

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Chamberlain, Marcia** **MC 2009.6**

Material: Papers and Photographs (1931-1955)

Volume: .25 linear feet (1 Document Box, 3 Photograph Folders)

Donation: Purchased from Schulson Autographs, 2008

Usage: There are no access restrictions on these materials.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Little is known about Marcia Chamberlain, except that she was a friend and correspondent of Marianne Moore. Marcia was admitted to the Brooks Hospital in Brookline, Massachusetts, in December of 1952.

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, Moore never knew her father. Her early childhood was spent with her brother Warner, her mother, and her grandfather. In 1894, Moore's grandfather died and her mother moved the family to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where Moore began her education at the Metzger Institute. In 1905 she went 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, Moore was employed at the United States Indian School in Carlisle. It is during this time that her poetry was first professionally published and she began to win a reputation as one of the "new poets." In 1916, Moore 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, 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, Moore continued to write and received a number of awards and honorary degrees (including one from Dickinson College in 1952). Her poetry earned her honors such as a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Book Award for Poetry, the Gold Medal for Poetry, and the Pulitzer Prize. She was also elected into the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

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.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Marcia Chamberlain collection is divided into six series: Correspondence, Writings, Newspaper Clippings, Pamphlets, Miscellaneous, and Photographs. The photographs are housed separately, in the Dickinson College Photograph Collection.

The Correspondence series contains letters largely received by Marianne Moore and Marcia Chamberlain, a close friend of Moore. Many of the letters written by Moore to Chamberlain pertain to events in her life, with the aim of comforting Chamberlain who was in the hospital at this time. Chamberlain also received letters from women named Margaret and Louise, whose last names are unknown, but who were friends with both Chamberlain and Moore. The series also contains letters written by various other individuals to Chamberlain and Moore during this time. There are two letters from 1931 and 1933 which do not pertain to Moore or Chamberlain, but were addressed to an ancestor of Moore's correspondent, Grace Stammers. The letters are arranged alphabetically by author; thereafter, alphabetically by recipient; and then chronologically.

The Writings series contains a poem written by Moore's close friend Kathrine Jones, a greeting card signed "Mollie," and fragments from a diary with no clear author that mentions both Moore and Chamberlain. There are two typed writings by Marianne Moore, and various letter fragments and notes written by Grace Lyman Stammers.

The Newspaper Clippings series contains clippings that Moore enclosed in her letters to Chamberlain. There are direct references to these clippings in the letters. They include a crossword puzzle, a picture of a painting by Alex Colville, and five spiritual quotations.

The Pamphlets series consists of Mary Baker Eddy's "What Our Leader Says" and an expense book kept by Marcia Chamberlain.

The Miscellaneous series contains two objects with no label of ownership. They are a blank greeting card, with Renoir's painting "Woman with a Cat" on the front and a pressed flower bookmark.

The Photographs series contains thirteen photographs. They include images of Kathrine Jones; Marcia Chamberlain; Marianne Moore; and Midge, granddaughter of Margaret.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2009.6

CORRESPONDENCE

- Adlow, Dorothy
Folder 01) Telegram to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 18, 1952
- Curtis, Alice
Folder 02) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – undated
- Ermimira
Folder 03) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain (in Italian) – Mar. 7, 1953
- Hogue, Hersey Blauch
Folder 04) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Jan. 15, 1953
- Lee, Ruth Webb
Folder 05) Letter to Grace Adams Lyman – Jul. 13, 1931
Letter to Grace Adams Lyman – Jun. 29, 1933
- Louise
Folder 06) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain, Feb. 1, 1953
- Margaret
Folder 07) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 14, 1952
- Moore, Marianne
Folder 08) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 18, 1952
Telegram to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 19, 1952
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 20, 1952
Enclosed crossword puzzle by Frank W. Lewis, Dec. 20, 1952
- Folder 09) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 23, 1952
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Dec. 30, 1952
- Folder 10) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Jan. 11, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Jan. 17, 1953
- Folder 11) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Jan. 25, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Jan. 27, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Jan. 29, 1953
- Folder 12) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Feb. 1, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Feb. 3, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Feb. 8, 1953
- Folder 13) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Feb. 11, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Feb. 15, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Feb. 25, 1953
- Folder 14) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 7, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 10, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 15, 1953
- Folder 15) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 18, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 22, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 23, 1953
- Folder 16) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 25, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Mar. 28, 1953

BOX 1 - MC 2009.6 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Moore, Marianne (cont.)

- Folder 17) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 1, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 2, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 5, 1953
- Folder 18) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 8, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 11, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 18, 1953
- Folder 19) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 23, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 26, 1953
- Folder 20) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – May 2, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – May 7, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – May 10, 1953
- Folder 21) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – May 16, 1953
Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – May 28, 1953
- Folder 22) Birthday card to Marcia Chamberlain – undated
Greeting card to Marcia Chamberlain – undated
- Folder 23) Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Jun. 10, 1955
Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Jun. 12, 1955
- Folder 24) Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Jul. 13, 1955
Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Jul. 21, 1955
- Folder 25) Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Sep. 22, 1955
Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Oct. 11, 1955
Letter to Grace Lyman Stammers – Dec. 27, 1955
- Folder 26) Letter to “Wealthy” – May 21, 1955

Reynolds, Ruth

- Folder 27) Letter to Marcia Chamberlain – Apr. 28, 1953

Stammers, Grace Lyman

- Folder 28) Letter to Marianne Moore – undated

Unknown

- Folder 29) Letter to Marianne Moore – undated

WRITINGS

Jones, Kathrine

- Folder 30) Poem – Apr. 26, 1952

Mollie

- Folder 31) Greeting card to unknown
Mentions a neighbor named Bill, possibly William Stammers

Moore, Marianne

- Folder 32) Signed poem, “By Disposition of Angels” – published 1948
“Foreword” – Apr. 18, 1952

BOX 1 - MC 2009.6 (cont.)

WRITINGS (cont.)

Stammers, Grace Lyman

- Folder 33) Letter fragment (to Marianne?) mentions “Wealthy” and “Biel”
Notes on painters, on stationery of Grace Lyman Stammers
Letter fragment, on back of document of Fannie E. Lyman

Unknown

- Folder 34) Diary fragments (9), mention Marcia and Marianne – circa 1954
- Folder 35) Fragment of poem, unsigned – undated

PAMPHLETS

- Folder 36) “What Our Leader Says” by Mary Baker Eddy – circa 1937
- Folder 37) “Merchants Co-operative Bank” expense book – Jan. 1952
Property of Marcia Chamberlain

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 38) Blank greeting card, with Renoir’s “Woman with a Cat”
- Folder 39) Pressed flower bookmark
- Folder 40) Painting by Alex Colville – Apr. 5, 1953
- Folder 41) Five spiritual quotations - undated

PC 2009.6

- Folder 01) Young boy, unidentified – undated
- Folder 02) Louise’s house, Kathrine Jones, Marcia Chamberlain, Marianne Moore,
Midge (Margaret’s granddaughter) - 1952
- Folder 03) Woman in front of English cottage, Margaret - 1952

This collection register was prepared by Molly Jerome, November 2009.