Guide to the Marcia Nardi Collection

YCAL MSS 70

by H. Dean

2007

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ............................................................................................................. 3  
Requesting Instructions ........................................................................................................ 3  
Administrative Information ................................................................................................. 4  
  Immediate Source of Acquisition ................................................................................. 4  
  Conditions Governing Access ...................................................................................... 4  
  Conditions Governing Use ........................................................................................... 4  
  Preferred Citation .......................................................................................................... 4  
Marcia Nardi (1901-1990) .................................................................................................. 4  
Scope and Contents ............................................................................................................ 4  
Arrangement ....................................................................................................................... 4  
Collection Contents ........................................................................................................... 5  
  Series I. Marcia Nardi Papers ....................................................................................... 5  
    Correspondence ........................................................................................................... 5  
    Writings ...................................................................................................................... 5  
  Series II. John Edmunds Papers .................................................................................... 6  
    Correspondence ........................................................................................................... 6  
    Writings ...................................................................................................................... 6  
Selected Search Terms ........................................................................................................ 7
Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 70

**CREATOR:** Nardi, Marcia

**TITLE:** Marcia Nardi collection

**DATES:** 1949–1983

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Marcia Nardi collection contains correspondence and writings documenting her work as a poet between 1949 and 1983. The collection contains letters to Nardi by Louise Bogan, Marguerite Caetani, Randall Jarrell, Norman Holmes Pearson, Alec Waugh, Thornton Wilder, and others, most offering personal and professional advice and assistance in her efforts to complete a volume of poems. There is also a manuscript miscellany, “The New Helicon,” in the hand of John Edmunds and a typescript of Nardi’s poem “Femelle de l’homme.” The collection also contains John Edmunds Papers pertaining to Nardi including correspondence from Nardi to Edmunds and typescript drafts of her unpublished book “Collected Poems.”

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: [http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.nardimarcia](http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.nardimarcia)

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at [http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.nardimarcia](http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.nardimarcia).

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition


Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Marcia Nardi Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Marcia Nardi Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Marcia Nardi (1901-1990)

Marcia Nardi, American poet, was born Lilian Massell in Boston and attended Girls’ Latin School and Wellesley College, which she left in 1921 to live in Greenwich Village and to write. During this period Nardi contributed poetry and book reviews to publications such as the Nation, New Republic, Quarterly Review of Literature, the New York Times, and the New York Herald Tribune. In 1926 her son Paul was born, and Nardi was forced to take a variety of jobs to support him and herself. In 1942 she began a correspondence with William Carlos Williams, who used long sections of her letters in Books I and II of Paterson. Her Poems was published by Alan Swallow in 1956, and she received a Guggenheim fellowship in the following year. Nardi worked extensively with John Edmunds between 1972 and 1983 with the intention of publishing a collection of her poetry; however this project did not result in a publication before Nardi’s death in 1990.

Scope and Contents

The Marcia Nardi collection contains correspondence and writings documenting her work as a poet between 1949 and 1983. The collection contains letters to Nardi by Louise Bogan, Marguerite Caetani, Randall Jarrell, Norman Holmes Pearson, Alec Waugh, Thornton Wilder, and others, most offering personal and professional advice and assistance in her efforts to complete a volume of poems. There is also a manuscript miscellany, “The New Helicon,” in the hand of John Edmunds and a typescript of Nardi’s poem “Femelle de l’homme.” The collection also contains John Edmunds Papers pertaining to Nardi including correspondence from Nardi to Edmunds and typescript drafts of her unpublished book “Collected Poems.”

Arrangement

The Marcia Nardi Collection is organized into two series: Marcia Nardi Papers and John Edmunds Papers. Each series is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings. The Marcia Nardi Papers were processed in 1993 and have not been re-processed. The John Edmunds Papers were processed in 2007.
**Collection Contents**

**Series I. Marcia Nardi Papers**

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

The series contains Marcia Nardi’s Papers including incoming correspondence and some writings (a few poems, reviews, and a manuscript anthology containing other writers’ poetry entitled “The New Helicon”). Also included is a letter from Louise Bogan to Robert Phelps.

The series is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>1949–1965</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>The Atlantic Monthly 1954, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Bogan, Louise 1955–1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Botteghe, Oscur 1956, 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Caetani, Marguerite undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Edward MacDowell Association, Inc. 1954 April 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6-7</td>
<td>Jarrell, Mary 1965, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Pearson, Norman Holmes 1949–1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Ransom, John Crowe 1952 December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Shapiro, Karl 1952 January 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Waugh, Alec 1954–1964, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12-18</td>
<td>Wilder, Thornton 1953–1962, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 19</td>
<td>Bogan, Louise to Robert Phelps 1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writings</th>
<th>1954, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 20</td>
<td>Birthday Poem (to Alec Waugh), typescript, signed 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 21</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Notes and Reviews undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 22  | “The New Helicon”, bound manuscript 1954 December 
Contains Nardi's poem “Was it the Honey-Hearted Vowel?” (transcribed by Thornton Wilder) |
Series II. John Edmunds Papers

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The series contains Nardi’s correspondence with John Edmunds (including photocopy of letter to Nardi from William Carlos Williams) and drafts documenting her work with Edmunds to publish her collected poems. Also includes annotated copy of Nardi’s book entitled *Poems*.

The series is organized into two subseries: Correspondence and Writings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Correspondence</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 23</td>
<td>Nardi, Marcia to John Edmunds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 24-29</td>
<td>Nardi, Marcia to John Edmunds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 30-31</td>
<td>Nardi, Marcia to John Edmunds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 32</td>
<td>Williams, William Carlos to Marcia Nardi, photocopy of original</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writings</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 33</td>
<td><em>Poems</em>, printed version, corrected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 34-35</td>
<td>Poetry, typescript, with holograph corrections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 36</td>
<td>“Collected Poems”, typescript, preliminary draft with holograph corrections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 37</td>
<td>“Collected Poems”, typescript, final draft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Poets, American -- 20th Century --
Correspondence
Women poets, American -- 20th Century

Names
Bogan, Louise, 1897-1970
Caetani, Marguerite
Edmunds, John, 1913-1986
Jarrell, Randall, 1914-1965
Nardi, Marcia
Pearson, Norman Holmes, 1909-1975
Ransom, John Crowe, 1888-1974
Shapiro, Karl, 1913-2000
Waugh, Alec, 1898-1981
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975

Corporate Body
Edward MacDowell Association