

BRENNAN, MAEVE.
Letters to William Shawn, 1960-1976

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Brennan, Maeve.
Title: Letters to William Shawn, 1960-1976
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1172
Extent: .25 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Literary correspondence and writings of Irish American writer Maeve Brennan relating to her relationship with her editor at the *New Yorker*, William Shawn.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in This Repository

Maeve Brennan papers.

Source

Purchase, 2011. Letters to Shawn from the Van Cortlandt Hotel were purchased from Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, 2019.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Letters to William Shawn, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Amy E. Elkins, February 2011.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Maeve Brennan (1917-1993), Irish American writer and columnist at the *New Yorker*, was born in 1917 in Dublin, Ireland. She moved to the United States in 1934 and wrote for *Harper's Bazaar* in the 1940s before joining the *New Yorker* staff in 1949. At the magazine, Brennan wrote frequent columns and short stories under the supervision of her editor, William Shawn (1907-1992). Shawn was the *New Yorker's* editor from 1953 to 1987 where he actively supported numerous writers and journalists. He was also the recipient of the 1988 George Polk Award in Journalism. After leaving the *New Yorker*, Shawn worked as an editor for Farrar, Straus and Giroux until his death in 1992. Brennan's *New Yorker* columns were collected in *The Long-Winded Lady*, published in 1969. She also had two collections of short stories published: *In and Out of Never-Never Land* in 1969 and *Christmas Eve* in 1974. After a long struggle with mental illness, Brennan died in New York City in 1993.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains the literary correspondence and writings of Maeve Brennan relating to her relationship with her editor at the *New Yorker*, William Shawn, from 1960 to 1976. In letters to Shawn, Brennan expresses her views on Irish history and the work of other authors such as Camus and David Stacton, in addition to thoughts about New York City's social scene for her column at the *New Yorker*, the "Long-Winded Lady." The correspondence also documents financial arrangements made with the *New Yorker* while Brennan took leave at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire in 1968. The collection also contains writings by Brennan, including drafts of columns for the "Long-Winded Lady," a book review, and a short story entitled "The birthday," which features the Bagot family, a recurring set of characters in other short stories.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Container List

Correspondence

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Maeve Brennan to William Shawn, 1960-circa 1976 |
| 1 | 12 | Maeve Brennan to William Shawn, written by Brennan from the Van Cortlandt Hotel, undated |
| 1 | 2 | Others to Maeve Brennan, 1968 |
| 1 | 3 | Others to William Shawn, 1968-1969 |

Writings

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 4 | Column, "Long-Winded Lady," 1960-1966 [photocopies] |
| 1 | 5 | Column, "Long-Winded Lady:" "Latin Quarter," 1968 |
| 1 | 6 | Column, "Long-Winded Lady:" "Mauve lady," 1968 |
| 1 | 7 | Notes, "Tobias," undated |
| 1 | 8 | Review, A Winter in the Hills, by John Wain, 1970 |
| 1 | 9 | Short story, "The birthday," undated |
| 1 | 10 | Summary, "Rough of final summary of The Fall" by Camus, undated |
| 1 | 11 | Unidentified, 1968 [photocopies of two articles with editors' marks] |
