

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
COLLECTIONS ON WOMEN WRITERS



ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE
AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 13, 2012

- For two hundred years, the Library of Congress, the oldest national cultural institution in the United States, has been gathering materials necessary to tell the stories of women in America.
- The last third of the twentieth century witnessed a great surge of popular and scholarly interest in women's studies and women's history that has led to an outpouring of works in many formats.
- From its beginnings in 1800 as a legislative library, the Library of Congress has grown into a national library that houses both a universal collection of knowledge and the mint record of American creativity. Congress's decision to purchase Thomas Jefferson's personal library to replace the books and maps burned during the British occupation in 1814 set the Congressional Library on the path of collecting with the breadth of Jefferson's interests.
- Since 1870, the single most important factor in building up the unparalleled Americana collections of the Library of Congress has been deposits under U.S. copyright laws.
- The constant flow of a wide variety of copyrighted materials has always included works related to women, well known and unknown, from all sorts of backgrounds and regions.
- Other important sources for the continual augmentation of the Library's ranging collections include purchase, gift, and exchange.
- The Library of Congress has some 140 million items, largely housed in closed stacks in three buildings on Capitol Hill that contain twenty-three public reading rooms.
- The incredible, wide-ranging collections include books, maps, prints, newspapers, broadsides, diaries, letters, posters, musical scores, photographs, audio and video recordings, and documents available only in digital formats.



PHILLIS WHEATLEY
LC-USZC4-5316



AYN RAND
LC-USZ62-114904

*Having come
I set out
On the dark and
From where
Belief in the lo
Woman, spi*

This Place in the Way

- The Library welcomes first-time users and the most experienced researchers alike and regardless of whether they are interacting with our collections and curators onsite or virtually 24x7.
- To aid researchers at every level, both those who visit the Library and those who use the Library's digitized materials in their own localities, the Library has published a series of resource guides.
- One such guide is *American Women: A Library of Congress Guide for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States* and also a dedicated website: *American Women: A Gateway to Library of Congress Resources for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States*.

Adapted from: James H. Billington, The Librarian of Congress

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION HOLDINGS RELATING TO WOMEN AND LITERATURE

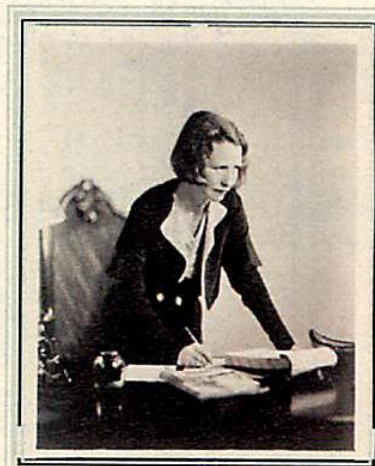
All areas of American studies, including our country's rich cultural and literary legacy, are reflected in the Library's manuscript holdings. Numerous collections document women's contributions to American literature and journalism. These include collections of papers that women generated as well as the papers of their male colleagues, editors, critics, and publishers. Most of these collections include drafts of literary manuscripts, research notes, transcripts of interviews, and other artifacts of the trade that illustrate the evolution of literary styles, genres, and themes. In addition, the best collections also contain rich correspondence files that reveal aspects of the writer's personality and reflect the cultural and political world in which she lived.

*to this place
ice again
marvelous way
e I began:
e of the world,
it, and man*

by Muriel Rukeyser



GWENDOLYN BROOKS
LC-USZ62-107993



EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY
LC-USZ62-112058

Novelists

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/novel.html>

Includes descriptions of the papers of Mercy Otis Warren (1728-1814); Constance Cary Harrison (1843-1920); Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte [E.D.E.N.] Southworth (1819-1899); Gertrude Franklin Horn Atherton (1857-1948); Catherine Marshall (1914-1983); Shirley Jackson (1919-1965); Ayn Rand (1905-1982); and others.

Poets

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/poets.html>

Includes descriptions of the papers of Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950); Muriel Rukeyser (1913-1980); Louise Chandler Moulton (1835-1908); Louise Imogen Guiney (1861-1920); and others.

Playwrights

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/play.html>

Includes descriptions of the papers of Clare Boothe Luce (1903-1987), Olivia Cushing Andersen (1871-1917); and others.

Federal and Private Literary Patrons

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/patrons.html>

Includes descriptions of the papers of Marian MacDowell (1857-1956) and the records of the MacDowell Colony, Harmon Foundation, and the Federal Writers Project, all of which include information on women writers.

White House Journalists

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/wh_journ.html

Includes descriptions of the papers of Ruby A. Black (1896-1957); May Craig (1889?-1975); and Bess Furman (1894-1969).

New York Herald-Tribune Journalists and Editors

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/nyhtribune.html>

Includes descriptions of the papers of editors Elisabeth Mills Reid (1858-1931) and her daughter-in-law Helen Rogers Reid as well as those of longtime literary critic Irita Taylor Van Doren (1891-1966), who corresponded with many women writers.

Washington Post Journalists and Editors

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/washpost.html>

Includes descriptions of the papers of Agnes Elizabeth Ernst Meyer (1887-1970); Evalyn Walsh McLean (1886-1947); and Hope Ridings Miller. Acquired more recently and not described on this page are the papers of Katherine Graham and Mary McGrory.

Foreign Correspondents

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/for_corresp.html

Includes descriptions of the papers of Janet Flanner (1892-1978) and Solita Solano (1888-1975); Natalia Danesi Murray (1901-1994); Ethel L. Payne (1911-1991); and Dorothy Godfrey Wayman (1893-1975).

Editors, Publishers, and Others

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/ed_pub.html

Includes descriptions of the papers of Gertrude Battles Lane (1874-1941); Marion Glass Banister (d. 1951); and others.



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