O'CONNOR, FLANNERY.
Flannery O'Connor collection, circa 1937-2003

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Collection Stored Off-Site
All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: O'Connor, Flannery.
Title: Flannery O'Connor collection, circa 1937-2003
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 59
Extent: 3.375 linear feet (5 boxes), 1 oversized papers folder (OP), and AV Masters: .25 linear ft.
Abstract: Artificial collection of material relating to Georgia-born author Flannery O'Connor including correspondence, manuscripts, and printed material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

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 & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia

Related Materials in This Repository
Flannery O'Connor, Letters to Betty Hester and Floyd C. Watkins papers

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Mary Flannery O'Connor was born to Edward Francis and Regina Cline O'Connor in Savannah, Georgia, on March 25, 1925. She attended parochial schools in Savannah before moving to Milledgeville after the death of her father in 1941. After finishing high school in Milledgeville, she attended the Georgia State College for Women (now Georgia College & State University) where she received a B.A. in social science in 1945. After graduating from college she earned a scholarship to the Iowa Writers Workshop. She graduated from Iowa in 1947, then spent parts of 1948 and 1949 at Yaddo, an artists' colony in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Her first published story, "Geranium," appeared in Accent magazine in the summer of 1946. Other stories followed while O'Connor also turned her attention to a novel. In 1950 she was diagnosed with lupus, the disease that had killed her father. While undergoing treatment for lupus, O'Connor finished and published Wise Blood in 1952. The following year her short story "The Life You Save May Be Your Own" was selected for the annual O. Henry prize stories anthology. During the 1954-1955 school year, O'Connor held a fellowship at the Kenyon Review.

Her first published collection, A Good Man Is Hard to Find, was published in 1955 and "The Artificial Nigger" was selected for the Best American Short Stories of 1956. Numerous other awards followed, including grants from the National Institute of Arts and Letters and from the Ford Foundation. In 1960, O'Connor published a second novel The Violent Bear It Away. She died of lupus on August 3, 1964.

Scope and Content Note
This artificial collection of Flannery O'Connor letters, manuscripts, audio recordings, and printed items has been assembled from various sources (gifts and purchases) over many years. The earliest two items (circa 1937) relate to a childhood trip to Atlanta. The Dora Byron accession (3 items) relates to a proposed television appearance which O'Connor declined and to a reading she delivered at an adult evening course at Emory University around 1956. Also present are two photocopies of letters to Frank Daniel, letters to and from Marvin Whiting regarding a class
visit to O'Connor's home, and two manuscripts of talks O'Connor delivered on the subject "How the Writer Writes" and "the problem of the southern writer." Also present is correspondence exchanged between David Estes (former Head of Special Collections) and O'Connor regarding her own personal papers.

In a series of eight letters to Joel Wells of the *Critic* magazine O'Connor discusses her own writing, the writing of others (James Gould Cozzens and J.F. Powers), an interview of O'Connor that appeared in the *Critic*, and other subjects. O'Connor's letters to Fred Darsey discuss a wide range of subjects from Darsey's flight from the hospital in Milledgeville, her own religious faith, Darsey's writing, her work, health, and daily farm life.

The collection also includes a series of letters between Robert Jiras, Flannery O'Connor, Regina O'Connor, and various film agents and producers (1956-1971) regarding a proposed film adaptation by Robert Jiras of O'Connor's short story "The River." This grouping also contains Jiras' story outline, a rough draft of the screenplay and a final copy of the screenplay.

O'Connor's letters to Mrs. Frank H. "Bobbie" Gafford, fellow Catholic, schoolteacher, graduate student in English literature of Birmingham, Alabama, date from 1958-1964. The letters mention day-to-day aspects of her life as a writer including speaking engagements and regularly address religious matters and the relationship between literature and belief. In addition, she offers encouragement to Gafford who is writing her thesis on O'Connor. The letters also contain passing references to other writers, including Caroline Gordon, Eudora Welty, John Ciardi, Connor Cruise O'Brien, Jack Hawkes, and Carson McCullars.

The Flannery O'Connor collection also contains some printed material including numerous clippings related to O'Connor's life and work and her freshman yearbook from Georgia State College for Women. The photographs include an early image of O'Connor at age five or six reading a book, a portrait of O'Connor later in life, and a portrait of Regina O'Connor. Also included is a photograph of Andalusia, O'Connor's home in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Further additions are listed in the container list.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged by document type.
## Container List

### Manuscripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td><em>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</em>, dissertation by Margaret Longhill, circa 1970s [1 of 2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td><em>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</em>, dissertation by Margaret Longhill, notes from Flannery O'Connor, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td><em>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</em>, dissertation by Margaret Longhill, printed material and notes, circa 1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Untitled typescript [re: &quot;How the Writer Writes&quot;] with corrections in O'Connor's hand, 15 pp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Untitled typescript [re: &quot;the problem of the Southern writer&quot;] with corrections in O'Connor's hand, 12 pp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&quot;The Partridge Festival,&quot; typescript with holograph corrections, 32 pp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>&quot;The Peacock Roosts,&quot; unknown, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;My Relatives,&quot; Flannery O'Connor, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&quot;The Violent Bear it All Away,&quot; corrected typescript</td>
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</tbody>
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### Artwork

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Drawing of Flannery O'Connor, illegible signature, January 4, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Icon, on wood, undated</td>
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### Correspondence: Helen Rose Soul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mary Flannery [O'Connor] to Helen Soul, n.d. [circa 1937], ALS, 1 p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Correspondence: Dora Byron

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dora Byron to Flannery O'Connor, July 12, 1962, TL [carbon], 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Flannery O'Connor to Dora Byron, July 15, 1962, TLS, 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>&quot;On the Significance of Being a Georgia Author,&quot; typescript, 10 pp. with explanatory note by Dora Byron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Correspondence: Frank Daniel

### Correspondence: Marvin Y. Whiting
1. 9  Marvin Y. Whiting to Flannery O'Connor, March 10, 1964, TL [carbon], 1 p.
2. 9  Flannery O'Connor to Marvin Whiting, March 16, 1964, TLS, 1 p., with envelope
3. 10 Marvin Whiting to Flannery O'Connor, April 1, 1964, TL [carbon]

### Correspondence: David Estes

### Correspondence: Joel Wells
1. 14 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, August 31, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
2. 15 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, November 17, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
3. 16 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, March 25, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
5. 18 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, August 26, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
7. 20 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, September 14, [1963?], TLS, 1 p.
8. 21 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, April 11, 1964, TLS, 1 p.

### Correspondence: Fred Darsey
1. 22 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, March 6, 1955, TLS, 1 p.
2. 23 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, April 11, 1955, TLS, 2 pp.
4. 25 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, June 8, 1955, TLS, 1 p. with enclosure
5. 26 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 8, 1955, TLS, 1 p.
6. 27 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, August 1, 1955, TLS, 1 p.
7. 28 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, March 25, 1956, TLS, 1 p.
8. 29 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 25, 1956, TLS, 1 p.
10. 31 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, September 16, 1956, TLS, 1 p.
Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, December 8, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 13, 1959, TLS, 1 p.
Flannery O'Connor to Fred and Barbara Darsey, August 26, 1962, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
Flannery O'Connor to J.L. Mazzaro, August 22, 1963, TLS, 1 p. with envelope

**Correspondence: Robert Jiras**

Correspondence, 1956-1959
Correspondence, 1961-1968
"The River," and "The Life You Save Could Be Your Own," early drafts
"The River," story outline
"The River," final screenplay

**Correspondence: Mrs. Frank H. "Bobbie" Gafford**

Flannery O'Connor to Mrs. Frank H. Gafford, 1958-1964 (14 TLS and 2 ALS)

**Correspondence: Andrew Lytle**

Flannery O'Connor to Andrew Lytle, November 23, 1961, TLS 1 p.

**Correspondence: Walter Sullivan**

Flannery O'Connor to Walter Sullivan, April 9, 1960, TLS, 1 p.

**Correspondence: LaTrelle Blackburn Oliver**

Flannery O'Connor to LaTrelle Blackburn, 1961-1963
Sally Fitzgerald to LaTrelle B. Oliver, 1980, 1989

**Correspondence: Edith Ivey**

Flannery O'Connor to Edith Ivey, 1962-1963, undated (2 ALS, 1 undated Christmas card)

**Correspondence: James Farnham**

Flannery O'Connor to Sister Alice, March 14, 1963
Flannery O'Connor to Sister Evangelist, February 10, 1963
Flannery O'Connor to James Farnham, 1959-1964
Regina Cline to James Farnham, 1964-1965
Sister Mary Alice to "Katherine," January 8, 1963

**Correspondence: Margaret Longhill**
Correspondence: John Lynch

Flannery O'Connor to John Lynch, 1955-1959

Photographs

Andalusia, undated
Andalusia, taken by Sister Margaret Longhill, 1973
Andalusia and Milledgeville house, undated
Farnham, James, visit to Andalusia, April 1963
O'Connor, Flannery, 1954, undated
O'Connor, Flannery, desk and typewriter, undated
O'Connor, Flannery, paintings, taken by Sister Margaret Longhill, 1974
O'Connor, Flannery, portrait, circa 1940s [photographer: DeCasseres photography]
O'Connor, Flannery, as a child sitting in chair reading, circa 1930
O'Connor, Flannery, May 1962
O'Connor, Flannery, and Regina O'Connor, 1959
O'Connor, Regina, circa 1980s
"Parker's Back," Flannery O'Connor's Icon, undated
Peacocks, circa 1963

Printed material

Book, The Golden String, Bede Griffiths, 1964 [inscription on inside cover]
Stories by Flannery O'Connor
2  5  Clippings re death and funeral of O'Connor
4  8  Itinerary, Savannah pilgrimage to Lourdes, 1958
2  6  Reviews
4  9  Promotional material, "The Flannery O'Connor Scholar," 1977
2  7  Published letters
4 10  Religious pamphlets, 1964, undated
2  8  Sally Fitzgerald
2  9  Wise Blood
2 10  Other clippings
2 11  Georgia State College for Women Spectrum (freshman yearbook), 1943
2 22  Georgia State College for Women Spectrum (senior yearbook), 1945 [yearbook possibly belonged to Jimmie June Malcolm]


2 15  Flannery O'Connor to Edith Ivey, 1962-1963, undated (2 ALS, 1 undated Christmas card)

**Slides**

2 16  Slides of Flannery O'Connor's paintings [10 slides] [photographer: George Becham]

**Audio recordings**

AV1 - Interview with Rosa Lee Walston concerning Flannery O'Connor, undated
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7wm0]

 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbvw6][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbvxb]

AV1 - Flannery O'Connor reading "A Good Man Is Hard To Find," Vanderbilt University, April 22, 1959, Introduced by Professor Walter Sullivan, Department of English, Vanderbilt University
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id 9218][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id 9219]

 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id 9220][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id 9221]