

GARDNER, EMMA BRESCIA.
Emma Brescia Gardner papers, 1898-1996

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Gardner, Emma Brescia.
Title: Emma Brescia Gardner papers, 1898-1996
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 852
Extent: 5 linear feet (9 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Papers of Emma Brescia Gardner including correspondence from her husband American poet and novelist Robert Penn Warren, and her father Domenico Brescia.
Language: Some materials in Italian.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Related Materials in This Repository

Robert Penn Warren collection, Arthur Hawley Scouten papers, and Floyd C. Watkins papers.

Source

Purchase, 2000.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Emma Brescia Gardner papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Katie Long, July 11, 2000.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Emma Brescia Gardner, daughter of composer Domenico Brescia (1866-1939), was married to Robert Penn Warren from 1929-1951. While the marriage lasted for over twenty years, the couple had no children. Gardner went on to earn a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1957 and began teaching foreign language at Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut, in 1963. Her first husband, Robert Penn Warren (1905-1989) is the only person to win the Pulitzer Prize for both Fiction and Poetry. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1947 for his novel *All the King's Men*, and the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1958 and 1978 for his volumes *Promises*, and *Now and Then: Poems 1976-1978*. Warren also became the first Poet Laureate for the United States in 1986. He also collaborated with Cleanth Brooks to write two of the most popular college textbooks, *Understanding Poetry* (1938) and *Understanding Fiction* (1943).

Domenico Brescia was born in Pirano, Trieste in 1866 and educated at the University of Bologna and later became a member of the Royal Academies of both Bologna and Florence. He came to the United States and settled in Oakland, California where he became professor of composition and head of the theory department at Mills College in 1925.

Publication Note

text

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Emma Brescia Gardner from 1902-1996. The collection is composed of materials relating to Emma Brescia Gardner, her husband Robert Penn Warren, and her father Domenico Brescia.

The Robert Penn Warren papers contain mostly correspondence from 1927-1948 and includes letters from his mother and father, his wife Emma Brescia Gardner, other family members, and friends and colleagues. Notable correspondents include F. Scott Fitzgerald, Katherine Anne Porter, Allen Tate, John Crowe Ransom, and Donald Davidson. There are also a few typescripts written by Warren and others.

Papers relating to Emma Brescia Gardner provide new insight into her life and character through over 700 letters from her father, Domenico Brescia (in Italian). Her correspondence also includes several letters from Robert Penn Warren, friends, and other family members. There are also some typescripts of Gardner's poetry.

The Domenico Brescia papers are comprised mostly of correspondence and some of Brescia's musical compositions. The collection also contains a series of photographs of Gardner's family and friends as well as memorabilia such as newspaper clippings and concert programs.

Arrangement Note

Organized into five series: (1) Robert Penn Warren papers, (2) Emma Brescia Gardner papers, (3) Domenico Brescia papers, (4) Photographs, and (5) Memorabilia.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Robert Penn Warren papers, 1902-1996 \(bulk 1927-1948\)](#)

[Series 2: Emma Brescia Gardner papers, 1902-1968](#)

[Series 3: Domenico Brescia papers, 1898-1940](#)

[Series 4: Photographs, 1933-1938](#)

[Series 5: Memorabilia](#)

Series 1**Robert Penn Warren papers, 1902-1996 (bulk 1927-1948)****Box 1 – Box 3: folder 12****Correspondence: Business**

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	1930
1	2	1931-1934
1	3	1935
1	4	n.d.

Correspondence: Family

1	5	Warren, Emma Brescia, 1927-1939
1	6	Warren, R.F., 1931-1938
1	7	Warren, R.F., n.d.
1	8	Warren, Ruth Penn, 1929-1930
1	9	Warren, Ruth Penn, 1931
1	10	Warren, Ruth Penn, n.d.
1	11	Other family members, 1930-1935

Correspondence: Friends and Colleagues

2	1	1929
2	2	January-April 1930
2	3	May-September 1930
2	4	October-December 1930
2	5	1931-1933
2	6	1934
2	7	1935
3	1	1936-1948
3	2	n.d.

Correspondence: Other Correspondence

3	3	Bills, Receipts, and Account Balances, 1929-1934
3	4	Oxford Colleges and Organizations, 1929-1930
3	5	Letters to and from Others, 1902-1996
3	6	Letters to and from Others, n.d.

Writings: By Robert Penn Warren

3	7	"Mr. Horner, Pearl Finder," TS
3	8	Untitled TS, Review of Thomas Wolfe, and excerpt about Benjamin Beaumont

- - Review of Merrill Moore's *The Noise that Time Makes*(See Series 1, Friend Correspondence, November 10, 1929)
- 3 9 Untitled article, TS

Writings: By Others

- 3 10 Catheron, Lorraine, "Lament for Solsky," TS
- - Fitzell Jr., Lincoln, "Strand Music," "Apology," and "Hymn to Masculine Beauty," TS (See Series 1, Friend Correspondence, April 23, 1930)
- - Fitzell Jr., Lincoln, "Winter Passage" and "Harvest Road, TS (See Series 1, Friend Correspondence, December 18, 1929)
- 3 11 O'Donnell, George Marion, "Mask of Christ," TS
- 3 12 Tate, Allen, "Rapunzel" and Untitled, TS

Series 2**Emma Brescia Gardner papers, 1902-1968****Box 3: folder 13-16 – Box 8****Correspondence: Family**

Box	Folder	Content
3	13	Brescia, Domenico, January-September 1930
3	14	Brescia, Domenico, October 1930
3	15	Brescia, Domenico, November-December 1930
4	1	Brescia, Domenico, January-February 1931
4	2	Brescia, Domenico, March 1931
4	3	Brescia, Domenico, April 1931
4	4	Brescia, Domenico, May-September 1931
4	5	Brescia, Domenico, October-December 1931
4	6	Brescia, Domenico, January 1932 [includes letter from Elizabeth Brescia]
4	7	Brescia, Domenico, February 1932
4	8	Brescia, Domenico, March 1932
5	1	Brescia, Domenico, April 1932
5	2	Brescia, Domenico, May-August 1932
5	3	Brescia, Domenico, September October 1932
5	4	Brescia, Domenico, November December 1932
5	5	Brescia, Domenico, January-February 1933
5	6	Brescia, Domenico, March-April 1933
5	7	Brescia, Domenico, May-July 1933
6	1	Brescia, Domenico, August-October 1933
6	2	Brescia, Domenico, November-December 1933
6	3	Brescia, Domenico, January-February 1934
6	4	Brescia, Domenico, March-May 1934
6	5	Brescia, Domenico, June-September 1934
6	6	Brescia, Domenico, October-December 1934
6	7	Brescia, Domenico, January-March 1935
6	8	Brescia, Domenico, April-July 1935
7	1	Brescia, Domenico, August-December 1935
7	2	Brescia, Domenico, 1936
7	3	Brescia, Domenico, January-September 1937
7	4	Brescia, Domenico, October-December 1937
7	5	Brescia, Domenico, January-August 1938
7	6	Brescia, Domenico, September-December 1938
7	7	Brescia, Domenico, 1939
7	8	Brescia, Domenico, n.d.

7	9	Brescia, Emma, 1927-1930
7	10	Brescia, Emma (Letters from others)
7	11	Warren, Robert Penn, 1927-1939
8	1	Other family members, 1930-1935

Correspondence: Friends and Colleagues

8	2	1902-1932
8	3	1933-1935
8	4	1936-1937
8	5	1938-1968
8	6	n.d.
8	7	Correspondence to and from others

Writings: By Emma Brescia Gardner

8	8	"On the Poems of a Lover," "Fable," "Gates," "For Two Dead," TS poems, 1930
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Series 3

Domenico Brescia papers, 1898-1940

Box 9: folder 1-6

Correspondence: Letters to Domenico Brescia

Box	Folder	Content
9	1	1898-1940
9	2	n.d.
9	3	Letter to E.S. Coolidge, n.d.

Works/Compositions

9	4	"Ricercare (quasi Fantasia) e Fuga per Organo"
9	5	"Twelve Two Part Inventions for the Pianoforte in Retrograde Inverse Canon"
9	6	Notes for compositions

Series 4
Photographs, 1933-1938
Box 9: folder 7-12

Box	Folder	Content
9	7	Domenico and Emma Brescia, 1933
9	8	Domenico Brescia, 1938
9	9	Domenico Brescia, 1938
9	10	Emma Brescia Gardner, n.d.
9	11	Warren family portrait, n.d.
9	12	Photographs, n.d.

Series 5
Memorabilia
Box 9: folders 13-26 and OP1

Box	Folder	Content
9	13	Newspaper clippings, Robert Penn Warren
9	14	Newspaper clipping, /Domenico Brescia
9	15	Southwestern Bulletin Package
9	16	English quiz
9	17	Concert program featuring Peter Brescia
9	18	Concert program featuring Domenico Brescia
9	19	Concert programs
9	20	California Tuberculosis Association Program
9	21	Drawing of Domenico Brescia
9	22	List of major works and awards, Domenico Brescia
9	23	Partial assignment of interest
9	24	List of donated works of Domenico Brescia
9	25	Patent, Domenico Brescia
9	26	Invitation to memoriam concert, 1939
OP1	1	Autograph album
