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Elizabeth Foster collection, 1942-1994

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library

University of New England

716 Stevens Avenue

Portland, Maine 04103

mwwc@une.edu

URL: <https://library.une.edu/mwwc/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Foster, Elizabeth, 1905-1963
Title:	Elizabeth Foster collection
ID:	0129
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/3/resources/567
Date [inclusive]:	1942-1994
Physical Description:	3 linear feet 2 boxes (85 folders)
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Foster collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Elizabeth Foster (Mann) was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1905 to Elizabeth Dickson and well-known writer/playwright Maximilian Foster. She attended Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, the Art Students League in New York, and the Columbia School of Journalism, New York. In 1929 she married Lloyd Onderdonk Vernon Mann, living first with him in Cold Spring Harbor and later in Oyster Bay, New York. Their two daughters were Mariana Vernon and Nancy Lloyd.

Foster was a prolific freelance writer, composing short stories and poems for publications such as *Redbook*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Home & Garden*, and *Trout and Stream*. She also became editor of *The North Shore Almanac*, a supplement to a Long Island newspaper chain. After her divorce in 1939 she began her first novel, *Singing Beach* (1941), set on an island off the coast of Maine. In 1942 her second novel, *The Days Between*, was published and bought by Warner Brothers for \$25,000.

Foster published her first children's novel, *Gigi, The Story of a Merry-Go-Round Horse* in 1943, followed by *Dirigo Point*, with a background of Franklin County in Maine. A second Gigi novel, *Gigi in America*, was published in 1945, and is set in another Maine location, Old Orchard Beach. *The Islanders*, her most important Maine-centered novel, was published in 1946 and became a bestseller. It is a family saga focused on her maternal grandfather, Frederick Stoever Dickson, and the home he built on Rangeley Lake. *Children of the Mist*, published in 1960, is based on an actual eighteenth century English scandal.

Elizabeth Foster died on February 9, 1963, and is buried at the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery, Rangeley, Maine.

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Collection Scope and Content

This collection consists predominantly of typescripts of the author's published and unpublished novels, novelettes, short stories, and pages from works. It is possible Foster intended to expand upon them at a later time. A few of the works exist in various editions and some typescripts include synopses and a listing of the publications to which the pieces were submitted.

There is information that indicates some of Foster's agents submitted their copies of her works to this collection. The collection also contains some interesting pieces of correspondence to the author from her editor, fans and individual letters from some of the significant writers of her time such as Vita Sackville-West, Mary Roberts Rinehart, Somerset Maugham, Kenneth Roberts, Art Buchwald and Thomas Costain. There is some biographical information about her personal life, newspaper articles and reviews, and notices sent by clipping services; also one photograph.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into two series: Professional career and Manuscripts.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
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Portland, Maine 04103
mwwc@une.edu
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Access

Collection is open for research.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Rangeley (Me.)
- Clippings
- Photographs
- Ephemera
- American poetry -- 20th century
- Facsimiles
- Manuscripts
- Typescripts
- Correspondence
- Foster, Elizabeth, 1905-1963

Collection Inventory

Professional Career		
Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical and literary articles, 1942-1994, undated <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 001
Photograph of EF aboard the Queen Mary cruise ship and correspondence relating to voyage, 1961 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 002
Correspondence with notable authors ie., Kenneth Roberts, Thomas Costain, V. Sackville-West, Art Buchwald, 1942-1977 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 003
Correspondence with MacMillan Company, 1958-1961 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 004
Correspondence, 1945-1959 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 005
Contract with Houghton Mifflin Co. for "The Islanders", 1944 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 006
Correspondence relating to "The Islanders", 1945-1949 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 007
Publicity relating to "The Islanders", 1945-1947 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 008
Correspondence and contract from Houghton Mifflin relating to "Dirigo Point", 1944 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 009
Correspondence and publicity relating to "The Days Between", 1942 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 010
Publicity relating to reissuing of "Gigi", 1990s <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	Box 1	Folder 011
Correspondence and contract relating to "Singing Beach" and "The Days Between", 1942, 1955, undated	Box 1	Folder 012

Language of the Material: English.

Correspondence relating to "The House At Noddy Cove", 1948-1952	Box 1	Folder 013
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Contract and EF's notes on "Children of the Mists", 1959	Box 1	Folder 014
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Publicity, reviews, correspondence relating to "Children of the Mists", 1958-1961	Box 1	Folder 015
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
EF's notes relating possibly to "Children of the Mists", undated	Box 1	Folder 016
Correspondence to EF from short story readers, 1943-1946	Box 1	Folder 017
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Poem "Lines to a Deserted Greenhouse", undated	Box 1	Folder 018
Publications in Redbook (photocopies), 1947-1949, undated	Box 1	Folder 019
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Publications in Trout Salmon (photocopies), 1959	Box 1	Folder 020
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		
Publication in Homes Gardens (photocopy), 1955	Box 1	Folder 021
<u>Language of the Material:</u> English.		

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Manuscripts

Title/Description	Instances	
Untitled short story, undated	Box 2	Folder 001
"Peace and Quiet", undated	Box 2	Folder 002
"Renee Crowell woke...", undated	Box 2	Folder 003
	Box 2	Folder 004
"Spring Song", undated	Box 2	Folder 005
	Box 2	Folder 006
"Spring Song", undated	Box 2	Folder 007
Untitled Novel ("His name was Cecil..."), undated	Box 2	Folder 008
Untitled Novel ("His name was Cecil...") and "Synopsis of Further Chapters", undated	Box 2	Folder 009
Untitled Novel ("His name was Cecil..."), undated	Box 2	Folder 010

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	Box 2	Folder 011
Untitled Novel ("His name was Cecil...") (portion), undated	Box 2	Folder 013
Untitled Novel ("His name was Cecil...") (portion), undated	Box 2	Folder 014
Untitled Novel ("His name was Cecil...") (portion); 2 copies of Chapters 5 and 6; "Synopsis of Further Chapters", undated	Box 2	Folder 015
Poem "Morning", undated	Box 2	Folder 016
"Synopsis" of untitled manuscript; also "Chapter Twenty Seven" of untitled manuscript, undated	Box 2	Folder 017
Untitled short story "The station was crowded...", undated	Box 2	Folder 018
Outline for untitled manuscript, undated	Box 2	Folder 019
Short story "The Picture Window", undated	Box 2	Folder 020
Short story "The Ticket"; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 021
"The Valley: A Short Novel", undated	Box 2	Folder 022
"The Valley: A Short Novel" 2nd copy; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 023
Short story "The Grown-Up Heart", undated	Box 2	Folder 024
Short story "For Love and Money"; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 025
Short story "The Joys of Love", undated	Box 2	Folder 026
Short story "Customer's Lady", undated	Box 2	Folder 027
"Matilda" plot outline plus correspondence to Bart (2 copies), undated	Box 2	Folder 028
"Griselda's Wedding", undated	Box 2	Folder 029
"A Home For Filippa", undated	Box 2	Folder 030
"A Home For Filippa", undated	Box 2	Folder 031
"The Runaways" (2 copies); includes submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 032
"Everybody's There"; includes submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 033
"The Gifts of Annabel"; includes submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 034
"What Are We Doing Here?"; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 035
"Grandma Married Twice" (2 copies); also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 036
"Blind Date"; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 037
Untitled short story "Barbie was washing the..." (2 copies), undated	Box 2	Folder 038

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"The Paying Guest: Two-Part Serial" (2 copies), undated	Box 2	Folder 039
Untitled novelette; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 041
Untitled handwritten pages on legal (5), undated	Box 2	Folder 042
Untitled pages "Old Wentworth Gridley..." (4 pages), undated	Box 2	Folder 043
Untitled short story "It always happens..."; also correspondence from Ellen Newald to Miss Johnson, undated	Box 2	Folder 044
Untitled short story "It was spring again...", undated	Box 2	Folder 045
Untitled short story "Andrew was lying on...", undated	Box 2	Folder 046
"Careless Rapture: A Novelette", undated	Box 2	Folder 047
Untitled short story "It always happens this way..." (2 copies), undated	Box 2	Folder 048
Untitled manuscript pages "A kitchen is a place to...", undated	Box 2	Folder 049
Untitled manuscript pages "Tom got off the train...", undated	Box 2	Folder 050
Short story "The Mouse Trap"; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 051
Short story "Second Sight" (2 copies); also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 052
Short story "O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree"; also submission list, undated	Box 2	Folder 053
Short story "The Man From Maine" (2 copies), undated	Box 2	Folder 054
Untitled poem "Keep such love...", undated	Box 2	Folder 055
Short story "Little By Little", undated	Box 2	Folder 056
Short story "A Mother For Jill", undated	Box 2	Folder 057
Short story "Present Imperfect", undated	Box 2	Folder 058
Novel "The Far Country" Copy 1, undated	Box 2	Folder 059
	Box 2	Folder 060
Novel "The Far Country" Copy 2; also synopsis, undated	Box 2	Folder 061
Untitled short story "There had been an...", undated	Box 2	Folder 062
Short story "Evening Song", undated	Box 2	Folder 063
Short story "The Far-Away Lake", undated	Box 2	Folder 064

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