

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Agnes Boulton Papers

YCAL MSS 308



by Jennifer Meehan and Santana Haight

2008

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 308

CREATOR: Boulton, Agnes, 1893-1968

TITLE: Agnes Boulton papers

DATES: 1891-1982

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.33 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of writings, correspondence, and other papers broadly relating to Agnes Boulton. Writings include a typescript for Agnes Boulton's memoir about her marriage to Eugene O'Neill, Part of a Long Story (1958), and a partial typescript of Trouble in the Flesh (1959) by Max Wylie, as well as handwritten and typed notes (perhaps those of Boulton) for story and play ideas. Correspondence includes letters received by Agnes Boulton and extensive correspondence of the Clarence Gordon and other members of the Gordon family (whose connection to Boulton is unclear). Also included are photographs, several diaries and a rent book of E. C. Bundy, newspaper clippings, ephemera, books, and printed material.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.boultona>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.boultona>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Norman Peck on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund, 2008.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Agnes Boulton Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Agnes Boulton Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including simple preservation and organization. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents below is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

Associated Materials

Associated material includes the Agnes Boulton Collection of Eugene O'Neill, YCAL MSS 122.

Agnes Boulton (1893-1968)

Agnes Boulton, who was Eugene O'Neill's second wife and a writer of popular novels and short stories, was born on 19 September 1893. After Boulton and O'Neill met in New York City in the fall of 1917, they moved to Provincetown early in 1918, and were married on 12 April of that year. They spent the following fall and winter at Boulton's house in West Point Pleasant, New Jersey, and then in May 1919 moved to the former Coast Guard station (Peaked Hill Bar) in Provincetown, which was purchased for them by O'Neill's father from the writer Mabel Dodge Luhan. On 30 October 1919, their son, Shane Rudraighe, was born in Provincetown.

In the fall of 1922, the O'Neills moved to Brook Farm in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and then two years later, to Bermuda. Their daughter, Oona, was born in Bermuda on 14 May 1925. The family divided their time between Brook Farm and Bermuda (where they later bought a house, Spithead). In the summer of 1926, they rented a cottage in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, where they were visited by Boulton's daughter from her first marriage, Barbara Burton, and by O'Neill's son from his first marriage, Eugene O'Neill, Jr. It was in Belgrade Lakes that O'Neill renewed his acquaintance with Carlotta Monterey, who had starred in the 1922 New York production of his play *The Hairy Ape*. From that point on, O'Neill divided his time between New York

and Bermuda, and between Carlotta and Boulton. In 1928, O'Neill made his choice and left on 10 February with Carlotta for Europe. Boulton tried to save the marriage, but she and O'Neill finally divorced in July 1929.

Boulton wrote a memoir about her marriage to O'Neill, *Part of a Long Story* (1958), as well as a novel, *The Road is Before Us* (1944). Boulton later remarried, but she and her third husband were subsequently separated. Boulton died on 25 November 1968 in West Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

For further information, see Boulton's memoir, *Part of a Long Story* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1958).

Biographical note is drawn from the finding aid for the Agnes Boulton Collection of Eugene O'Neill, YCAL MSS 122.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of writings, correspondence, and other papers broadly relating to Agnes Boulton. Writings include a typescript for Agnes Boulton's memoir about her marriage to Eugene O'Neill, *Part of a Long Story* (1958), and a partial typescript of *Trouble in the Flesh* (1959) by Max Wylie, as well as handwritten and typed notes (perhaps those of Boulton) for story and play ideas. Correspondence includes letters received by Agnes Boulton and extensive correspondence of the Clarence Gordon and other members of the Gordon family (whose connection to Boulton is unclear). Also included are photographs, several diaries and a rent book of E. C. Bundy, newspaper clippings, ephemera, books, and printed material.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series: I. Writings, circa 1958-1959. II. Correspondence, 1905-1965. III. Other Papers, 1891-1982.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, circa 1958-1959

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	"Part of a Long Story"	circa 1958
b. 1, f. 2-6	"Trouble in the Flesh," II-VI	circa 1959
b. 2, f. 7-12	Various story/play ideas	undated

Series II: Correspondence, 1902-1965*1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)*

b. 3, f. 13	Correspondence to and from Agnes Boulton	1932-33
b. 3, f. 14	Charlie Chaplin Christmas cards, with family photos	
Gordon Family Correspondence		
b. 3, f. 15	Clarence W. Gordon and Carrie Meyers Gordon	1902-1904
b. 3, f. 16-23	Clarence W. Gordon to Carrie, Ruth, and Wes Gordon	1923-1925
b. 3, f. 24	Clarence W. Gordon and Carrie Meyers Gordon	1927-1932
b. 4, f. 25-26	Clarence W. Gordon to Carrie, Ruth, and Wes Gordon	undated
b. 4, f. 27	Carrie Meyers Gordon to "Ted"	1905-1948
b. 4, f. 28	Ruth Gordon Wolfgang correspondence	1927-1930
b. 4, f. 29-31	Wesley Meyers Gordon to family	1943-1959, undated
b. 4, f. 32-34	Rev. Janeway Gordon and Fannie C. Gordon to Clarence, Carrie, Ruth, and Wes Gordon	1925-1927
b. 4, f. 35	"Don" to Carrie and Clarence Gordon	1942
b. 4, f. 36	Empty envelopes	1921-1930
Other Correspondence		
b. 5, f. 37-38	Beecroft, Gifford, Gant family correspondence	

Series III: Other Papers, 1891-1982

1.21 linear feet (2 boxes)

b. 6, f. 39	Newspaper clippings Contains clippings regarding Shane O'Neill's suicide, an article by Agnes Boulton, etc.	circa 1934-1981
	Newspapers concerning the end of the Second World War See: Newspapers concerning the end of the Second World War (from Series III)	1945
b. 6, f. 40	Point Pleasant stationery envelopes and child's "Pets" book	undated
b. 6, f. 41	Photographs Includes photographs of Oona O'Neill with an elderly woman, and a portrait of another woman, possibly Agnes.	undated
b. 6, f. 42-43	Diaries and Rent Book of E. C. Bundy	1886-1931
b. 6, f. 44	Wooden Paddle	undated
b. 6, f. 45	Photo negative in wooden holder	undated
b. 6, f. 46	Bible lesson cards	undated
b. 6, f. 47	Restaurant brochures, 1935 school yearbook, "Communism" flier, etc. See also Restaurant brochures, 1935 school yearbook, "Communism" flier, etc. (from Series III)	
b. 6, f. 48	Engravings, Nudes See also Engravings, Nudes (from Series III)	undated
b. 6, f. 49-58	Books and Printed Material Includes <i>The Life of Theodore Roosevelt</i> (1919); <i>Heidelberg Catechism and Catechist's Assistant</i> (1891); <i>Boy Scout Diary</i> (1927); <i>Laura and Helen; or, the Deaths of the School-Mates</i> ; Teacher's Institute publications; <i>Four Plays by Emile Augier</i> (1915) inscribed "Agnes Boulton"; <i>Chris Christophersen: A Play in Three Acts</i> (1982) by Eugene O'Neill; <i>The Song and Other Poems</i> (1938) by Patricia Mengel Grew; <i>Little Bits of Verse</i> (1933) Patricia Mengel Grew; and <i>My Father, Charlie Chaplin</i> (1961) by Charles Chaplin, Jr.	1891-1982
b. 7, f. 59-61	Books and Printed Material	1891-1982

Oversize*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 8, f. 62	Restaurant brochures, 1935 school yearbook, "Communism" flier, etc. (from Series III)	
b. 8, f. 63	Newspapers concerning the end of the Second World War (from Series III)	1945
b. 8, f. 64	Engravings, Nudes (from Series III)	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Names

Boulton, Agnes, 1893-1968
Wylie, Max, 1904-

Families

Gordon family

Contributors

Boulton, Agnes, 1893-1968
Wylie, Max, 1904-