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Miriam Colwell collection, 1945-1998

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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:	Colwell, Miriam, 1917-
Title:	Miriam Colwell collection
ID:	0074
Date [inclusive]:	1945-1998
Physical Description:	.5 linear feet 16 folders
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Miriam Colwell collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Born in Prospect Harbor in 1917, Miriam Colwell moved to New York City after graduating from the University of Maine at Orono. While there, she wrote freelance articles, did consumer research and wrote poetry. A few years later, with her companion Chenoweth Hall, she returned to Maine to take over as Prospect Harbor's postmaster from her grandfather upon his retirement. It was in the early 1940s that she began to write short stories and then novels, setting her books in Maine and depicting the changing demographics of the population along the coast. Her first book, *Wind Off the Water*, was published in 1945, followed by *Day of the Trumpet* in 1947, and then *Young* in 1955. In 1955, Robert Linder compared her to J. D. Salinger. He found *Young* "an amazingly perceptive study of the modern girl in her late adolescence. What J.D. Salinger did for the [American] male, Miriam Colwell has done for the [American] female." After the publication of *Young*, Colwell stopped writing. It wasn't until 2006 that her fourth book, a manuscript written in 1955 and then abandoned, was published as *Contentment Cove* and Colwell enjoyed a resurgence of public interest in her work. With Chenoweth Hall, who was a writer, painter, sculptor and teacher, Colwell enjoyed a stimulating life enriched by artist friends such as Berenice Abbott, Ruth Moore, Eleanor Mayo, Christine Weston, Marsden Hartley, John Marin and others.

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Collection Scope and Content

This collection includes an article about Miriam Colwell and Clifford S. Reynolds (Precursors of the "real" Maine by Sanford Phippen), reviews, and publishers' manuscripts for three of her books - Wind off the water, Day of the trumpet and Young.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized as a single series. Arranged by subject.

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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

Chenoweth Hall slides, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

Chenoweth Hall papers, Smithsonian Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Miriam Colwell, 2005 June 10-11, Smithsonian Archives of American Art

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Controlled Access Headings

- Prospect Harbor (Me.)
- Clippings
- Manuscripts
- Colwell, Miriam, 1917-
- Colwell, Miriam, 1917-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
"A Precursor of the "Real" Maine: Miriam Colwell and Clifford S. Reynolds" by Sanford Phippen; also excerpt, 1986	Box 1	Folder 001
Manuscript notes attributed to Miriam Colwell by Cally Gurley, undated	Box 1	Folder 002
Articles, reviews, circa 1940-1959	Box 1	Folder 003

Article by J. Barnes, 1998	Box 1	Folder 004
Publisher's MS -- Wind Off the Water, 1945	Box 1	Folder 005
	Box 1	Folder 006
	Box 1	Folder 007
	Box 1	Folder 008
Publisher's MS -- Day of the Trumpet, 1946	Box 1	Folder 009
	Box 1	Folder 010
	Box 1	Folder 011
	Box 1	Folder 012
Publisher's MS -- Young, 1955	Box 1	Folder 013
	Box 1	Folder 014
	Box 1	Folder 015
	Box 1	Folder 016
Sanford Phippen talk at Gouldsboro Historical Society, 2017	Box 1	Folder 017