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Katharine O'Brien papers, 1905-1986

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Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
University of New England
716 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
cmiller10@une.edu
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	O'Brien, Katharine E. (Katharine Elizabeth)
Title:	Katharine O'Brien papers
ID:	0266
Date [inclusive]:	1905-1986
Physical Description:	3 linear feet 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Katharine O'Brien papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Born in Amesbury, Massachusetts, in 1901, Katharine O'Brien moved to Maine with her family at the age of three and graduated as valedictorian of her 1918 Deering High School class. O'Brien studied English and Math at Bates College and then earned a Masters degree in Mathematics from Cornell. She began her teaching career at New Rochelle College in the English department, and then taught Math for the remainder of her career. While teaching at the college level, she wrote a great number of poems, many of which appeared local and national publications. In 1937 O'Brien went on to earn her Doctorate in Mathematics from Brown University, and in 1940 she joined the Mathematics Department of Deering High School, being appointed Head of the Department in 1945. O'Brien earned great respect and affection from her colleagues and students, and in 1964, the students established the Katharine E. O'Brien Mathematics award, given annually to an outstanding student. O'Brien was also a talented pianist, directed the Girls' Glee Club for several years, and composed scores for them to perform. In addition to teaching at Deering, O'Brien lectured at Brown University and the University of Maine, and continued to write and publish poetry, a collection of which was published by the Anthoensen Press in 1967 (*Excavation and Other Verse*). O'Brien was awarded three honorary doctorates between 1960-65, from Bates, the University of Maine, and Bowdoin College, and received the Deborah Morton Award from Westbrook College in 1985. Throughout her career, O'Brien was active in numerous

professional and academic organizations, including Phi Beta Kappa, the Poetry Society of America, and the Mathematical Association of America.

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Collection Scope and Content

This collection documents O'Brien's creative work as well as her high school teaching career. Among the creative works included are poetry notes and drafts, published verse, musical scores, and literary correspondence. The collection includes O'Brien's Deering High School files from 1940-1971. These files are made up of class schedules, correspondence, programs from events, annual reports of the Math Department, and clippings about students and the school (especially regarding honors won by her students.) Other professional correspondence is also included, as well as biographical information and material pertaining to O'Brien's honorary degrees.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Katharine E. O'Brien Papers, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Libraries, Portland, Maine

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Controlled Access Headings

- Mathematics -- Study and teaching
- American poetry -- 20th century
- Portland (Me.)
- Manuscripts
- Correspondence
- Clippings
- Scrapbooks
- Music
- Photographs
- O'Brien, Katharine E. (Katharine Elizabeth)
- O'Brien, Katharine E. (Katharine Elizabeth)
- Deering High School (Portland, Me.)
- Deborah Morton Society (University of New England)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Poetry manuscripts	Box 1	Folder 001
Poetry with correspondence	Box 1	Folder 002
Poetry and correspondence, 1966-1969	Box 1	Folder 003
Poetry notes and drafts - journal	Box 1	Folder 004
Poetry notes and drafts - journal inserts	Box 1	Folder 005
Poetry notes and drafts - journal inserts	Box 1	Folder 006
Notes and clippings	Box 1	Folder 007
Poetry - Two Year College Mathematics Journal, 1981 November	Box 1	Folder 008
Published Verse [scrapbook], 1931-1988	Box 1	Folder 009
Published Verse [scrapbook], 1931-1988	Box 1	Folder 010
Articles: Mathematics Teacher, 1956 February	Box 1	Folder 011
Articles: Phantasm 5(2), 1980	Box 1	Folder 012
Music: 10 manuscripts / sheet music	Box OVS 1	Folder 013
[Musical scores]	Box 1	Folder 014
Music: When I Set Out For Lyonesse	Box 1	Folder 015
Music programs: Rossini Club	Box 1	Folder 016
Music: certificate and score sheet - Western Maine Music Festival, 1941	Box 1	Folder 017
Music: Correspondence	Box 1	Folder 018
Thesis - abbreviated form	Box 1	Folder 019
Literary Correspondence, 1931-1956	Box 1	Folder 020
	Box 1	Folder 021
Literary Correspondence, 1947-1964	Box 1	Folder 022
Correspondence, 1958-1969	Box 1	Folder 023
Literary Correspondence, 1957-1973	Box 1	Folder 024
Literary Correspondence, 1966-1970	Box 1	Folder 025
[Correspondence with Poetry Society of America], 1971-1975	Box 1	Folder 026
Literary Correspondence, 1973-1980	Box 1	Folder 027
Literary Correspondence, 1974-1982	Box 1	Folder 028

Letters about Excavations and Other Verse	Box 1	Folder 029
	Box 1	Folder 030
	Box 1	Folder 031
Percy Grainger autographed photograph	Box 1	Folder 032
Photographs of KOB, 1905, circa 1930-1939, 1965	Box 1	Folder 033
Deering High School Files: Girls' Glee Club, 1940-1945	Box 1	Folder 034
Deering High School Files, 1940-1941	Box 1	Folder 035
Deering High School Files, 1941-1942	Box 1	Folder 036
Deering High School Files, 1942-1943	Box 1	Folder 037
Deering High School Files, 1943-1944	Box 1	Folder 038
Deering High School Files, 1944-1945	Box 1	Folder 039
Deering High School Files, 1945-1946	Box 1	Folder 040
Deering High School Files, 1946-1947	Box 1	Folder 041
Deering High School Files, 1947-1948	Box 1	Folder 042
Deering High School Files, 1948-1949	Box 1	Folder 043
Deering High School Files, 1949-1950	Box 1	Folder 044
Deering High School Files, 1950-1951	Box 1	Folder 045
Deering High School Files, 1951-1952	Box 1	Folder 046
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Deering High School Files, 1953-1954	Box 1	Folder 048
Deering High School Files, 1954-1955	Box 1	Folder 049
Deering High School Files, 1955-1956	Box 1	Folder 050
Deering High School Files, 1956-1957	Box 1	Folder 051
Deering High School Files, 1957-1958	Box 1	Folder 052
Deering High School Files, 1959-1960	Box 1	Folder 053
Deering High School Files, 1960-1961	Box 2	Folder 054
Deering High School Files, 1961-1962	Box 2	Folder 055
Deering High School Files, 1962-1963	Box 2	Folder 056
Mu Alpha Theta - Governor, 1962-1964	Box 2	Folder 057
Deering High School Files, 1963-1964	Box 2	Folder 058
Deering High School Files, 1964-1965	Box 2	Folder 059
Deering High School Files, 1965-1966	Box 2	Folder 060

Deering High School Files: [Bowdoin Correspondence], 1965-1966	Box 2	Folder 061
Deering High School Files: Correspondence re: Bowdoin honors, 1965	Box 2	Folder 062
Deering High School Files, 1966-1967	Box 2	Folder 063
Deering High School Files, 1967-1968	Box 2	Folder 064
Deering High School Files: Math Department Library, 1968	Box 2	Folder 065
Deering High School Files, 1968-1969	Box 2	Folder 066
Deering High School Files, 1969-1970	Box 2	Folder 067
Deering High School Files, 1970-1971	Box 2	Folder 068
Deering High School Files: Class record book, 1970-1971	Box 2	Folder 069
Deering High School Files: Evaluations, 1958, 1964, 1968	Box 2	Folder 070
Deering High School Files: Clippings and correspondence, 1948-1971	Box 2	Folder 071
Deering High School Files: Clippings, 1958-1971	Box 2	Folder 072
Deering High School Files: Clippings to Keep, 1958-1971	Box 2	Folder 073
Deering High School Files: Student honors, 1972-1982	Box 2	Folder 074
Correspondence, 1970-1974	Box 2	Folder 075
Correspondence re: naming Vocational Center after Carleton Wiggin, 1975-1976	Box 2	Folder 076
Letters re: Vocational-Technical Center, 1976	Box 2	Folder 077
Class of '58 reunion, 1988	Box 2	Folder 078
Nabokov	Box 2	Folder 079
[Math material]	Box 2	Folder 080
Math material as enclosures found in Sequences by O'Brien and Mainstream of Mathematics by Fraleigh	Box 2	Folder 080a
[Mathematics and poetry]	Box 2	Folder 081
	Box 2	Folder 082
Colby College Special Collections, 1986-1987	Box 2	Folder 083
Biographical information	Box 2	Folder 084
	Box 2	Folder 085
"A Portrait of Katherine O'Brien" by Maureen Doyle, 1968 December 10	Box 2	Folder 086
[Hobbies / interests]	Box 2	Folder 087
Westbrook College Commencement - Deborah Morton Award, 1985	Box 2	Folder 088

Deborah Morton Society Citation, 1985	Box 2	Folder 088a
[Honorary doctorate - material and photos]	Box 2	Folder 089
Honorary diploma - University of Maine, 1960	Box 2	Folder 090
Hardy Music at Colby - A Checklist, 1945	Box 2	Folder 091
The American Mathematical Monthly, 1960 December	Box 2	Folder 092
Bowdoin Alumnus, 1965 July	Box 2	Folder 093
Bates College Bulletin, 1965 September	Box 2	Folder 094
Bowdoin College Bulletin, 1968 March	Box 2	Folder 095
The Maine Alumnus, 1971 January-February	Box 2	Folder 096
Westbrook College Alumni Magazine, 1985	Box 2	Folder 097
Bates Alumni Magazine, 1986 September	Box 2	Folder 098
Mathematical Calendars w/KOB's poetry, 1983, 1984	Box 2	Folder 099
Laminated article re: KOB's retirement, 1971	Box OVS 1	Folder 100