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Guide to the Marcia Nardi Collection

YCAL MSS 70



by H. Dean

2007

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 70

CREATOR: Nardi, Marcia, 1901-1990

TITLE: Marcia Nardi collection

DATES: 1949-1983

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Marcia Nardi collection contains correspondence and writings documenting her work as a poet between 1949 and 1983. The collection contains letters to Nardi by Louise Bogan, Marguerite Caetani, Randall Jarrell, Norman Holmes Pearson, Alec Waugh, Thornton Wilder, and others, most offering personal and professional advice and assistance in her efforts to complete a volume of poems. There is also a manuscript miscellany, "The New Helicon," in the hand of John Edmunds and a typescript of Nardi's poem "Femelle de l'homme." The collection also contains John Edmunds Papers pertaining to Nardi including correspondence from Nardi to Edmunds and typescript drafts of her unpublished book "Collected Poems."

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

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.nardimarcia>.

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 Marcia Nardi on the Danford Barney and F. O. Matthiesson Fund, 1968, and from the Turtle Island Book Shop on the Elizabeth Wakeman Dwight Memorial Fund, 2004.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Marcia Nardi Collection 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

Marcia Nardi Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Marcia Nardi (1901-1990)

Marcia Nardi, American poet, was born Lilian Massell in Boston and attended Girls' Latin School and Wellesley College, which she left in 1921 to live in Greenwich Village and to write. During this period Nardi contributed poetry and book reviews to publications such as the *Nation*, *New Republic*, *Quarterly Review of Literature*, the *New York Times*, and the *New York Herald Tribune*. In 1926 her son Paul was born, and Nardi was forced to take a variety of jobs to support him and herself. In 1942 she began a correspondence with William Carlos Williams, who used long sections of her letters in Books I and II of *Paterson*. Her *Poems* was published by Alan Swallow in 1956, and she received a Guggenheim fellowship in the following year. Nardi worked extensively with John Edmunds between 1972 and 1983 with the intention of publishing a collection of her poetry; however this project did not result in a publication before Nardi's death in 1990.

Scope and Contents

The Marcia Nardi collection contains correspondence and writings documenting her work as a poet between 1949 and 1983. The collection contains letters to Nardi by Louise Bogan, Marguerite Caetani, Randall Jarrell, Norman Holmes Pearson, Alec Waugh, Thornton Wilder, and others, most offering personal and professional advice and assistance in her efforts to complete a volume of poems. There is also a manuscript miscellany, "The New Helicon," in the hand of John Edmunds and a typescript of Nardi's poem "Femelle de l'homme." The collection also contains John Edmunds Papers pertaining to Nardi including correspondence from Nardi to Edmunds and typescript drafts of her unpublished book "Collected Poems."

Arrangement

The Marcia Nardi Collection is organized into two series: Marcia Nardi Papers and John Edmunds Papers. Each series is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings. The Marcia Nardi Papers were processed in 1993 and have not been re-processed. The John Edmunds Papers were processed in 2007.

Collection Contents

Series I: Marcia Nardi Papers, 1949-1965

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

The series contains Marcia Nardi's Papers including incoming correspondence and some writings (a few poems, reviews, and a manuscript anthology containing other writers' poetry entitled "The New Helicon"). Also included is a letter from Louise Bogan to Robert Phelps.

The series is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

	Correspondence	1949-1965
	Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.	
b. 1, f. 1	The Atlantic Monthly	1954, 1962
b. 1, f. 2	Bogan, Louise	1955-1963
b. 1, f. 3	Botteghe, Oscure	1956, 1957
b. 1, f. 4	Caetani, Marguerite	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Edward MacDowell Association, Inc.	1954 April 19
b. 1, f. 6-7	Jarrell, Mary	1965, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Pearson, Norman Holmes	1949-1952
b. 1, f. 9	Ransom, John Crowe	1952 December 15
b. 1, f. 10	Shapiro, Karl	1952 January 24
b. 1, f. 11	Waugh, Alec	1954-1964, undated
b. 1, f. 12-18	Wilder, Thornton	1953-1962, undated
b. 1, f. 19	Bogan, Louise to Robert Phelps	1956
	Writings	1954, undated
b. 1, f. 20	Birthday Poem (to Alec Waugh), typescript, signed	1954
b. 1, f. 21	Miscellaneous Notes and Reviews	undated
b. 1, f. 22	"The New Helicon", bound manuscript Contains Nardi's poem "Was it the Honey-Hearted Vowel?" (transcribed by Thornton Wilder)	1954 December

Series II: John Edmunds Papers, circa 1950, 1972–1983*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The series contains Nardi's correspondence with John Edmunds (including photocopy of letter to Nardi from William Carlos Williams) and drafts documenting her work with Edmunds to publish her collected poems. Also includes annotated copy of Nardi's book entitled *Poems*.

The series is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

	Correspondence Arranged chronologically.	1950, 1972-1983
b. 2, f. 23	Nardi, Marcia to John Edmunds	1972-1977
b. 2, f. 24-29	Nardi, Marcia to John Edmunds	1979-1982
b. 2, f. 30-31	Nardi, Marcia to John Edmunds	1983, undated
b. 2, f. 32	Williams, William Carlos to Marcia Nardi, photocopy of original	circa 1950
	Writings	1956, 1982
b. 2, f. 33	<i>Poems</i> , printed version, corrected Denver, CO.: Alan Swallow, 1956. With Nardi's corrections.	1956
b. 2, f. 34-35	Poetry, typescript, with holograph corrections	circa 1982
b. 2, f. 36	"Collected Poems", typescript, preliminary draft with holograph corrections	1982
b. 2, f. 37	"Collected Poems", typescript, final draft	1982

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

Poets, American -- 20th Century --
Correspondence
Women poets, American -- 20th Century

Names

Bogan, Louise, 1897-1970
Caetani, Marguerite, 1880-1963
Edmunds, John, 1913-1986
Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965
Nardi, Marcia, 1901-1990
Pearson, Norman Holmes, 1909-1975
Ransom, John Crowe, 1888-1974
Shapiro, Karl, 1913-2000
Waugh, Alec, 1898-1981
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975

Corporate Body

Edward MacDowell Association