

O'CONNOR, FLANNERY.

Flannery O'Connor collection, circa 1937-2003

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
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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: 2 linear feet (4 boxes), 1 oversized papers folder (OP), and AV Masters: .25 linear ft.
Abstract: Artificical 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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Source

Gifts and purchases from various sources.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Flannery O'Connor collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Susan Potts McDonald, August 5, 2002.

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

Box	Folder	Content
3	10	<i>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</i> , dissertation by Margaret Longhill, circa 1970s [1 of 2]
3	11	<i>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</i> , dissertation by Margaret Longhill, circa 1970s [2 of 2]
3	12	<i>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</i> , dissertation by Margaret Longhill, notes from Flannery O'Connor, undated
3	13	<i>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</i> , dissertation by Margaret Longhill, printed material and notes, circa 1970s
3	15	<i>Flannery O'Connor's Personal Library: The Evolution of a Mind</i> , dissertation by Margaret Longhill, Flannery O'Connor's certificates and report cards, 1925, 1934, 1945-1948, 1977
1	1	Untitled typescript [re: "How the Writer Writes"] with corrections in O'Connor's hand, 15 pp.
1	2	Untitled typescript [re: "the problem of the Southern writer"] with corrections in O'Connor's hand, 12 pp.
1	3	"The Partridge Festival," typescript with holograph corrections, 32 pp.
3	16	"The Peacock Roosts," unknown, undated
3	17	"My Relitives," Flannery O'Connor, undated
1	3a	"The Displaced Person," stage adaptation of "A Good Man is Hard to Find," by Cecil Dawkins, The American Palace Theater, New York, circa 1965, 129 pp.
1	3b	"The Violent Bear it All Away," screenplay adaptation by Phillip Schopper, 1972, 122 pp.
3	1	"The Violent Bear it All Away," corrected typescript

Artwork

3	17	Drawing of Flannery O'Connor, illegible signature, January 4, 1962
4	15	Icon, on wood, undated

Correspondence: Helen Rose Soul

1	4	Mary Flannery [O'Connor] to Helen Soul, n.d. [circa 1937], ALS, 1 p
1	4	Regina [O'Connor] to Helen Soul, n.d. [circa 1937], ALS, 2 pp.

Correspondence: Dora Byron

1	5	Dora Byron to Flannery O'Connor, July 12, 1962, TL [carbon], 1 p.
1	5	Flannery O'Connor to Dora Byron, July 15, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
1	6	"On the Significance of Being a Georgia Author," typescript, 10 pp. with explanatory note by Dora Byron

Correspondence: Frank Daniel

- 1 7 Flannery O'Connor to [Frank] Daniel, July 23, 1962, TLS [photocopy], 1 p.
 1 8 Flannery O'Connor to [Frank] Daniel, August 28, 1962, TLS [photocopy], 1 p.

Correspondence: Marvin Y. Whiting

- 1 9 Marvin Y. Whiting to Flannery O'Connor, March 10, 1964, TL [carbon], 1 p.
 1 9 Flannery O'Connor to Marvin Whiting, March 16, 1964, TLS, 1 p., with envelope
 1 10 Marvin Whiting to Flannery O'Connor, April 1, 1964, TL [carbon]
 1 11 Envelope postmarked May 3, 1964 [letter absent]; Marvin Whiting to Flannery O'Connor, May 7, 1964, TL [carbon], 1 p.; Flannery O'Connor to Marvin Whiting, May 12, 1964, ALS, 1 p. with envelope

Correspondence: David Estes

- 1 12 David Estes to Flannery O'Connor, June 24, 1963, TL [carbon], 1 p.; Flannery O'Connor to David Estes, June 26, 1963, TNS, 1 p.
 1 13 David Estes to Flannery O'Connor, July 29, 1963, TL [carbon], 1 p.; Flannery O'Connor to David Estes, July 31, 1963, TLS, 1 p.

Correspondence: Joel Wells

- 1 14 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, August 31, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
 1 15 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, November 17, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
 1 16 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, March 25, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
 1 17 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, May 7, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
 1 18 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, August 26, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
 1 19 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, September 16, 1962, TLS, 1 p.
 1 20 Flannery O'Connor to Joel Wells, September 14, [1963?], TLS, 1 p.
 1 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.
 1 23 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, April 11, 1955, TLS, 2 pp.
 1 24 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, May 25, 1955, TLS, 1 p.
 1 25 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, June 8, 1955, TLS, 1 p. with enclosure
 1 26 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 8, 1955, TLS, 1 p.
 1 27 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, August 1, 1955, TLS, 1 p.
 1 28 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, March 25, 1956, TLS, 1 p.
 1 29 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 25, 1956, TLS, 1 p.
 1 30 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 29, 1956, TLS, 2 pp.
 1 31 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, September 16, 1956, TLS, 1 p.

- 1 32 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, December 8, 1957, TLS, 1 p.
- 1 33 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, July 13, 1959, TLS, 1 p.
- 1 34 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, May 25, 1960, TLS, 1 p.
- 1 35 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, September 20, 1957, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 36 Flannery O'Connor to Fred Darsey, December 26, 1955, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 37 Flannery O'Connor to Fred and Barbara Darsey, August 26, 1962, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
- 1 38 Flannery O'Connor to J.L. Mazzaro, August 22, 1963, TLS, 1 p. with envelope

Correspondence: Robert Jiras

- 1 39 Correspondence, 1956-1959
- 1 40 Correspondence, 1961-1968
- 1 41 "The River," and "The Life You Save Could Be Your Own," early drafts
- 1 42 "The River," story outline
- 1 43 "The River," final screenplay

Correspondence: Mrs. Frank H. "Bobbie" Gafford

- 2 1 Flannery O'Connor to Mrs. Frank H. Gafford, 1958-1964 (14 TLS and 2 ALS)

Correspondence: Andrew Lytle

- 2 2 Flannery O'Connor to Andrew Lytle, November 23, 1961, TLS 1 p.

Correspondence: Walter Sullivan

- 2 3 Flannery O'Connor to Walter Sullivan, April 9, 1960, TLS, 1 p.

Correspondence: LaTrelle Blackburn Oliver

- 2 13 Flannery O'Connor to LaTrelle Blackburn, 1961-1963
- 2 14 Sally Fitzgerald to LaTrelle B. Oliver, 1980, 1989

Correspondence: Edith Ivey

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

Correspondence: James Farnham

- 3 2 Flannery O'Connor to Sister Alice, March 14, 1963
- 3 3 Flannery O'Connor to Sister Evangelist, February 10, 1963
- 3 4 Flannery O'Connor to James Farnham, 1959-1964
- 3 5 Regina Cline to James Farnham, 1964-1965
- 3 6 Sister Mary Alice to "Katherine," January 8, 1963

Correspondence: Margaret Longhill

- 4 13 Folger Shakespeare Library to Sister Margaret Longhill, July 31, 1973
[unaccompanied envelope]
- 4 14 Sisters of Mercy to Sister Margaret Longhill, August 1, 1974 [unaccompanied
envelope]
- 3 18 Fitzgerald, Sally, to Sister Margaret Longhill, August 15, 1977
- 3 19 Giroux, Robert, to Sister Margaret Longhill, July 20, 1977
- 3 20 Gordon, Caroline, to Flannery O'Connor, undated
- 3 21 Hennacy, Ammon, to Flannery O'Connor, October 19, 1954
- 3 22 Mercedes, Sister Mary, to Sister Felice, February 3, 1973
- 3 23 O'Connor, Flannery, to "Jane," undated
- 3 24 O'Connor, Flannery, to "Mr. Corn," undated [corrected]
- 3 25 O'Connor, Regina, to Mrs. R. T. "Chris" Semmes, 1975-1976
- 3 26 O'Connor, Regina, to Sister Agnes, January 7, 1974
- 3 27 Reimers, Pauline, to Sister Margaret Longhill, July 7, 1977
- 3 28 Semmes, Mrs. R.T. "Chris," to Flannery O'Connor, February 12, 1956
- 3 29 Longhill, Sister Maura to "Sister" [Margaret Longhill], undated
- 3 30 Smith, Ann, to Sister Margaret [Longhill], undated

Correspondence: John Lynch

- 4 16 Flannery O'Connor to John Lynch, 1955-1959

Photographs

- 2 18 Andalusia, undated
- 4 1 Andalusia, taken by Sister Margaret Longhill, 1973
- 4 2 Andalusia and Milledgeville house, undated
- 3 7 Farnham, James, visit to Andalusia, April 1963
- 4 3 O'Connor, Flannery, 1954, undated
- 4 4 O'Connor, Flannery, desk and typewriter, undated
- 4 5 O'Connor, Flannery, paintings, taken by Sister Margaret Longhill, 1974
- 2 19 O'Connor, Flannery, portrait, circa 1940s [photographer: DeCasseres
photography]
- 2 20 O'Connor, Flannery, as a child sitting in chair reading, circa 1930
- 3 28 O'Connor, Flannery, May 1962
- 4 6 O'Connor, Flannery, and Regina O'Connor, 1959
- 2 21 O'Connor, Regina, circa 1980s
- 4 7 "Parker's Back," Flannery O'Connor's Icon, undated
- 3 9 Peacocks, circa 1963

Printed material

- 4 11 Book, The Golden String, Bede Griffiths, 1964 [inscription on inside cover]
- 2 4 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
- 4 12 Promotional material, "TV Guide," April 9-15, 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]
- OP1 1 Signed limited edition poster print of "Andalusia, Home of Flannery O'Connor," [no. 57 of 1000], 2003
- OP1 1 Newspaper clipping, "The World of Flannery O'Connor," *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 1972
- 2 12 Program, "Reason, Fiction and Faith, An International Flannery O'Connor Conference," Rome, Italy, April 20-22, 2009
- 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]
- AV1 - Flannery O'Connor reads "A Good Man is Hard to Find," University of Chicago, February 13, 1959 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7x2w]
- 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]
- AV1 - "Some Aspects of the Grotesque in Southern Fiction." Flannery O'Connor lecture at East Texas State University, November 16, 1962 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id 9220][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id 9221]