

Elinor Maxwell McCord – President 1930, 1935, & 1936

By Brad Cook, Historian

Elinor Maxwell McCord began her writing career at the age of fifteen and by 1929 she had penned over 200 stories, articles, and playlets. During this time she also published a book of verse. While writing for magazines like *Plain Talk*, the *New Yorker*, and *McClures* she somehow found time to pen a column every Sunday in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

One of the first members of the St. Louis Writers Guild, Elinor had been a neighbor of Sam Hellmann's in Great Neck, Long Island New York, and often played bridge with Sam and his wife. She always spoke highly of the SLWG's first president, in the November 10, 1929 Globe-Democrat article about the Writers Guild she says of him, "It was better listening to him than reading one of his stories. He keeps a running chatter of conversation, couched in the most marvelous slang imaginable, and some unimaginable."

Elinor and her husband Don C. McCord often hosted meetings at their home, a common practice in the early days of the writers guild. From her picture in the 1929 Globe-Democrat one can infer that she was fashionable woman of the twenties, with a dark bob, fur shall, and elegant strand of pearls. A vibrant force in the organization she remained heavily involved in the SLWG for over two decades.

(St. Louis Globe-Democrat, November 1929)