

GONNE, MAUD, 1866-1953.
Maud Gonne and W.B. Yeats papers, circa 1890-1938

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Gonne, Maud, 1866-1953.
Title: Maud Gonne and W.B. Yeats papers, circa 1890-1938
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 930
Extent: 2.5 linear ft. (5 boxes)
Abstract: Correspondence between Irish actress Maud Gonne and poet W. B. (William Butler) Yeats from circa 1890-1938.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

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Related Materials in This Repository

Maud Gonne collection and W.B. Yeats collection

Source

Purchase, 2002.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Maud Gonne and W.B. Yeats papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Melissa Maday, January 2003.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Edith Maud Gonne was born December 21, 1866 at Tongham, Surrey. She was the daughter of Captain Thomas Gonne of the 17th Lancers and Edith Frith Gonne. Her childhood was spent in Ireland, London, and Paris. In 1891, she gave birth to Georges, fathered by Lucien Millevoie; a daughter, Iseult, followed in 1895. Devoted to the cause of Irish nationalism, Maud Gonne was active in many political causes including housing for evicted farmers, food for school children, and improved conditions for Irish political prisoners. In 1900 she founded the Daughters of Erin, an organization which promoted women's involvement in nationalist causes. The organization established classes in Irish history and language, among other activities. In 1902 Maud Gonne played the lead role in W.B. Yeats' *Cathleen ni Houlihan*. The following year, she married the Irish patriot Major John MacBride. The marriage ended in 1905. In later years, Maud Gonne was repeatedly imprisoned for her political activities. Her *A Servant of the Queen*, published in 1938, is her own account of her early life. Maud Gonne is remembered as the object of W.B. Yeats' love and for having inspired some of his finest poems.

Publication Note

The Gonne-Yeats Letters 1893-1938 (W.W. Norton, 1992)

Scope and Content Note

The collection is made up primarily of correspondence, including 375 letters from Maud Gonne to W.B. Yeats, written between 1890 and 1930. The collection also contains 27 letters from Yeats to Gonne from roughly the same period. Most of these letters were published in the volume *The Gonne-Yeats Letters 1893-1938* (W.W. Norton, 1992) edited by Maud Gonne's granddaughter, Anna MacBride White, and A. Norman Jeffars.

In addition to the Gonne-Yeats correspondence, this collection also contains other correspondence, including two letters from Yeats to his longtime friend Olivia Shakespear, and one letter to him from his friend and patron, Lady Augusta Gregory. Most of the other correspondence in this collection relates to Maud Gonne's 1905 attempt to divorce her husband, John MacBride. Notable correspondents include Gonne's cousin, May "Bertie" Clay, John Quinn, John O'Leary, and Maud Gonne's lawyer, Mr. Williams. The majority of correspondence in the collection is holograph letters unless otherwise noted.

Series 2 of this collection contains the French transcripts of the divorce proceedings, as well as the final decree, which granted Gonne legal separation and custody of their son, but did not give her a divorce since neither she nor John MacBride were French citizens.

Arrangement Note

Organized into two series: (1) Correspondence and (2) MacBride divorce documents.

Finding Aid Note

text

Description of Series

Series 1: Correspondence, ca. 1890-1938.

Subseries 1.1: Correspondence from Maud Gonne to William Butler Yeats

Subseries 1.2: Correspondence from William Butler Yeats to Maud Gonne

Subseries 1.3: Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to others

Subseries 1.4: Correspondence from others to W.B. Yeats

Subseries 1.5: Correspondence from Maud Gonne to others

Subseries 1.6: Correspondence from others to Maud Gonne

Subseries 1.7: Miscellaneous correspondence

Series 2: MacBride divorce documents, 1905-1906

Series 1
Correspondence, ca. 1890-1938.
Box 1 - Box 5: folder 51

Arrangement Note

Organized into seven subseries: (1.1) Correspondence from Maud Gonne to William Butler Yeats, (1.2) Correspondence from William Butler Yeats to Maud Gonne, (1.3) Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to others, (1.4) Correspondence from others to W.B. Yeats, (1.5) Correspondence from Maud Gonne to others, and (1.6) Correspondence from others to Maud Gonne, and (1.7) Miscellaneous correspondence.

Subseries 1.1**Correspondence from Maud Gonne to William Butler Yeats****Box 1 - Box 4: folder 76**

Box	Folder	Content
2	65	[ca. May 1906], 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	66	[June 1906], 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	67	23 July [1906], 2 sheets, 3 pages
2	68	[8 August 1906], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	69	[ca. 1906], 2 sheets, 7 pages
2	70	[ca. 1906], 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	71	[ca. 1906], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	72	[ca. 1906], fragment, 2 sheets, 6 pages [also includes photocopy from the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library]
2	73	[ca. early 1907], 1 sheet, 3 pages
2	74	21 March [1907], 2 sheets, 4 pages
2	75	[March 1907], 2 sheets, 4 pages
2	76	[8 April 1907], 2 sheets, 3 pages
2	77	26 April [1907], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	78	7 May [1907], 4 sheets, 14 pages
2	79	15 June [1907], fragment, 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	80	[June 1907], 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	81	6 July [1907], 3 sheets, 5 pages
2	82	28 September 1907, 2 sheets, 6 pages
2	83	[ca. Autumn 1907], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	84	[October 1907], 3 sheets, 5 pages
2	85	[ca. October-November 1907], 1 sheet, 3 pages
2	86	[December 1907], 2 sheets, 4 pages
2	87	[1907], 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	88	8 January [1908], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	89	[ca. March-April 1908], 2 sheets, 4 pages
1	90	[ca. December 1908], 2 sheets, 3 pages
2	91	[ca. 1908], 2 sheets, 3 pages
2	92	[9 January 1909], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	93	[13 January 1909], 2 sheets, 4 pages
2	94	[ca. January 1909], 1 sheet, 3 pages
2	95	[January 1909], 1 sheet, 2 pages
2	96	[February 1909], 1 sheet, 4 pages
2	97	9 March [1909], 2 sheets, 3 pages
2	98	23 March [1909], 2 sheets, 4 pages

2	99	[ca. early Spring 1909], 1 sheet, 3 pages
3	1	[ca. April 1909], 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	2	[27 May 1909], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	3	[June 1909], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	4	12 July [1909], 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	5	27 July [1909], 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	6	15 August [1909], 3 sheets, 6 pages
3	7	19 August [1909], 1 sheets, 4 pages
3	8	24 September [1909], 2 sheets, 8 pages
3	9	12 November [1909], 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	10	2 December [1909], 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	11	26 December [1909], 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	12	[ca. 1909], 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	13	[ca. 1909], 3 sheets, 9 pages
3	14	[ca. 1909], 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	15	[ca. 1909], fragment, 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	16	1909, 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	17	1909, 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	18	1909, 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	19	1909, 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	20	1909, 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	21	1909, 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	22	1909, 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	23	1909, 1 sheet, 3 pages
3	24	1909, 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	25	[January 1910], 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	26	[ca. February-March 1910], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	27	21 March [1910], 1 sheet, 4 pages and env.
3	28	[March 1910], 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	29	17 April [1910], 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	30	7 July [1910], fragment, 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	31	[ca. September-October 1910], 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	32	10 October [1910], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	33	18 October [1910], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	34	21 October [1910], 1 sheets, 3 pages
3	35	29 October [1910], 2 sheet, 5 pages
3	36	[8 December 1910], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	37	[ca. 1910], 2 sheets, 8 pages
3	38	[ca. 1910], 1 sheet, 1 page

- 3 39 8 February [1911], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 40 21 March [1911], 1 sheet, 1 page [includes copy of letter from MG to Mme. De Marburry (?), 1 sheet, 1 page]
- 3 41 [ca. March 1911], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 42 [ca. March 1911], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 43 4 May [1911], 2 sheets, 4 pages
- 3 44 15 September [1911], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 45 [ca. 1911], 2 sheets, 4 pages
- 3 46 [ca. 1911], 1 sheet, 3 pages
- 3 47 [ca. 1911], 1 sheet, 3 pages
- 3 48 [ca. 1911], 1 sheet, 1 page
- 3 49 [1911], 3 sheets, 9 pages
- 3 50 7 January 1912, 2 sheets, 4 pages
- 3 51 [January 1912], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 52 [ca. early 1912], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 53 [ca. March-April 1912], 2 sheets, 3 pages
- 3 54 9 June 1912, 2 sheets, 4 pages
- 3 55 [29 June 1912], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 56 29 August [1912], 1 sheet, 3 pages
- 3 57 1 September [1912], 1 sheet, 4 pages
- 3 58 17 November [1912], 1 sheet, 3 pages
- 3 59 28 November [1912], 1 sheet, 4 pages
- 3 60 [November 1912], 1 sheet, 4 pages
- 3 61 26 December 1912, 2 sheets, 7 pages with env.
- 3 62 [ca. 1912], 2 sheets, 3 pages
- 3 63 [ca. 1912], 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 64 4 January 1913, 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 65 [January 1913], 2 sheets, 4 pages
- 3 66 [ca. March-April 1913], 2 sheets, 5 pages
- 3 67 [ca. March-April 1913], 1 sheet, 3 pages
- 3 68 [ca. March-April 1913], 1 sheet, 4 pages
- 3 69 [ca. March-May 1913], 2 sheets, 6 pages
- 3 70 8 May [1913], 2 sheets, 3 pages
- 3 71 [ca. June 1913], 1 sheet, 4 pages
- 3 72 7 August [1913], 1 sheet, 3 pages
- 3 73 5 September [1913], 2 sheets, 6 pages
- 3 74 [ca. September-October 1913], fragment, 1 sheet, 2 pages
- 3 75 [ca. September-October 1913], 2 sheets, 6 pages
- 3 76 29 November [1913], 2 sheets, 4 pages
- 3 77 [November 1913], 3 sheets, 5 pages

3	78	[December 1913], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	79	[ca. 1913], fragment, 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	80	13 January [1914], 2 sheets, 4 pages
3	81	19 January [1914], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	82	[ca. January 1914], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	83	[ca. January 1914], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	84	[ca. January 1914], 2 sheets, 3 pages
3	85	[ca. January 1914], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	86	[ca. January 1914], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	87	[ca. January 1914], 1 sheet, 1 page
3	88	19 March [1914], 2 sheets, 7 pages
3	89	16 April [1914], 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	90	20 April [1914], 2 sheets, 8 pages
3	91	8 June [1914], 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	92	[ca. 1914], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	93	[ca. 1914-1915], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	94	13 January [1915], 1 sheet, 4 pages
3	95	20 March [1915], 3 sheets, 5 pages
3	96	[ca. May 1915], 2 sheets, 8 pages
3	97	1 October [1915], 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	98	[October 1915], fragment, 1 sheet, 2 pages
3	99	10 November [1915], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	1	14 November [1915], 1 sheet, 1 page
4	2	17 November [1915], 4 sheets, 4 pages
4	3	[ca. November 1915], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	4	[ca. November-December 1915], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	5	14 December [1915], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	6	[ca. December 1915], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	7	[ca. 1915], 2 sheets, 3 pages
4	8	[ca. 1915-1916], 2 sheets, 3 pages
4	9	21 March [1916], 3 sheets, 5 pages
4	10	March [1916], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	11	[ca. March-April 1916], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	12	[ca. March-April 1916], 2 sheets, 3 pages
4	13	[ca. April 1916], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	14	9 May [1916], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	15	[ca. May 1916], 1 sheet, 3 pages
4	16	[ca. May 1916], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	17	[ca. May 1916], 1 sheet, 2 pages

4	18	[ca. May 1916], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	19	May [1916], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	20	[ca. May-June 1916], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	21	4 June [1916], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	22	3 November [1916], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	23	8 November [1916], 2 sheets, 3 pages
4	24	4 December [1916], 2 sheets, 5 pages
4	25	29 December [1916], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	26	[ca. March-April 1917], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	27	25 April [1917], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	28	20 January [1917], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	29	[ca. 1917], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	30	14 June [1918], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	31	1 November [1918], 2 sheets, 3 pages
4	32	[ca. February 1920], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	33	21 July [1920], 2 sheets, 5 pages
4	34	29 July [1920], 3 sheets, 10 pages
4	35	20 August [1920], 4 sheets, 4 pages
4	36	[ca. August 1920], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	37	[ca. August 1920], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	38	8 September [1920], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	39	22 October [1920], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	40	8 November 1920, postcard, 1 sheet, 1 page
4	41	[November 1920], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	42	24 December 1920, 1 sheet, 4 pages and env.
4	43	[ca. 1920], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	44	[ca. 1920], 3 sheets, 5 pages
4	45	[ca. 1920], 2 sheets, 6 pages
4	46	[ca. 1920], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	47	[ca. 1920], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	48	22 February [1921], 2 sheets, 4 pages
4	49	4 March [1921], 2 sheets, 3 pages
4	50	3 April [1921], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	51	19 April [1921], 3 sheets, 5 pages
4	52	27 July [1921], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	53	27 August [1921], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	54	[ca. 1921], 3 sheets, 4 pages
4	55	12 January [1926], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	56	23 September 1927, TLS, 2 sheets, 2 pages

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| 4 | 57 | 28 September [1927], 3 sheets, 6pages |
| 4 | 58 | [ca. September 1927], 1 sheet, 2 pages |
| 4 | 59 | 1 October 1927, 3 sheets, 3 pages |
| 4 | 60 | 4 October [1927], 4 sheets, 8 pages |
| 4 | 61 | 13 October [1927], 4 sheets, 8 pages |
| 4 | 62 | [ca. 1927], 3 sheets, 6 pages |
| 4 | 63 | [ca. 1927], 6 sheets, 6 pages |
| 4 | 64 | 16 June [1928], 1 sheet, 2 pages |
| 4 | 65 | [ca. 1928], 2 sheets, 6 pages |
| 4 | 66 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 1 page [written on env.] |
| 4 | 67 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 3 pages |
| 4 | 68 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 1 page |
| 4 | 69 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 1 page |
| 4 | 70 | [unpublished], n.d., fragment, 1 sheet, 1 page |
| 4 | 71 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 1 page |
| 4 | 72 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 3 pages |
| 4 | 73 | [unpublished], 3 March n.y., 1 sheet, 1 page |
| 4 | 74 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 2 pages |
| 4 | 75 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 2 pages |
| 4 | 76 | [unpublished], n.d., 1 sheet, 1 page |

Subseries 1.2**Correspondence from William Butler Yeats to Maud Gonne****Box 4: folder 77 - Box 5: folder 18**

Box	Folder	Content
4	77	[ca. January 1903], 3 sheets, 9 pages
4	78	14 January 1907, TLS, 4 sheets, 4 pages
4	79	13 April 1910, 2 sheets, 2 pages
4	80	[ca. July 1913], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	81	[ca. May 1916], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	82	13 May [1918], 1 sheet, 4 pages
4	83	18 August [1918], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	84	[ca. 1918], 1 sheet, 2 pages
4	85	[4 October 1918], TLS, 2 sheets, 2 pages
4	86	21 October [1920], 1 sheet, 3 pages
5	1	3 May [1923?], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	2	27 September [1925], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	3	29 September [1927], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	4	3 October [1927], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	5	7 October [1927], 1 sheet, 1 page [also includes TS "As things only exist in being received," 1 sheet, 1 page]
5	6	[ca. October 1927], 2 sheets, 4 pages and env.
5	7	[ca. November 1927], 2 sheets, 4 pages
5	8	14 January [1928], 1 sheet, 1 page
5	9	[7 August 1928], 1 sheet, 1 page and env.
5	10	6 September [1928], 1 sheet, 1 page
5	11	23 March [1933], 1 sheet, 1 page
5	12	25 December [1933], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	13	[ca. 1930s], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	14	[ca. 1930s], 1 sheet, 1 page
5	15	[ca. 1930s], 1 sheet, 1 page
5	16	16 June [1938], 2 sheets, 3 pages
5	17	22 August [1938], 1 sheet, 1 page
5	18	[ca. November 1938], 1 sheet, 1 page [unpublished]

Subseries 1.3**Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to others****Box 5: folders 19-25**

Box	Folder	Content
5	19	Mary Barry O'Delaney, [24 September 1918], Royal Hibernian Hotel (Dublin), 1 sheet, 1 page and env.
5	20	Mary Barry O'Delaney, 3 June, 1 sheet, 1 page and env.
5	21	Mary Barry O'Delaney, 10 July, 1 sheet, 1 page
5	22	Mary Barry O'Delaney, 13 July, 1 sheet, 3 pages
5	23	Secretary of the Society of St. Patrick, n.d., 1 sheet, 2 pages [also includes French translation, 1 sheet, 2 pages]
5	24	Olivia Shakespear, 11 July, 1 sheet, 3 pages and env.
5	25	Olivia Shakespear, n.d., fragment, 1 sheet, 4 pages

Subseries 1.4**Correspondence from others to W.B. Yeats****Box 5: folders 26-43**

Box	Folder	Content
5	26	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 11 January [1905], 3 sheets, 12 pages
5	27	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 12 January [1905], 2 sheets, 4 pages
5	28	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, [16 January 1905], 1 sheet, 4 pages
5	29	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 15 February [1905], 2 sheets, 8 pages
5	30	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 19 February [1905], 2 sheets, 8 pages
5	31	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 22 February [1905], 1 sheet, 4 pages
5	32	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 3 March [1905], 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	33	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 15 March [1905], 3 sheets, 12 pages [also includes Mrs. Clay's translations of two letters between MG and Mr. Witham, 3 sheets, 11 pages]
5	34	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 18 March [1905], 4 sheets, 15 pages
5	35	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 26 March [1905], 2 sheets, 8 pages
5	36	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 2 April [1905], 1 sheet, 3 pages [also includes telegram from Mr. Quinn to Clay, 1 sheet, 1 page and an incomplete TL from Mr. Quinn to WBY, 2 sheets, 2 pages]
5	37	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 7 April [1905], 1 sheet, 4 pages
5	38	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 12 April [1905], 1 sheet, 4 pages
5	39	May "Bertie" Clay to WBY, 15 April [1905], 1 sheet, 4 pages
5	40	Richard Garnett to WBY, 24 October 1895, 1 sheet, 4 pages
5	41	Lady Augusta Gregory to WBY [unpublished], 4 December 1900, 2 sheets, 5 pages
5	42	New York Committee [regarding MG's 1900 visit to New York], 29 December 1899, TL, 1 sheet, 1 page
5	43	John Quinn to WBY, 6 May 1905, TL fragment, 1 sheet, 1 page

Subseries 1.5

Correspondence from Maud Gonne to others

Box 4: folders 44-46

Box	Folder	Content
5	44	MG to May "Bertie" Clay, [8 January 1905], 2 sheets, 7 pages
5	45	MG to May "Bertie" Clay, [9 April 1905], 2 sheets, 8 pages
5	46	MG to William O'Brien, [January 1905]. 3 sheets, 7 pages [sent to May "Bertie" Clay with Mr. Witham's letters of 7 January 1905 and 9 January 1905]

Subseries 1.6

Correspondence from others to Maud Gonne

Box 5: folders 47-50

Box	Folder	Content
5	47	John O'Leary to MG, 13 January 1905, 1 sheet, 3 pages
5	48	Mr. Witham [attorney] to MG, 7 January 1905, 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	49	Mr. Witham to MG, 9 January 1905, 1 sheet, 2 pages
5	50	Mr. Witham to MG, 13 January 1905, 1 sheet, 2 pages

Subseries 1.7

Miscellaneous correspondence

Box 5: folder 51

Box	Folder	Content
5	51	Mr. Witham to May "Bertie" Clay, 18 January 1905, 3 sheets, 3 pages

Series 2**MacBride divorce documents, 1905-1906****Box 5: folders 52-54**

Box	Folder	Content
5	52	Transcripts, in French, of divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906
5	53	Transcripts, in French, of divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906
5	54	Transcripts, in French, of divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906
