

Guide to the Marjorie Bowen Papers

GEN MSS 454



by Sandra Markham

2010

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 454

CREATOR: Bowen, Marjorie, 1888-1952

TITLE: Marjorie Bowen papers

DATES: 1810–1998

BULK DATES: 1900–1951

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 16 linear feet (41 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Marjorie Bowen Papers consist of the literary and personal papers of the British writer Gabrielle Margaret Vere Campbell, who published hundreds of works of fiction, historical fiction, and history, as well as reviews and opinion pieces, in the first half of the twentieth century. The collection primarily contains manuscripts, typescripts, and printed versions of her writings, with photographs, press cuttings, and some correspondence files that include letters from authors Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Rebecca West. Also in the collection are papers of Bowen's mother, the author and playwright Mrs. Vere Campbell, and Bowen's son Hilary Long, in particular more than three hundred letters from Bowen to Long. The bulk was sent to Long during World War II while he was serving in the King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRRC), and includes many examples of wartime V-mail. Auxiliary material covers the lives of family members, including ancestors in the Bowen, Ellis, and Campbell families. Present are three manuscript memoirs of Marjorie Bowen's ancestors: her grandfather, Bishop John Ellis (1785-1855), a Moravian missionary who spent several decades in Antigua, Jamaica, and Barbados, written by his widow; her grandmother Elizabeth Bowen Ellis (1792-1842), written by her son (Bowen's father) Charles Bowen Ellis; and a memoir of Charles Bowen Ellis (1821-1887), also a Moravian minister and missionary, written by one of his siblings.

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

b. box
f. folder
■■■■ item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2002.

Custodial History

The papers were formerly the property of Hilary Long, son of Marjorie Bowen.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 41 (sound recordings): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Marjorie Bowen 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

Marjorie Bowen Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The papers were formerly identified by the call number Uncat MSS 399.

Separated Materials

Books received with the papers were removed and cataloged separately.

Marjorie Bowen (1885-1952)

The British author Marjorie Bowen was born Gabrielle Margaret Vere Campbell on Hayling Island, Hampshire, on November 1, 1885, the daughter of Josephine Elisabeth Ellis and Vere Douglas Campbell. An introspective and unhappy child, Bowen was raised by her unstable mother in a series of chaotic and peripatetic Bohemian households in and around London. She studied with John Crompton at the Heatherley School of Art, attended the Slade School of Fine Art (1901-1904), and studied art in Paris, but

was largely and intensely self-taught in history, languages, and literature. In 1912 she married a Sicilian man, Zeffrino Emilio Costanzo (died 1916), then a resident of London, with whom she lived in England and Italy and had two children: Paolo Maura (1914-1915) and Michael (born 1916). Her second marriage, to Arthur L. Long, produced two sons, Hilary Blaise and Athelstane. Bowen's autobiography, *The Debate Continues*, was published in 1939 under the name Margaret Campbell. She died in a London hospital, following a fall at her home, on December 23, 1952.

Mrs. Vere Campbell (1860-1921)

The British author Mrs. Vere Campbell was born Josephine Elisabeth Ellis on July 20, 1860, in Carmarthanshire, Wales, the daughter of Charles Bowen Ellis (1821-1887), a Moravian clergyman, and Priscilla Harson Bayley (1829-1879). Educated at Moravian schools in England and Germany, she married Vere Douglas Campbell (ca. 1854-1905), the alcoholic son and grandson of respected London physicians Hugh Campbell and David Campbell; the couple separated soon after the birth of their third child, Phyllis (born 1891). Mrs. Campbell published less than ten novels and had a few of her plays produced during her lifetime; she died in December 1921.

Scope and Contents

The Marjorie Bowen Papers consist of the literary and personal papers of the British writer Gabrielle Margaret Vere Campbell, who published hundreds of works of fiction, historical fiction, and history, as well as reviews and opinion pieces, in the first half of the twentieth century under the pseudonyms Marjorie Bowen, Robert Paye, George R. Preedy, Joseph Shearing, and John Winch. The collection primarily contains manuscripts, typescripts, and printed versions of her writings, with some photographs, press cuttings, and correspondence files that include letters from authors Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Rebecca West. Also in the collection are papers of Bowen's mother, the author and playwright Mrs. Vere Campbell, and son Hilary Long, in particular more than three hundred letters from Bowen to Long.

Bowen was a remarkably prolific author who issued novels, biographical works, and plays in "astonishing profusion" (*Times*, December 27, 1952), and she had a special interest in romance, fantasy, occult, and supernatural themes and topics. The papers here contain drafts and other versions of certain titles but represent only a portion of her output. Aside from long-form works, Bowen wrote scores of book reviews, short stories, essays and articles, particularly on issues related to women, including education, character, independence, marriage, and child-rearing. Extremely successful and with a reputation as "outspoken," Bowen was often solicited for her opinion on current events and contemporary lifestyles; the collection holds many examples of those shorter writings. She was well regarded by her literary peers and by her great fans, and the collection holds correspondence from those in both categories.

Auxiliary material covers the lives of family members, including Bowen's mother, Josephine Bowen Ellis Campbell, who published under the name Mrs. Vere Campbell, and ancestors in the Bowen, Ellis, and Campbell families. Present are some of Mrs. Campbell's writings and press cuttings, and a small group of letters, photographs, and personal memoirs of the Ellises, who served as Moravian missionaries in the West Indies during the nineteenth century.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Writings, 1830-1951. II. Personal Papers, 1810-1951. III. Other Papers, 1889-1998.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1830-1951

12.72 linear feet (31 boxes)

The series contains formal and research notes, manuscripts, typescripts, and publications clipped from serials. The second subseries, Long Works, is comprised of material related to Bowen's books and plays; some titles existed in both forms. Most of the writings are not dated, so dates listed are approximate to the title's publication. The third subseries, Short Works, is arranged and filed alphabetically by genre: Book Reviews, Early Writings, Essays and Opinion Pieces, Film Treatments, Historical Writings, Poems, Short Stories, Synopses, and Travel Writings; when extant, printed versions are filed after the manuscripts in each section. Bowen published a number of her historical writings in series of articles, such as "Women Who Changed the Course of History," "Famous Love Letters," and "Stories from Famous Poems."

Series I is organized into three subseries: Autobiographical Writings, Long Works, and Short Works.

b. 1, f. 1	Autobiographical writings	1927, undated
	Long works	
b. 1, f. 2-6	"Album Leaf"	circa 1933
b. 1, f. 7-11	"Angel of the Assassination"	circa 1935
b. 2, f. 12	"Angel of the Assassination"	circa 1935
b. 2, f. 13-17	"Brave Employments"	circa 1931
b. 3, f. 18-22	"Captain Banner: a drama in three acts"	circa 1930
b. 3, f. 23-25	"Chosen Cakes"	undated
b. 4, f. 26-27	"Constance"	undated
b. 4, f. 28-30	"Court Cards"	undated
b. 5, f. 31-34	"Dark Rosaleen"	circa 1932
b. 5, f. 35	"Dickon: an historical romance"	circa 1929
b. 5, f. 36	"Double Dallilay"	1933
b. 5, f. 37	"Exits and Farewells"	circa 1930
b. 5, f. 38-40	"Everlasting Fury"	undated
b. 5, f. 41	"The Folding Doors" Composition begun by Bowen and finished by Mrs. Campbell	circa 1917
b. 6, f. 42	"Foolish Masqueraders"	1910
b. 6, f. 43-45	"Fortune"	undated
b. 6, f. 46-48	"General Crack"	circa 1928
b. 7, f. 49-57	"General Crack"	circa 1928

Long works (continued)

b. 7, f. 58	"God and the King"	circa 1912
b. 8, f. 59	"The Golden Roof"	circa 1928
b. 8, f. 60	"The Golden Violet"	circa 1936
b. 9, f. 61	"The Golden Violet"	circa 1936
b. 9, f. 62	"Gorgeous Lovers"	circa 1929
b. 9, f. 63	"Haunted Vintage"	circa 1921
b. 9, f. 64	"Homage"	undated
b. 9, f. 65-66	"Idlers Gate"	circa 1932
b. 10, f. 67	"Interlude of War"	undated
b. 10, f. 68-69	"Interruptions"	undated
b. 10, f. 70	"Julia Roseingrave"	circa 1933
b. 10, f. 71-74	"The Man in Judgement"	undated
b. 11, f. 75-82	"The Man in Judgement"	undated
b. 12, f. 83	"The Marriage Contract"	undated
b. 12, f. 84	"Mary, Queen of Scots, daughter of debate"	circa 1934
b. 12, f. 85	"Moon at Carthage"	undated
b. 12, f. 86	"Moss Rose"	circa 1934
b. 12, f. 87	"Nightcap and Plume"	circa 1945
b. 12, f. 88	"The Pavilion of Honour"	circa 1932
b. 12, f. 89	"Peter Porcupine"	circa 1936
b. 12, f. 90	"Pretty Dear"	undated
b. 12, f. 91	"The Quest of Clouds"	undated
b. 12, f. 92	"The Question"	circa 1931
b. 13, f. 93-98	"The Rocklitz"	circa 1930
b. 14, f. 99-108	"Rose Giralda" Includes costume sketches by Bowen	undated
b. 15, f. 109-112	"Royal Half Penny" ("Louise of Albany")	undated
b. 16, f. 113-116	"Safety"	undated
b. 16, f. 117-118	"The Scholar's Wife"	undated
b. 17, f. 119	"The Scholar's Wife"	undated

Long works (continued)

b. 17, f. 120	"The Seer and the Seen"	undated
b. 17, f. 121	"Set with Green Herbs: a few months from 'A Bright and Happy Kalendar'"	circa 1933
b. 17, f. 122	"A Soldier from Virginia:: the story of G. Washington"	circa 1912
b. 17, f. 123-127	"This Shining Woman: Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, 1759-1797"	circa 1937
b. 18, f. 128-131	"The Third Mary Stuart, Mary of York, Orange and England"	circa 1929
b. 18, f. 132	"Those Pretty Flowers"	undated
b. 18, f. 133-134	"To Bed at Noon"	circa 1951
b. 18, f. 135	"Triumphant Beast"	circa 1934
b. 19, f. 136-141	"Tumult in the North" Folder 141 includes a nineteenth-century aquatint "The World: When a Man is Down, Keep Him Down"	circa 1830, circa 1931
b. 20, f. 142	"The Viper of Milan" See also: Series III, Box 37, folders 248-299	1904
b. 20, f. 143	"William, by the Grace of God"	circa 1917
b. 20, f. 144-146	"William Hogarth: the Cockney's Mirror"	circa 1936
b. 21, f. 147-148	"William Hogarth: the Cockney's Mirror"	circa 1936
b. 21, f. 149	"World's Wonder, and other essays"	1937
b. 21, f. 150	"Yasmin"	undated
b. 21, f. 151	Miscellaneous notes	undated
b. 21, f. 152-153	Book fragments	undated
b. 21, f. 154-155	Play fragments	undated
Short works		
b. 22, f. 156-157	Book reviews	undated
b. 22, f. 158	Early writings	circa 1900
Essays and opinion pieces		
b. 22, f. 159	Art, writing, and film	undated
b. 22, f. 160	Women	1922-1936, undated
b. 23, f. 161-163	Women	1922-1936, undated
b. 23, f. 164-169	Miscellaneous topics Also stored in: Oversize, Box 40, folder 272	1926-1938, undated

Short works (continued)

b. 24, f. 170	Film treatments Includes Bowen's original compositions, and treatment for Helen Simpson's "Outcast Lady" ("Under Capricorn")	undated
b. 24, f. 171-175	Historical writings Also stored in: Oversize, Box 40, folder 273 Includes publication <i>Royal Pageantry</i> (1937)	1923-1937, undated
b. 25, f. 176-180	Historical writings	1923-1937, undated
b. 25, f. 181-183	Poems	1905-1905, undated
b. 41, f. 281, ■■■ 39002141090325	Radio interview: "Sidelights on Our Ancient Ceremony of King-making," (1 of 2) with cassette tape copy <i>1 Phonograph Record: 12-inch aluminum disc</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1937 Apr 9, undated
b. 41, f. 281, ■■■ 39002141090333	Radio interview: "Sidelights on Our Ancient Ceremony of King-making," (2 of 2) with cassette tape copy <i>1 Phonograph Record: 12-inch aluminum disc</i> Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1937 April 9
b. 41, f. 281, ■■■ 39002137134574	M. Bowen from Audio Scriptions <i>1 Audiocassette 00:16:13 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Clicks, pops, and static are present. The program is distorted at times. [Aviary] genmss045439002137134574.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1937
b. 26, f. 184-190	Short stories Also stored in: Oversize, Box 40, folders 274-278	1925-1948, undated
b. 27, f. 191-195	Short stories	1925-1948, undated
b. 28, f. 196-200	Short stories	1925-1948, undated
b. 29, f. 201-205	Short stories	1925-1948, undated
b. 30, f. 206-210	Short stories	1925-1948, undated
b. 31, f. 211-212	Short stories	1925-1948, undated
b. 31, f. 213	Synopses	undated
b. 31, f. 214-215	Travel writings	1928-1938, undated

Series II: Personal Papers, 1810-1951*1.88 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Series II Personal Papers contains Bowen's literary agreements (contracts), correspondence, photographs, genealogical material, a scrapbook, and a small collection of press cuttings that include reviews of her books. The agreements cover both her writings and radio appearances. Most of the correspondence is fan mail, but it does include letters from noted writers such as Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Algernon Methuen, William Roughead, and Rebecca West. One folder holds letters from Edward Wagenknecht, a professor at Boston University, who studied and later published Bowen's writings in anthologies; additional correspondence between Wagenknecht and Hilary Long is in Series III, as well as more than three hundred letters from Bowen to Long.

A folder of genealogical material contains correspondence with distant relatives regarding the Ellis, Campbell, and Bayley families, and includes three nineteenth-century manuscript memoirs of Marjorie Bowen's ancestors: on Bishop John Ellis (1785-1855), a Moravian clergyman who represented the church in Antigua, Jamaica, and Barbados from 1818 to 1855, written by his third wife; on Elizabeth Bowen Ellis (1792-1842) by her son Charles Bowen Ellis (1821-1887); and a memoir of the latter, who was born in Antigua and was also a Moravian minister and missionary, by an unidentified sibling. Notebooks consists of three commonplace books with research and personal education notes, poems, and a list of publications (to 1910). Photographs contains portraits of Bowen, her children and ancestors, in particular her father's family, and the interior of her home at 46 Markham Square, London. The series ends with a folder of reviews by others of her books, a scrapbook, and miscellaneous ephemera.

Series II is arranged alphabetically by genre: Agreements, Correspondence, Genealogical Material, Notes, Photographs, Book Reviews, Scrapbook, and Miscellaneous

b. 32, f. 216-221	Agreements	1906-1925
b. 33, f. 222-226	Agreements	1926-1932
b. 34, f. 227-231	Agreements	1933-1951
Correspondence		
b. 35, f. 232-233	Fan mail	1907-1947
b. 35, f. 234	Personal mail Includes one letter written by Bowen	1903-1940
b. 35, f. 235	Wagenknecht, Edward	1945-1948
b. 35, f. 236	Genealogical material	1871-1932, undated
b. 35, f. 237-239	Notebooks	1901-1910, undated
Photographs		
b. 35, f. 240	Bowen, Marjorie Includes portrait by Angus McBean (1904-1990)	undated
b. 35, f. 241	Campbell, Ellis, and Johnston families Also stored in: Oversize, Box 40, folder 279	1863-1902, undated
b. 36, f. 242	Campbell, Vere Douglas	undated

Photographs (continued)

b. 36, f. 243	Long, Hilary, and brothers Athelstane and Michael	1943, undated
b. 36, f. 244	Views (interior) of Bowen's home, 46 Markham Square, London SW3	1943
b. 36, f. 245	Miscellaneous Eveline Hope Challice and two unidentified girls	undated
b. 36, f. 246	Reviews of books	1934-1948
	Scrapbook Stored in: Oversize, Box 40, folder 280 Includes snapshot photographs, wash drawing by Bowen, clippings, book jacket fragments, engravings of Petersham (1810) and the London Ophthalmic Infirmary (undated), a notice of Bowen's work being plagiarized	1810, 1923-1924, undated
b. 36, f. 247	Miscellaneous Contains newspaper clipping, two autographed title pages, and program for Fulneck Boys' School, with Ellis-Bowen award	1908-1937

Series III: Other Papers, 1889-1998*1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Series III, Other Papers, contains material related to Bowen's mother and son. The first subseries contains manuscripts and typescripts of a few of Campbell's plays and short stories as well as a small scrapbook holding her press cuttings and theatre ephemera. Of interest here is Campbell's script treatment of "The Viper of Milan," Marjorie Bowen's first published novel; Bowen used the verso of the sheets for her own (unidentified) composition. The second subseries consists of material written by, or to, or collected by Bowen's son Hilary Long, but is primarily correspondence from Bowen to her son: more than three hundred substantive letters, dating from 1940 to 1950, which discuss her daily and literary activities, and thoughts on her work. The bulk was sent to Long during World War II while he was serving in King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC), and includes many examples of wartime V-mail. The subseries also includes a biographical sketch of Bowen, a certified copy of the record of Bowen's first marriage and another documenting the death of her first child, as well as reference material on the writer Graham Greene, a Bowen admirer.

Series III is organized into two subseries: Mrs. Vere Campbell Papers, and Hilary Long Papers.

Mrs. Vere Campbell papers

Plays

b. 37, f. 248-249	"The Viper of Milan" Verso of pages reused by Marjorie Bowen (composition/s unidentified)	undated
b. 37, f. 250	"Who is Umpire?"	undated
b. 37, f. 251	Miscellaneous works See also: "The Folding Doors," in Series I, Box 5, folder 41 Includes program from performance of "Rizpah Misery" (1894)	1894, undated
b. 37, f. 252	Stories, typescripts	undated
b. 37, f. 253	Scrapbook Includes letters from Joseph Storer Clouston and Algernon Methuen	1889-1913

Hilary Long papers

Correspondence

b. 37, f. 254-257	Bowen, Marjorie	1940-1943
b. 38, f. 258-263	Bowen, Marjorie	1943-1944
b. 39, f. 264-267	Bowen, Marjorie	1945-1950
b. 39, f. 268	Wagenknecht, Edward Includes photocopy of Wagenknecht's 1957 essay on Bowen, with a checklist of her writings	1966-1991
b. 39, f. 2691	"Marjorie Bowen 1885-1952: Some Random Recollections by one of her sons"	circa 1998
b. 39, f. 270	Reference material on Bowen	1954-1988
b. 39, f. 271	Reference material on Graham Greene	1953-1994

Oversize

b. 40, f. 272	Essays and opinion pieces (in Series I)	1925-1938
b. 40, f. 273	Historical writings (in Series I)	1925-1936
b. 40, f. 274-278	Short stories (in Series I)	1925-1948
b. 40, f. 279	Photograph: Campbell family at Ivy Hill, Margaretting, Chelmsford, Essex, circa 1865 (copy) (in Series II)	circa 1910
b. 40, f. 280	Scrapbook (in Series II)	1810, 1923-1924, 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

Authors, English -- 20th Century -- Archives
English literature -- 20th Century
Women authors, English -- 20th Century

Corporate Body

Moravian Church -- Clergy

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Drawings (visual works)
Photographic prints
Scrapbooks
Scripts (documents)
Sound recordings
V-mail

Occupations

Authors

Families

Bowen family
Campbell family
Ellis family

Names

Bowen, Marjorie, 1888-1952
Campbell, Josephine Elisabeth Ellis, 1860-1921
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910
Clouston, J. Storer (Joseph Storer), 1870-1944
Doyle, Arthur Conan, 1859-1930
Ellis, Charles Bowen, 1821-1887
Ellis, Elizabeth Bowen, 1792-1842
Ellis, John, 1785-1855
Long, Hilary Blaise
McBean, Angus, 1904-1990
Methuen, Algernon, 1856-1924
Preedy, George, 1888-1952
Roughead, William, 1870-1952
Shearing, Joseph, 1888-1952
Wagenknecht, Edward, 1900-2004
West, Rebecca, 1892-1983
Winch, John, 1888-1952