ABBOT, LOUISE HARDEMAN.  
Louise Hardeman Abbot letters, 1957-1995

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Abbot, Louise Hardeman.  
Title: Louise Hardeman Abbot letters, 1957-1995  
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1348  
Extent: .5 linear feet (2 boxes)  
Abstract: Letters to Louise Hardeman Abbot from Georgia writer Flannery O'Connor; O'Connor's mother, Regina; and Sally Fitzgerald, writer and editor of several volumes of O'Connor's letters and works.  
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access  
Special restrictions apply: Select letters from Sally Fitzgerald are closed to researchers until 2025.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction  
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories  
Flannery O'Connor collection, Special Collections, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia

Related Materials in This Repository  
Flannery O'Connor papers, Sally Fitzgerald papers, Flannery O'Connor collection, and Flannery O'Connor letters to Betty Hester

Source  
Purchase, 2015

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Louise Hardeman Abbot was born in Louisville, Georgia, on September 17, 1931. She married James Caswell Abbot, a lawyer, in November 1954 and the couple had five children. She attended the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, North Carolina), and as a writer won several fiction contests including the *Carolina Quarterly* Fiction Contest and *Mademoiselle*'s Fiction Contest, both in 1954. Abbot began her friendship with Flannery O'Connor in 1957 after admiring O'Connor's work and sending the author a letter asking to visit. In 1970, Abbot published an article in *The Southern Literary Journal* entitled "Remembering Flannery O'Connor."

Letters from Regina O'Connor begin in 1964. Many of the letters were written in the months following Flannery O'Connor's death and express Regina's gratitude for Abbot's support. In other letters, Regina plans visits from Abbot and discusses correspondence from Flannery's friends. In one letter, she discusses the possibility of giving Flannery's papers to an archives. Letters from Sally Fitzgerald date from 1977-1995. In them she discusses preparation of *The Habit of Being*; her work on *The Mansions of the South*, a biography of Flannery O'Connor that she never published; and her response to Ralph Wood's 1994 article about racism in O'Connor's work. There is one letter from Margaret Lee that is about Abbot's article on Flannery O'Connor in *The Southern Literary Journal* and the possibility of publishing O'Connor's letters.
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