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Sue McConkey papers, 1912-2001

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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:	McConkey, Sue, 1911-2001
Title:	Sue McConkey papers
ID:	0224
Date [inclusive]:	1912-2001
Physical Description:	.5 linear foot 42 folders
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Sue McConkey papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Born in 1911 in Littleton, New Hampshire, Lillian "Sue" Goldberg lived in the Conway area until her marriage to Thomas Wright McConkey in 1934. The two settled on a hilltop farm, Star Hill, in Alfred in 1947. McConkey did not start writing until she was about 40, when she was encouraged to try writing poetry, and attended a Breadloaf summer conference. Her first volume of poetry, *The View From Douglas Hill*, was published in 1958 by Wake-Brook House, a small press specializing in hand-crafted books. Her second and third books, *Hold Bright the Star* and *Jade Bough, White Shadows*, came out five and ten years later, also from Wake-Brook House. McConkey's poetry is described as spare, clean and acute, and she was regarded as master of the forms of Tanka and Haiku. She was highly regarded for her encouragement of young poets, who came from around New England to "Star Hill Poetry Day," a program founded by McConkey and her husband. McConkey was President of the Poetry Fellowship of Maine from 1962-63, and received several awards from the Maine Writers Conference, as well as honorary degrees from Nasson College in 1971 and Westbrook College in 1980. She was well-known as a speaker and for her involvement in national patriotic and literary organizations.

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Collection Scope and Content

This collection contains biographical material, including family photographs, and transcripts from interviews with McConkey. Other items include published articles about the writer and her work, material associated with the Poetry Fellowship of Maine, and chapbooks containing some of her poems. Also found in the collection is correspondence from McConkey addressed to the Maine Women Writers Collection curators and to Jeffrey Lee, a poet she mentored throughout the 1970s and '80s.

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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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Controlled Access Headings

- American poetry -- 20th century
- Alfred (Me.)
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Manuscripts
- McConkey, Sue, 1911-2001
- McConkey, Sue, 1911-2001
- Wake-Brook House (Firm)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Poetry, published and manuscript, 1970-1979	Box 1	Folder 001
Verse in Maine Writers' Conference Chapbooks, 1973-1979	Box 1	Folder 002
Reviews and clippings, 1960-1970	Box 1	Folder 003
Interview summaries by Grace Dow, 1969	Box 1	Folder 004
Correspondence with Dorothy Healy and Grace Dow, undated	Box 1	Folder 005
Wake-Brook House Publishers, 1971	Box 1	Folder 006
Correspondence to Jeffrey Lee, 1976	Box 1	Folder 007
Correspondence to Jeffrey Lee (9 items), 1977	Box 1	Folder 008
Correspondence to Jeffrey Lee (6 items), 1980-1989	Box 1	Folder 009
Letter to MWWC from Jeffrey Lee explaining correspondence from Sue McConkey, 2001	Box 1	Folder 010
Photographs, family, undated	Box 1	Folder 011
Photographs, Sue McConkey as a child, undated	Box 1	Folder 012

Photographs (9), 1930-1969	Box 1	Folder 013
Photographs, Tom and Sue McConkey (4), 1942, undated	Box 1	Folder 014
Photographs, Tom McConkey (4), undated	Box 1	Folder 015
Photographs, Tom McConkey (3), undated	Box 1	Folder 016
Photographs (2) and clipping DAR, undated	Box 1	Folder 017
Photographs, Nellie and Willie Parker (4), 1912	Box 1	Folder 018
Photograph, Margaret ?, friend, 1937	Box 1	Folder 019
Photographs (5), family homes, undated	Box 1	Folder 020
Photographs (2), book displays, undated	Box 1	Folder 021
Weston [VT] Playhouse program, 1941	Box 1	Folder 022
Highlights - Poetry Fellowship of Maine, 1936-1986	Box 1	Folder 023
Thomas McConkey booklet on seeding, 1987	Box 1	Folder 024
Young poets booklet and poetry poster, 1976, 1978	Box 1	Folder 025
Student papers on SLM, 1971	Box 1	Folder 026
Honorary degree from Nasson College, 1971	Box 1	Folder 027
Deborah Morton Award, biographical information, 1980	Box 1	Folder 028
Geneology of the Zimmerman Family, 1947	Box 1	Folder 029
Death certificate (copy), 2001 January 28	Box 1	Folder 030
Poetry group feedback letter to H. Frederick Hartman, undated	Box 1	Folder 031
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman, 1964-1965 Digital Object: Your messages of springtime happiness came...	Box 1	Folder 032
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman, 1966	Box 2	Folder 033
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman, 1967	Box 2	Folder 034
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman, 1968	Box 2	Folder 035
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman, 1969-1970	Box 2	Folder 036
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman, undated, circa 1960s	Box 2	Folder 037
	Box 2	Folder 038
Correspondence to H. Frederick Hartman--book brochures, 1958-1968	Box 2	Folder 039
Letter from Tom McConkey to H. Frederick Hartman, undated	Box 2	Folder 040
"Meeting Sue McConkey--Poet" essay by Bonnie Studdiford (2 copies), 1990 April 19	Box 2	Folder 041
Sue McConkey estate auction newspaper notice, undated	Box 2	Folder 042

Correspondence to Paul & Georgia Basko, 1977-1990, undated

Box 2

Folder 043