

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Moore, Marianne Craig (1887-1972)** **MC 2001.20**

Material: Papers (1913-2000)

Volume: 0.75 linear foot (Document Boxes 1-2)

Donor: Gifts of Various Donors

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage, with the exception of Lu Stone's poems on Marianne Moore, which are not to be reproduced without author's consent.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Marianne Moore was born on November 15, 1887 in Kirkwood, Missouri to Mary and John Moore. However, shortly before her birth, her father had a nervous breakdown, causing a separation between her parents; as a result, Marianne never knew her father. Her early childhood was spent with her brother Warner, her mother, and her grandfather. In 1894, her grandfather died and Mary Warner Moore moved the family to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where Marianne began her education at the Metzger Institute. In 1905 she went off to Bryn Mawr College, where the school published her first poems. Upon graduation, she returned to Carlisle to attend the Carlisle Commercial College for one year.

After graduation and a period of travel in Europe, Marianne Moore was employed at the United States Indian School in Carlisle. It is during this this time that her poetry was first professionally published, and she began to win a reputation as one of the "new poets". In 1916, Marianne moved to New Jersey where her brother was offered a job as a Presbyterian minister, but it was only two years later that she moved to Manhattan, where she would stay for the next eleven years.

While living in Manhattan, Marianne Moore began to have more of her work published, and she gained greater attention. This began with her appearance in *The Dial*, which brought her recognition as a major innovator. It was only six years later, in 1926, when she became editor of *The Dial*, a position she retained for the nearly four years. In 1929 Moore left her editing job and moved to Brooklyn, there pursuing her career as a freelance poet and book reviewer.

Through the remainder of her life, Marianne Moore had a variety of publications and awards, and she received many honorary degrees (including one from Dickinson College in 1952). Her poetry earned her awards such as the Guggenheim Fellowship in creative writing, election into the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the National Book Award for Poetry, the

Gold Medal for Poetry, and the Pulitzer Prize. Her reputation as one of the premier American poets of the twentieth century is well secured by her work and accomplishments.

Marianne Craig Moore died on February 5, 1972; she had suffered a series of strokes nearly two years earlier and had been a semi-invalid ever since. After her passing, she was remembered by her pastor as, “Liberal, without Prodigality; Frugal, without Parsimony; Cheerful, without Levity; Exhorted, without Pride; In person, Amiable; In Conversation, Affable; In friendship, Faithful; Of envy, void.” Of herself, Marianne Moore once said, simply and modestly, “I’m a happy hack as a writer.”

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Marianne Craig Moore Papers are housed in two document boxes and are divided into three series: Correspondence, Literary Productions, and Miscellaneous. Various donors have contributed to this collection, including Ronald Goldberg, Paul Richards, Milton Flower, Friends of the Library, Bertram Davis, Lu Stone, and others. For related materials, see the Marcia Chamberlain collection (MC 2009.6), also located in Dickinson’s Archives and Special Collections.

The Correspondence series contains letters largely sent or received by Marianne Moore. All correspondence pertains directly to Moore’s life and writing, and the majority are written by Moore herself. The letters and cards in the series deal largely with the publication of her work and comments about her work. Her time as editor of *The Dial* is reflected in some of the correspondence. Throughout the letters, Marianne Moore comments on the work of colleagues, as well as her own work, and she often writes of personal matters in addition to general literary matters. These letters are arranged alphabetically by author; thereafter, alphabetically by recipient, and then chronologically. Among the many correspondents are Professor Richard Cary, Jane Elder, Laura Benet, Norman Cousins, Philip Magee, Elizabeth Parker, Eloise Parker, George Reavey, and William Smith.

The Literary Productions series is further divided into five sub-series: Articles, Poems, Newsclippings, Newsletters, and Reviews. The Articles are written about Marianne Moore’s life and are arranged alphabetically by author. These articles are about the accomplishments of her life and the recognition of her work, specifically her poetry. The Poems sub-series includes primarily manuscript copies of Moore’s work, with the exception of Lu Stone’s compilation of poems about Marianne’s life. Moore’s poems are arranged alphabetically by title. The Newsclippings section contains articles about Moore’s accomplishments as a writer and a poet, from the publication of works to the presentation of awards. Most of these clippings came from Pennsylvania newspapers and papers from her local area in New York. The Newsletters section contains bulletins sent out with information or articles about Moore, especially from her church in New Jersey, where her brother used to be minister and where her funeral was held. It also includes various copies of the newsletter named for her, spanning 1977 to 1983. Finally, the Reviews sub-series contains copies of some reviews of her Moore’s work, arranged alphabetically by the author of the review.

The Miscellaneous series contains various items related to Moore, including invitations, book jackets, and a signed copy of her favorite benediction.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2001.20

CORRESPONDENCE

Beck, Emily Morrison
Folder 01) Letter to Marianne Moore - Sep. 24, 1957

Cummings, Marcia
Folder 02) Letter to Laurence H. Scott - Oct. 10, 1964

Griffin, Zadiée
Folder 03) Letter to Elizabeth Parker - c1913

Moore, John Warner
Folder 04) Letter to Prof. Richard Cary - Sep. 22, 1965

Moore, Marianne Craig
Folder 05) Letters to Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Storrs Alden - 1953-1966 (3)
Letter to *The Atlantic Monthly Press* - Dec. 12, 1959
Letters to Marshall Bean - 1965 (2)

Folder 06) Letters to Mr. Belitt - 1937-1955 (3)
Letter to Laura Benet - February 26, 1950
Letter to Marshall Ayers Best - Dec. 18, 1966

Folder 07) Letters to Forman Brown - 1925-1927 (6)
Letters to William Edward Carmichael - 1959 (2)

Folder 08) Letters to Prof. Richard Cary - 1963-1968 (10)

Folder 09) Letter to Mr. Cole - July 19, 1952
Letter to K. Cornell and N. Hamilton - Apr. 15, 1968
Letter to Norman Cousins - Oct. 27, 1956
Letter to Babette Deutsch - Nov. 10, 1962
Letter to Marion Dorn - Apr. 3, 1963

Folder 10) Letters to Mrs. Duryee - 1944-1966 (12)

Folder 11) Letter to Isabel Elder - Jan. 26, 1952
Letters to Jane Elder - 1952-1969, undated (5)

Folder 12) Letters to Milton Flower - 1930-1957 (2)
Letter to Marjorie Gifford - Mar. 26, 1949
Letter to Rev. William J. Gormley - May 28, 1968

Folder 13) Letters to Arthur Gregor - 1964-1967 (7)

Folder 14) Letters to Terence Holliday - 1943-1946 (2)
Letters to Barbara Howes - 1956-1968 (5)

Folder 15) Letter to John Hunter - Jan. 30, 1954
Letters to Mr. Lawrence - 1961 (2)

Folder 16) Letters to Mrs. Frances Logan - 1950-1967 (3)
Letters to Henry Logan - 1963-1965 (3)

Folder 17) Letters to Mary Mac Tear - 1959-1962 (3)

Folder 18) Letters to Philip Magee - 1960-1968 (9)

Folder 19) Letter to Katharine Elizabeth McBride - Mar. 1, 1967
Letters to Miss McGlade - 1929-1937 (3)

BOX 1 - MC 2001.20 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Moore, Marianne (cont.)

- Folder 20) Letters to Mary Miller - 1959-1962 (3)
- Folder 21) Letters to Arthur Mizener - 1946 (2)
Letter to Mr. Munson - Aug. 9, 1952
- Folder 22) Letters to Elizabeth Parker - 1922-1947 (9)
- Folder 23) Letters to Eloise C. Parker - 1956-1957 (9)
- Folder 24) Letters to Eloise C. Parker - 1958-1959 (10)
- Folder 25) Letters to Eloise C. Parker - 1960-1961 (13)
- Folder 26) Letters to Eloise C. Parker - 1962-1965 (8)
- Folder 27) Letter to Susan Prink - Jan. 30, 1947
Letters to George Reavey - 1955-1959 (4)
Letter to Mr. Rich - Dec. 22, 1962
- Folder 28) Letter to Mr. Salomon - Feb. 19, 1954
Letter to Mrs. F. Sayers - Oct. 7, 1956
Letters to Laurence Scott - 1965, undated (2)
Letters to Mrs. Lillian Scott - 1964-1965 (2)
- Folder 29) Letter to Charles Sellers - Oct. 28, 1952
Letters to William Seward - 1952-1953 (2)
Letter to Herbert Small - Jan. 29, 1931
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. William J. Smith -1951-1953 (4)
- Folder 30) Letter to John S. Steckbeck - Mar. 19, 1952
Letter to Miss Hope Stoddard - Feb. 6, 1926
Letter to Allen Tanner - Nov. 9, 1966
Letter to Monsieur Rene Taupin - 1940 (2)
- Folder 31) Letter to Unknown ("Mother and Friend") - May 1, 1965
Letter to Mr. Upton - Sep. 12, 1940
Letters to David Wallace - 1943-1944 (4)
- Folder 32) Letters to Vernon Watkins - 1965 (2)
Letter to Gwen Watkins - 1967
Letter to Randall Williams - May 4, 1961

Moore, Mary Warner

- Folder 33) Letters to Elizabeth Parker - 1927-1938 (2)

Parker, Eloise C.

- Folder 34) Letters to Norman Cousins (w/reply) - 1956, 1965 (2)
Letters to Marianne Moore - 1956-1965 (10)
Letter to James Reston (w/reply) - May 15, 1962

Shearer, Edith L.

- Folder 35) Letter to Elizabeth and Eleanor Parker - June 3, 1951

Smith, Alan

- Folder 36) Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Sellers - Dec. 15, 1972

BOX 1 - MC 2001.20 (cont.)

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS

ARTICLES

- Folder 37) Chomeau, Mary, "Marianne Moore" - Mar. 1969
Folder 38) *Quarterly Review of Literature*, Marianne Moore Issue - 1948

BOX 2 - MC 2001.20

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS (cont.)

ARTICLES

- Folder 01) Seth, Mary, "An Instinctive Way to Share" - Apr. 16, 1955
Folder 02) *Senior Scholastic*, "More about Moore" - Apr. 28, 1947
Folder 03) Stapleton, Laurence, "How it All Began" - Feb. 1979

POEMS

- Folder 04) Moore, Marianne
"A face" - June 1949
"A face" transcribed for George Pluck - Jan. 21, 1954
"A face" - The cover of Rosenbach Museum Invitation to
"Driving to The Interior"
"At Rest in the Blast" - undated
"A Facsimile of Marianne Moore's First Poem" - 1972
"Nicodemus' Question" - undated
Folder 05) Moore, Marianne
"Occasionam Cognosce" - undated
"The Shepard and the Sea" - Dec. 4, 1955
"That Destroying Resonance" - undated
"That Harp You Play So Well" - undated
"Tipoo's Tiger" - 1967
"Values in Use" - undated
"The Web One Weaves of Italy" - undated
"When I Buy Pictures" - undated
Folder 06) Stone, Lu
Collection of poems on the life of Marianne Moore

NEWSCLIPPINGS

- Folder 07) Newsclippings - 1940-1972

NEWSLETTERS

- Folder 08) *Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin* - 1972
Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church Newsletter - 1972
Folder 09) *Marianne Moore Newsletter* - 1977-1983

REVIEWS

- Folder 10) Ashbery, J., "Jerboas, Pelicans, and Peewee Reese" - Oct. 30, 1966
Rukeyser, Muriel, "A Crystal for the Metaphysical" - Oct. 1, 1966

BOX 2 - MC 2001.20 (cont.)

MISCELLANEOUS

Folder 11)

Bloom, Harold, ed.

Marianne Moore (book jacket) - 1987

Dickinson College

“Marianne Moore and friends at the Carlisle Indian School,” Invitation - Nov. 15, 2000

Moore, Marianne

Marianne Moore Postage Stamp -1990

“My favorite Benediction” - undated

Review of a William Kienbusch Art Show - 1963

Parisi, Joseph, ed.

Marianne Moore (book jacket) - 1958

Philips, Elizabeth

Marianne Moore (book jacket) - 1982

Rosenbach Museum and Library

“In Her Own Image: Photographs, Painters, and Sculptors View Marianne Moore” - Apr. 12, 1980

“Marianne Moore: The Poet In Her Own Image” - 1985

Hugh Kenner lecture on Marianne Moore - undated

University of Maine

“Marianne Moore: Centennial Conference,” National Poetry Foundation - June 12-14, 1987

This collection register was prepared by Michele M. Tourney, December 2001.