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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972

Title: Marianne Moore Papers

Dates: 1924-1969

Quantity: 0.2 cubic feet (1 box, 1 OV folder)

Abstract: American poet Marianne Moore's letters to Fanny Borden (Vassar College Librarian, 1924-1954), as well as one letter from Moore's mother, Mary W. Moore, and a *New York Times Book Review* article about Moore's book *Tell Me, Tell Me: Granite, Steel, and Other Topics* signed by Moore.

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Biographical Note

Marianne Moore (1887-1972) was born in Kirkwood, MO, and grew up in a happy atmosphere of familial affection and intimacy. With the exception of her years at Bryn Mawr, Miss Moore lived almost constantly with her mother and was never far from her brother, John Warner Moore. After graduation from Bryn Mawr in 1909, Miss Moore studied at the Carlisle Commercial College and went on to work as an indexer for Melvil Dewey and to teach commercial subjects at an Indian school. Marianne Moore did not seriously begin to write poetry until after 1914. Her poems appeared in *Poetry*, *Others*, *The Dial*, and *The Egoist*.

Soon Moore began to attract attention despite her habitual self-disparagement. In 1924 her observations won *The Dial* Award; and from then until its demise in 1929, that magazine absorbed much of Moore's energy both as a writer and editor. Her *Selected Poems* was published in 1935, with an introduction by T.S. Eliot; and in the next two decades she continued to publish volumes of poetry - *Pangolin and Other Verse*, *What Are Years*, and *Nevertheless* - establishing her as a first-rate poet. In the early 1950s Marianne Moore was showered with prizes, including the Bollingen, the Pulitzer, and the National Book Award. In 1955 she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In her later years she was a popular celebrity, known for her tricorne hats and love of baseball.

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Scope and Content Note

The collection contains fifty-eight letters to Fanny Borden (Vassar College Librarian, 1924-1954), discussing *The Dial*, her mother's health, friendship with Elizabeth Bishop, Vassar College, aiding refugee children during World War II, experiences of Louise Lucas and family in France in 1941, including typescript copy of a letter describing a fire in their home while it was occupied by German troops, Moore's visits to the Vassar College Library, and other personal issues. Also include are two letters between Moore and Mary Pat Ladner; one letter by Moore's mother, Mary W. Moore, regarding the death of Mary Norcross in 1938; and a *New York Times Book Review* article about Moore's book *Tell Me, Tell Me: Granite, Steel, and Other Topics* signed by Moore.

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Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#), without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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Related Material

- [The Elizabeth Bishop Papers contains correspondence between Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop.](#)
- [Several letters from Marianne Moore are included in the William K. Rose Papers.](#)

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Subject Headings

Names:

- Borden, Fanny
- Lucas Family
- Lucas, Louise
- Moore, Marianne, 1887-1972
- Moore, Mary W.
- Norcross, Mary, d. 1938

Organizations:

- Vassar College. Library

Subjects:

- Charities
- Children--Europe
- Editors
- Refugees
- Social work with children--Europe
- Women poets
- World War, 1939-1945--Children
- World War, 1939-1945--Refugees
- World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief
- World War, 1939-1945--France

Places:

- France--History--German occupation, 1940-1945

VCL Categories:

- Literature and Writing
- War and War Crimes

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Encoding Information

Encoded by Elizabeth Clarke, February 2007. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, December 2022.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Marianne Moore Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Separated from the Autograph Files and processed by Emma Gronbeck, December 2022.

Acquisition Information

Gift of the estate of Fanny Borden (VC 1898).

Gift of Mary P. Robertson, 2022. [M2022-002]

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Container List

Folders 1-2	Letters, Marianne Moore to Fanny Borden [includes photographs and clippings], 1924-1952
Folder 3	Envelopes, Marianne Moore to Fanny Borden, 1934-1949
Folder 4	Letters, Marianne Moore to and from Mary Pat Ladner, 1969
Folder 5	Letter, Mary W. Moore to "Fanny" [includes 2 photographs], 15 Feb 1938
Multiple Collection Box 2	Review of "Tell Me, Tell Me: Granite, Steel, and Other Topics," <i>The New York Times Book Review</i> , signed by Marianne Moore, 1966 Dec 25

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