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Hoosier author Nolan’s manuscripts on display

Manuscripts and other papers of the late Jeannette Covert Nolan, prolific Indiana author, are on display in Indiana University’s Lilly Library.

The exhibit is part of the complete collection of Mrs. Nolan’s papers recently presented to Lilly Library by her sons and daughter: Val Nolan Jr., Acting Dean of the Law School and Professor of Zoology at IU Bloomington; Alan Nolan, Indianapolis attorney, and Mrs. Alan H. Lobley, also of Indianapolis.

Mrs. Nolan wrote 47 books, most of them biographies or historical novels, a great many of them for high school-age readers. Many were published in England, several were translated into foreign languages, and several were issued in Braille. One of them, “Gather Ye Rosebuds,” was made into a movie called “Isn’t It Romantic?” Six of her juvenile books were Junior Literary Guild selections.

Born in Evansville, she married Val Nolan, an Evansville native who became U.S. District Attorney. She died in 1974 in Indianapolis, where she had lived since 1932.

She taught creative writing at the IU Indianapolis campus and was on the staff of five sessions of the IU Writers’ Conference and a similar conference at the University of Colorado. She was twice the winner of the “Most Distinguished Juvenile Book by an Indiana Author” award of the IU Writers’ Conference, and was selected for its Hall of Fame in 1968. IU awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 1967.

The exhibit will be on view through the month of May.