PONSOT, MARIE.
Marie Ponsot papers, 1931-2014

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Collection Stored Off-Site
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Ponsot, Marie.
Title: Marie Ponsot papers, 1931-2014
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1298
Extent: 18.75 linear feet (38 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (OP)
Abstract: Papers of poet and translator Marie Ponsot, including journals and correspondence, as well as writings and translations by Ponsot.
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.

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Source
Purchase, 2014.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Marie Ponsot papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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Processing
Arranged and described at the folder level by Ingrid Meintjes, Anastasiia Strakhova, and Sarah Quigley, 2015.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Marie Birmingham Ponsot (1921-) was born in New York, New York, to William and Marie (Candee) Birmingham. She attended St. Joseph's College for Women (Brooklyn, New York), graduating in 1940, and earned a master's degree from Columbia University (New York, New York) in 1941. In 1948, she married Claude Ponsot and the couple had seven children. Ponsot has taught in graduate writing programs at Columbia University (New York), Beijing United University (China), New York University, Queens College (New York), and the Poetry Center of New York's 92nd Street Y. In 2010, she was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

Ponsot's first book of poetry, True Minds, was published as one of Lawrence Ferlinghetti's Pocket Poets Series from City Lights Press in 1956. She did not publish her second book of poetry, Admit Impediment, until 1981. Her other published volumes of poetry include The Green Dark (1988); The Bird Catcher (1998), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award and was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize; Springing: New and Selected Poems (2002); and Easy: Poems (2009). Ponsot co-authored two pedagogical works with Rosemary Deen, Beat not the poor desk (1982) and The Common Sense: What to write, how to write it, and why (1985). She has also translated and adapted numerous literary works from French into English, including classic fairy tales and screenplays.

Ponsot has received numerous awards for her work, including a creative writing grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (1979), the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award (2002), the Ambassador Book Award for Poetry (2003), the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts (2003), the Robert Frost Poetry Award (2005), the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize from the Poetry Foundation (2013), and the Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry (2015), among others.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the papers of poet and translator Marie Ponsot from 1931-2014, including writings, personal and professional papers, and subject files. Writings consist of proofs, drafts, and notes of Ponsot's publications; uncollected and unpublished poetry drafts; prose and other writings including translations, essays, and Ponsot's Masters thesis, "An Annotated Edition of the Latin Poems of Edward, Lord Herbert of Cherbury" (1941).

Personal and professional papers include correspondence, a large collection of Ponsot's notebooks, teaching files, materials relating to Ponsot's awards and prizes, and a small amount of photographs and printed material. Subject files contain correspondence, printed material, and writings by other poets and collaborators, as well as material documenting Ponsot's work and community involvement, such as her membership on the PEN American Center Prison Writing Committee. Noteworthy in this series are writings by Joseph Cuomo, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Marilyn Hacker, and Scott Hightower, as well as a poem written for Ponsot by the American...
performance poet Sapphire. Also included are poems, tributes, introductions, and reviews written for or about Ponsot's work.

Arrangement Note
Organized into three series: (1) Writings, (2) Personal and professional papers, and (3) Subject files.
Description of Series

Series 1: Writings, 1931-2012
Series 2: Personal and professional papers, 1934-2014
Series 3: Subject files, 1946-2014
Series 1
Writings, 1931-2012
Boxes 1-9 and OP1

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of proofs, drafts, and notes of Ponsot's publications, uncollected and unpublished poetry drafts, prose and other writings including translations and essays, and Ponsot's Masters thesis "An Annotated Edition of the Latin Poems of Edward, Lord Herbert of Cherbury" (1941). Also included are Ponsot's adaptation of La Victoire de la femme (1964) and Ponsot's essay about Djuna Barnes, "A Reader's Ryder," (1984). The series preserves many of the author's folder arrangements and descriptions. Folders may contain mixed materials such as hand-written drafts, research notes, draft typescripts, and printed materials. Where author-arranged folders are undescribed, the arrangement has been preserved and date ranges have been used for folder labels. Date ranges may overlap as Ponsot worked on a variety of projects simultaneously. Researchers should note that Ponsot's writing process spans several years and as such poetry drafts and other writings may predate publication.

Arrangement Note
Production files for publications are arranged by title of the work. Original order for poetry drafts has been retained; drafts with no original order are arranged chronologically. Prose and other writings are arranged in alphabetical order.

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**Poetry drafts**

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**Prose and other writings**

| 7   | 8   | "Berdeshovsky" and other notes, 1931-1933, 1977-1984, 2005 |                |
| 7   | 9   | Book reviews, undated                      |                |
| 7   | 10  | "Directions," scripts and translations, 1962-1966 |                |
| 7  | 11 | "Directions," scripts and translations, 1966 |
| 7  | 12 | "Gimme, gimme, gimme," or "Honesty in the lurch," script, undated |
| 7  | 13 | "Hugo Victor: A Theophile Gautier," undated |
| 7  | 14 | Interview response for Jason Zuzga, undated |
| 7  | 16 | Introductions, 2000-2011 |
| 8  | 1  | "The Last Crusade," screenplay, 1963 |
| 8  | 2  | "My Sisters Two: A composition of time and place," undated |
| 8  | 3  | Notes and fragments, 1979-2010 |
| 8  | 4  | Notes on poetry, teaching and writing, circa 2002 |
| 8  | 5  | "Prose," 1943 |
| 8  | 6  | "Prose," 1975, 1994-2005 |
| 8  | 7  | "PSA Harangue" and notes on writing poetry, 2002 |
| 8  | 8  | "A Reader's Ryder," drafts and research notes, 1982-1984 [essay about Djuna Barnes] |
| 8  | 9  | Speeches, 2000-2010 |
| 8  | 10 | Translation materials, 1965, 2001 |
| 8  | 11 | "Various," 1968, 2002-2008 |
| 8  | 12 | *La Victoire de la femme*, adaptation, typescript, 1964 [1 of 2] |
| 9  | 1  | *La Victoire de la femme*, adaptation, typescript, 1964 [2 of 2] |
| 9  | 2  | *La Victoire de la femme*, adaptation, typescript, 1965 [1 of 2] |
| 9  | 3  | *La Victoire de la femme*, adaptation, typescript, 1965 [2 of 2] |
Series 2
Personal and professional papers, 1934-2014
Boxes 10-24 and OP1-OP2

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of Ponsot's personal and professional papers from 1934-2014. Personal papers primarily contain correspondence and appointment books, as well as materials relating to her time teaching at Beijing United University in China (1985-1986), which include a large amount of correspondence from her children. The series also includes a large collection of notebooks. Researchers should note that Ponsot's date ranges for her notebooks have been preserved, and may overlap. Professional papers consist of invitations to judge, read, and speak; publishing contracts; teaching files; and materials relating to Ponsot's awards and prizes. There is a small number of photographs documenting readings by Ponsot and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, as well as Ponsot's travel. Printed material consists of newspaper clippings, fliers, invitations, posters, programs, and published versions of Ponsot's work.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type, then in alphabetical order.

Personal papers

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**Marie Ponsot papers, circa 1938-2013**

**Manuscript Collection No. 1298**

| 12 | 6 | Trip to Beijing, China, 1985-1986 [includes correspondence from Marie Ponsot's children] |
| 12 | 7 | Sublease agreement, 1994 |

**Notebooks**

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| 12 | 9 | 1944-1946 |
| 12 | 10 | 1948 |
| 12 | 11 | 1951-1952 |
| 13 | 1 | 1953-1954 |
| 13 | 2 | 1960s |
| 13 | 3 | 1960-1963 |
| 13 | 4 | 1964-1966 |
| 13 | 5 | 1966-1967 |
| 13 | 6 | 1967-1978 |
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| 14 | 2 | 1970 |
| 14 | 3 | 1970-1971 |
| 14 | 4 | 1971-1973 |
| 14 | 5 | 1973 |
| 15 | 1 | Gaelic class, 1973 |
| 15 | 2 | 1975-1976 |
| 15 | 3 | 1976 [1 of 2] |
| 15 | 4 | 1976 [2 of 2] |
| 15 | 5 | 1977 |
| 15 | 6 | 1978 |
| 15 | 7 | 1979 [1 of 2] |
| 16 | 1 | 1979 [2 of 2] |
| 16 | 2 | 1980 [1 of 2] |
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Teaching files, "Notes on Teaching," 1984-1986
Teaching files, "Running Dragons Collaboration," Atlantic Center for the Arts, Workshop with Marie Ponsot, Florida, 2007
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Reviews, 1983-2009
Writings by Marie Ponsot, 1988-2004
Series 3
Subject files, 1946-2014
Boxes 25-38

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of subject files documenting Ponsot's relationships with other poets and collaborators, as well as Ponsot's work and community involvement. Files may contain correspondence between Ponsot and others, printed material about others, and writings by others. The series is arranged alphabetically by subject or poet, and also includes general alphabetical folders. This arrangement preserves Ponsot's original filing system. Noteworthy in this series are typescripts of works by Joseph Cuomo (The Distances, undated and Ignorance, 2005), Lawrence Ferlinghetti (Love in the days of rage, 1988), Marilyn Hacker (Desesperanto: Poems 1999-2001 and Squares and Courtyards, both undated), and Scott Hightower, as well as a poem written for Ponsot by the American performance poet Sapphire. Also included are poems, tributes, introductions, and reviews written for or about Ponsot's work, and material documenting Ponsot's membership on the PEN American Center Prison Writing Committee.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order.

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