

**Title:** Parent, Ruth Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-1003

**Inclusive Dates:** 1913 – 1982

**Quantity:** 1.0 cu. ft.

**Location:** CV, Sh. 169

**Abstract:** Ruth Parent (nee Sawyer) was born in 1906 in Hartford, Wisconsin. Her father, Elmo Sawyer, was a practicing attorney. Ruth studied piano at a young age and became interested in opera. After graduating high school in 1925, she continued to study piano at the Sherwood Music School in Chicago and the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee. She also studied opera with the Chicago Civic Opera. She married Alphonse Parent in 1936 but left for New York in 1947 to pursue a career in opera. Though she received positive feedback for her vocal talents, she returned to Milwaukee in 1956 after the death of a beloved mentor, Arturo Vita. In Milwaukee, she designed hats and clothes and tutored children. Ruth passed away in 1986.

**Scope and Content:** The records consist of assignments for various writing courses, correspondence, estate-related records (which includes autobiographical information) and other ephemera.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:** Collection processed by Kevin Abing, June 2018.  
Photos: See Sawyer family, M-244

**Arrangement:**

<b>Folder Heading</b>	<b>Box #</b>	<b>File #</b>
Estate-related material (including autobiography)	1	1
“Vignettes and Chit-chat – Off the Top of the Head!”, 1972-1985	1	2
Correspondence, 1949, 1954-1956, 1971-1983	1	3
Newspaper Clippings	1	4
Songbooks/Sheet Music	2	1
Writing Assignments	2	2
Course Work – Fort Myers Technical College (Howard Rice), 1968-1969	2	3
Miscellaneous	2	4
<i>Operatic Anthology</i> , edited by Max Spicker	2	Loose
<i>Fifty-Six Songs You Like to Sing</i> , 1937	2	Loose
Audio Cassettes (of Ruth singing)	3	

