Series 10 – Clippings**

Box 5	FF 3	Clippings
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### **Series 11 – Financial Documents**

Box 5	FF 4	Ledger of poetry sold, 1934-1969
Box 5	FF 5	Ledger of household accounts, 1943-1945
Box 5	FF 6	Ledger of household accounts, 1964-1972 (see also Box 2, FF 27)
Box 5	FF 7	Ledger of baking, gardening, and hunting sales, undated

### **Series 12 – Miscellaneous**

Box 5	FF 8	Addresses and birthdays
Box 5	FF 9	Approach to Poetry manual
Box 5	FF 10-11	Literary works by others
Box 5	FF 12	Sermon notes from Omah Scott Horton's funeral

### **Series 13 – Oversized Art Work**

Hanging Rack	Oversized art work
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**Wichita State University Libraries**  
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