

Guide to the Gladys Campbell Papers

YCAL MSS 251



by Molly Wheeler

April 27, 2007

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977

beinecke.library@yale.edu

<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 251

CREATOR: Campbell, Gladys, 1892-1992

TITLE: Gladys Campbell papers

DATES: 1914–1995

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.25 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Gladys Campbell Papers contain correspondence, writings, and other papers that document the work of the poet Gladys Campbell and other members of the University of Chicago Poetry Club, as well as her relationships with other poets. The papers also contain writings of George Dillon, Charles Bell, Janet Lewis, Maurice Lesemann, Naomi Clark, and Morton Zabel. The papers span the years 1914 to 1995.

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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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.campbellg>.

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

Purchased from Serendipity Books on the Elizabeth Wakeman Dwight Memorial Fund, 2003.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Gladys Campbell Papers are 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

Gladys Campbell Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Gladys Campbell

Gladys Campbell (1892-1992) attended the University of Chicago to study poetry and earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1920 and a Master of Arts in 1943. Campbell was one of the early members of the University of Chicago Poetry Club, a group formed in 1917 by students who wished to address the absence of modern poetry in the University curriculum. Other members included Glenway Wescott, George Dillon, Elizabeth Madox Roberts, Arthur Yvor Winters, Llewellyn Jones, Maurice Lesemann, and Janet Lewis. Harriet Monroe, the founder and editor of *Poetry Magazine*, visited the group often.

Gladys Campbell and George Dillon (1906-1968) were editors of the Poetry Club's publication, *The Forge: A Journal of Verse*, published from 1924 to 1929. Campbell and Dillon were close friends for their entire lives and Dillon sent his poems to her for criticism. He was the editor for *Poetry Magazine* from 1937 to 1949, during which time he also served in WWII. Another close friend of Gladys Campbell's was the writer Glenway Wescott (1901-1987). Charles Bell (1916-), another poet and Assistant Professor of Humanities at the University of Chicago, also sent Campbell drafts of poems for criticism.

Campbell wrote poetry throughout her life and her poems appeared frequently in *Poetry*, *The Forge*, *The Dial* and *Book Notes*. She published one collection, *The Momentary Beach*, in 1972. From 1922 to 1929, Campbell taught English in the University of Chicago Lab Schools and from 1929 to 1957 she taught humanities and English at the University of Chicago. She retired in 1957. Campbell was active in Hyde Park's Poetry Society, which met in her apartment. Writers such as Yvor Winters, George Dillon, and Thornton Wilder were among its members. Campbell never married and lived in the Hyde Park section of Chicago until her death in 1992.

Scope and Contents

The Gladys Campbell Papers contain correspondence, writings, and other papers that document the work of the poet Gladys Campbell and friends from the University of Chicago Poetry Club, as well as her relationship with other poets. The papers also contain writings of George Dillon, Charles Bell, Janet Lewis, Maurice Lesemann, Naomi Clark, and Morton Zabel. The papers span the years 1914 to 1995. Correspondence comprises the bulk of the papers and spans 1914 to 1995. Writings by Gladys Campbell and others spans 1924 to 1986 and includes undated material. Photographs and printed materials make up the smallest portion of the papers, spanning 1924 to 1992.

Arrangement

The Gladys Campbell Papers are organized into six series: Correspondence, Writings, Writings of Others, Photographs, University of Chicago Materials, and Printed Materials.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1914-1995

2.7 linear feet (3 boxes)

This series contains correspondence between Gladys Campbell and a number of her friends. The primary correspondents are George Dillon and Glenway Wescott; they discuss Gladys Campbell's and their own poetry throughout their correspondence. Correspondence from George Dillon Janet Lewis includes drafts of their poems.

George Dillon's letters document his decision to work for *Poetry Magazine* as Associate Editor and his dedication to *The Forge*, as well as proposed changes to be made to *Poetry Magazine* under his leadership.

Series I, Correspondence, is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, with a small amount of third party and unidentified correspondence filed at the end. Correspondence from friends upon the receipt of Campbell's book of poetry, *Momentary Beach* is grouped together at the end of the series.

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Adler, Mortimer | undated |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Boulton, Inez | 1954 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Campbell, Kathleen Foster | undated |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Carpenter, Margaret Includes two photographs of George Dillon and photocopy of Dillon's obituary | 1968 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | DeVries, Peter | 1973-1974 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | <i>The Dial</i> | 1925-1929 |
| b. 1, f. 7-23 | Dillon, George Includes typescript drafts of George Dillon poems: "Again" "Autumn Wind" "A Day of Rain," "From Happiness Once" "At John Keet's Grave" "Old Masonry" "Sonnet" "The Summer Sea" | 1924-1942, undated |
| b. 2, f. 24-29 | Dillon, George | 1942-68 |
| b. 2, f. 30 | Dillon, George Stored in: Oversize, Box 5, 98 Includes typescript draft of George Dillon poem "The Pomegranate" and drawing of Gladys Campbell by George Dillon enclosed with undated letter | undated |
| b. 2, f. 31 | Flint, Edith Foster | 1930 |

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| b. 2, f. 32 | Gerson, Noel | 1962 |
| b. 2, f. 33 | Harrison, Gilbert | 1979 |
| b. 2, f. 34 | Hill, Knox | 1953 |
| b. 2, f. 35 | Hughes, Langston | 1949 |
| b. 2, f. 36 | Gilbert, Jim | 1919 |
| b. 2, f. 37 | Hutchins, Robert | 1940-1951, undated |
| b. 2, f. 38 | Kreymbord, Alfred | 1925 |
| b. 2, f. 39 | Lesemann, Maurice | 1929-1934, 1972-1973 |
| b. 2, f. 40 | Levi, Edward | 1968-1971 |
| b. 2, f. 41 | Lewis, Janet Includes a signed photocopy of Lewis's "For Emily" and printouts of "For Esther Sills" and "For Clara Atkins on her 91 Birthday." | circa 1925, undated |
| | Lovett, Robert See: University of Chicago | |
| b. 2, f. 42 | Masters, Marcia | undated |
| b. 2, f. 43 | The Modern Poetry Association | 1954 |
| | Monroe, Harriet See: Poetry Magazine | |
| | Moore, Marianne See: The Dial | |
| b. 2, f. 44 | <i>Poetry Magazine</i> | 1929-1935 |
| b. 2, f. 45 | Rich, Daniel Catton | undated |
| b. 2, f. 46 | Roberts, Elizabeth Madox | 1936 |
| b. 2, f. 47 | Russ, Elmo | 1935 |
| b. 2, f. 48 | Charles Scribner's Sons | 1927, 1929 |
| b. 2, f. 49 | Slavick, William | 1981 |
| | Stevenson, Ellen Borden See: The Modern Poetry Association | |
| b. 2, f. 50 | Toigo, John | 1975 |
| b. 2, f. 51 | University of Chicago | 1917-1957 |
| b. 2, f. 52-53 | Wescott, Glenway | 1919-1922, undated |

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| b. 3, f. 54 | Wilder, Thornton | 1938 |
| b. 3, f. 55 | Wilder, Isabel and Janet | 1934, 1972, 1975 |
| b. 3, f. 56 | Windeyer, Lt. Colonel R.C. | 1915 |
| b. 3, f. 57 | Zabel, Morton | 1933 |
| b. 3, f. 58-59 | Correspondence regarding <i>Momentary Beach</i> | 1972 |
| b. 3, f. 60 | Unidentified correspondence | 1914, undated |
| | Third party correspondence | |
| b. 3, f. 61 | Bell, Charles to George Dillon | 1958 |
| b. 3, f. 62 | Lewis, Janet to Kathleen Foster Campbell | 1978, 1986 |
| b. 3, f. 63 | Lewis, Janet to Hugh Tinker | 1995 |

Series II: Writings, undated*4 Folders*

Series II, Writings, contains three groups of poems by Gladys Campbell. The first, labeled by Campbell "Good copies of most best poems," is numbered in order, perhaps in preparation for a book. The second, an intended compilation titled *The Shadowed Field*, includes poems previously published in *Poetry*, *The Dial*, *The Forge* and *Book Notes*. The third group is comprised of unpublished poems that Campbell labeled "unpub". The series also includes an "Inventory" of Campbell's teaching, writings and publications.

| | | |
|--------------|---|---------|
| b. 3, f. 64 | "Good copies of most of best poems," drafts, typescript and holograph | undated |
| b. 3, f. 65 | <i>The Shadowed Field</i> , draft, typescript, corrected | undated |
| b. 3, f. 66 | "Unpub," drafts, typescript and holograph, corrected | undated |
| b. 3, f. 67 | "Inventory of Individual Work," completed form | undated |
| b. 3, f. 67A | Introduction to <i>The Forge</i> | 1924 |

Series III: Writings of Others, 1924-1986*0.3 linear feet (.75 box)*

This series contains writings by Gladys Campbell's friends and fellow members of the University of Chicago Poetry Club, who sent their writings to Campbell for criticism. The bulk is poems by George Dillon, although Glenway Wescott's and Charles Bell's writings are also substantial. Bell's writings often include notes to Campbell in the margins.

Series III, Writings of Others, is arranged alphabetically by author, with "The Poetry Club of Chicago: Bibliography (Early, Major, Collected)" filed at the end.

| Charles, Bell | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 3, f. 68 | Poems, drafts, holograph and typescript carbon | 1973, undated |
| b. 3, f. 69 | "A Scene from Faust," draft, typescript, corrected | undated |
| b. 3, f. 70 | Clark, Naomi. "Late Autumnal: California" and "Variations on a Theme Dream" drafts, typescript and typescript photocopy | undated |
| b. 3, f. 71-73 | Dillon, George. Poems, drafts, holograph and typescript, annotated Includes "To Gladys, A Simplicity" See: Dillon, George | 1924, undated |
| b. 3, f. 74 | Lewis, Janet. Poems, drafts, typescript, annotated | 1980-1986, undated |
| b. 3, f. 75 | Lesemann, Maurice. "The Gale" draft, typescript | undated |
| Wescott, Glenway | | |
| b. 3, f. 76 | "I, In My Pitiful Flesh" and "After-Image," drafts, holograph corrected | 1920 |
| b. 3, f. 77 | "A Lonely Fire," draft, typescript carbon | undated |
| b. 3, f. 78 | Zabel, Morton Dauwen, "Herakles Archer," draft, typescript | undated |
| b. 3, f. 79 | "The Poetry Club of Chicago: Bibliography (Early, Major, Collected)," typescript photocopy | undated |

Series IV: Photographs, 1918-1983*5 Folders*

Series IV, Photographs, is arranged alphabetically by subject.

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| b. 4, f. 80 | Campbell, Gladys | circa 1957 |
| b. 4, f. 81 | Campbell, Gladys and Jim Gilbert | undated |
| b. 4, f. 82 | Dillon, George | 1918, circa 1940, undated |
| b. 4, f. 83 | Lewis, Janet | circa 1983 |
| b. 4, f. 84 | Wescott, Glenway | circa 1920 |

Series V: University of Chicago Materials, 1923-1955*4 Folders*

This series includes material relating to Gladys Campbell's work as a student and faculty member at the University of Chicago.

Series V, University of Chicago Materials, is arranged chronologically

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| b. 4, f. 85 | "Fennel Stalks," a publication by the students in the University of Chicago High School at the University of Chicago, dedicated to Gladys Campbell | 1923 |
| b. 4, f. 86 | Diploma, The University of Chicago, Master of Arts Includes typescript of Honor Schedules, Spring Semester | 1937 |
| b. 4, f. 87 | "The University of Chicago First Year Course of Study of Humanities, Syllabus for the First Year Course in the College" | September 1943 |
| b. 4, f. 88 | "An Introduction to the Humanities, A Discussion Manual" prepared by members of the humanities staff of the College of the University of Chicago | 1955 |

Series VI: Printed Material, 1930-1992, undated*0.1 linear feet*

This series includes journal reprints, holiday cards, reports, clippings, and a brochure.

Series VI, Printed Material, is arranged chronologically.

| | | |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| b. 4, f. 89 | Illustrated Christmas card with Edna St. Vincent Millay passage | 1930 |
| b. 4, f. 90 | "The Pattern of Proustian Love," by Milton Hindus, autographed reprint from <i>New Mexico Quarterly</i> | 1951 |
| b. 4, f. 91 | "'Crime and Punishment' as Philosophy," by Knox C. Hill, autographed reprint from <i>The Journal of General Education</i> | January 1953 |
| b. 4, f. 92 | "Report to the Trustees of the Modern Poetry Association History and Summary of Activities, 1912-1950" and "Recent Reports to the Bollingen Foundation," typescript carbon | 1955 |
| b. 4, f. 93 | Illustrated autographed cards by Juliet and Henry Rago | 1957, undated |
| b. 4, f. 94 | "First Comments from Teachers on <i>Three Plays of Racine</i> (excerpts from letters, October 1961)," typescript Includes excerpt from George Bell | 1961 |
| b. 4, f. 95 | "A Note on George Dillon," by Nicholas Joost with poems translated by Dillon, from <i>Delta Epsilon Sigma Bulletin</i> | March 1962 |
| b. 4, f. 96 | Elizabeth Madox Roberts Centenary Conference, brochure and conference attendees list | 1981 |
| b. 4, f. 97 | Newspaper clippings Gladys Campbell and Joanna Fortune at <i>Poetry</i> luncheon; on George Dillon's death with poem "Anatomy of Death;" and <i>Poetry's</i> 80 year anniversary | 1992, undated |

Oversize

b. 5 (Oversize), f. Drawing of Gladys Campbell by George Dillon (Series I)
98

undated

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.

Preferred Titles

Dial (Chicago, Ill.)
Forge (Chicago, Ill.)
Poetry (Chicago, Ill.)

Subjects

American poetry -- 20th Century
Poets, American -- 20th Century

Occupations

Poets

Names

Adler, Mortimer Jerome, 1902-2001
Bell, Charles G. (Charles Greenleaf), 1916-2010
Campbell, Gladys, 1892-1992
Campbell, Kathleen (Foster Campbell)
Clark, Naomi
Dillon, George, 1906-1968
Hill, Knox C.
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967
Lesemann, Maurice, 1899-
Levi, Edward H. (Edward Hirsch), 1911-2000
Lewis, Janet, 1899-1998
Monroe, Harriet, 1860-1936
Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972
Rago, Henry, 1915-1969
Roberts, Elizabeth Madox, 1881-1941
Slavick, William H.
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975
Zabel, Morton Dauwen, 1901-1964

Corporate Bodies

Charles Scribner's Sons
Modern Poetry Association
University of Chicago
University of Chicago. Poetry Club

Contributors

Campbell, Gladys, 1892-1992
Bell, Charles G. (Charles Greenleaf), 1916-2010
Clark, Naomi
Dillon, George, 1906-1968
Lesemann, Maurice, 1899-
Wescott, Glenway, 1901-1987
Zabel, Morton Dauwen, 1901-1964