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EMORY
LIBRARIES

Flannery O'Connor's work is powerful, honest, unforgettable. In her novels and short stories, letters and essays, speeches and book reviews, and even her prayers, she turns a phrase like no other writer, and her language continues to influence artists in music, film, and literature. Emory is home to three significant collections of materials related to O'Connor and wishes to expand those collections.

The Flannery O'Connor Collections

CENTRAL TO EMORY'S CONSTELLATION OF ORIGINAL LITERARY MATERIALS, FLANNERY O'CONNOR HAS A HOME AT MARBL

ABOUT FLANNERY O'CONNOR

A native of Savannah, Georgia, Mary Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964) spent much of her life on her family's farm near Milledgeville. Before she died from lupus at age 39, she had published two novels and 32 short stories. Her *Complete Stories* won the 1972 National Book Award for fiction and was named the "Best of the National Book Awards" in a 2009 online poll. Religious and quiet, she had an astonishing talent and a fierce edge, and her work gained her entry into an influential circle of writers including Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, and Robert and Sally Fitzgerald.

AVAILABILITY

The O'Connor collections are open to anyone with a research interest.

WIDER RELEASE

The collections are available for traveling exhibits, partnerships with other universities, community programs, and classroom discussions.

BUILDING THE O'CONNOR COLLECTIONS AT MARBL

Flannery O'Connor's letters are central to teaching and research at Emory, and MARBL Director Rosemary Magee is an O'Connor scholar. Sally Fitzgerald, who was O'Connor's editor and a visiting research scholar at Emory for nearly two decades, donated her own papers to MARBL and played a key role in the library's acquisition of the letters O'Connor wrote to Betty Hester of Atlanta. Gifts to the Flannery O'Connor collections will help build this area of strength at MARBL.

"Southern identity
is not really connected with mocking birds
and beaten biscuits and white columns any more
than it is with hookworm and bare feet
and muddy clay roads. . . . It *lies very deep.*
In its entirety, it is *known only to*
God, but of those who look at it,
none gets so close as
the artist."



FROM FLANNERY O'CONNOR'S REMARKS
TO THE GEORGIA WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, 1962

To learn more about the Flannery O'Connor Collections and how you can help, call the Emory Libraries Office of Development at 404.727.5386 or email alex.wan@emory.edu.



EMORY'S MANUSCRIPT, ARCHIVES, AND RARE BOOK LIBRARY

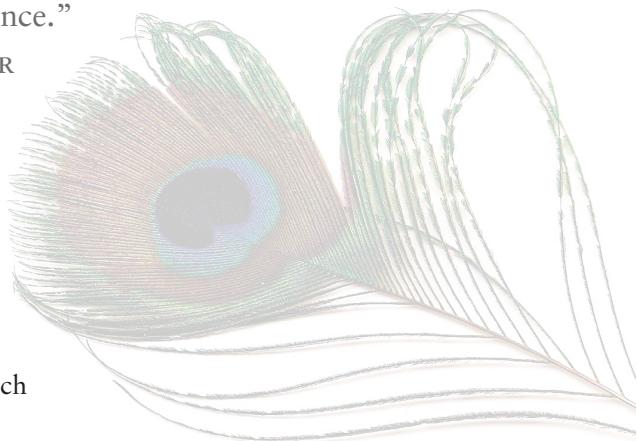
MARBL

“Building Flannery O’Connor’s collections at MARBL will strengthen her legacy, giving scholars, students, and readers access to literary treasures of international significance.”

—ROSEMARY MAGEE, MARBL DIRECTOR

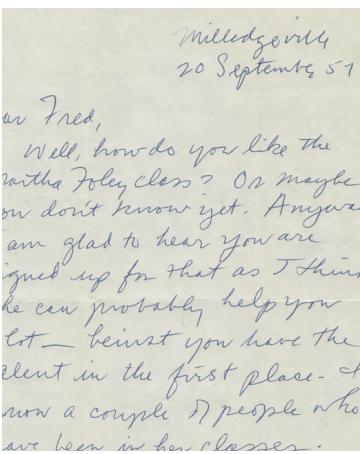


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FLANNERY O’CONNOR AT MARBL

New Flannery O’Connor materials would join three existing collections related to O’Connor and the papers of literary treasures such as Alice Walker and Salman Rushdie.



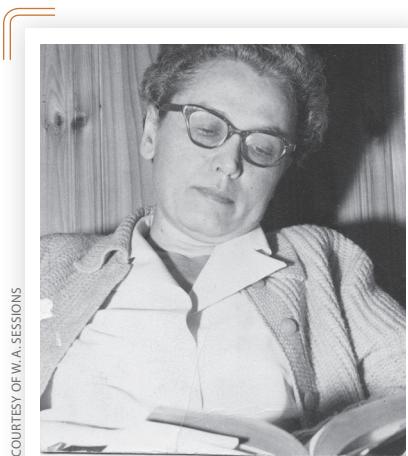
Flannery O’Connor
Collections

ACQUISITION

1968–PRESENT as gifts
from various sources

SELECTED MATERIALS

Letters, manuscripts, photographs, and audio recordings, including digital files of O’Connor reading “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” at Vanderbilt University in 1959



COURTESY OF W.A. SESSIONS

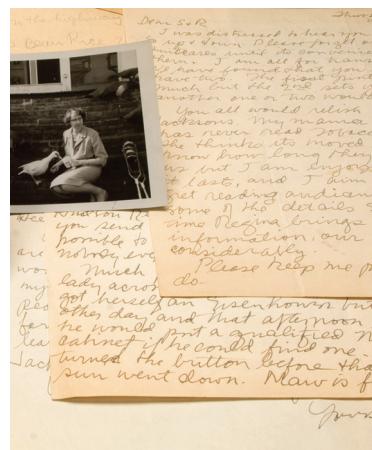
Letters to Betty Hester, a reader who corresponded with O’Connor for nine years

ACQUISITION

1987 as gift from Betty Hester, sealed until 2007

MATERIALS

274 letters discussing faith, theology, current events, and O’Connor’s work, life on the farm, and illness



Papers of Sally Fitzgerald,
O’Connor friend and editor

ACQUISITION

2009 with funding from Beck Foundation and Vassar Woolley Foundation

SELECTED MATERIALS

84 letters from O’Connor, photographs, carbon typescripts of stories and of O’Connor’s second novel, *The Violent Bear it Away*

E D U C A T E • E N G A G E • E N L I G H T E N

Emory University’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL) holds the papers of some of the most creative and influential figures of all time. MARBL is a place of discovery, where students, faculty, scholars, and other visitors can browse rare books, examine original letters and photographs from manuscript collections, and study the documents and records of groundbreaking organizations. MARBL’s strength resides in materials that document the history, culture, and politics of Atlanta, Georgia, and the South; African American history and culture; modern literature; and the history of Emory University.