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Beatrix Gates papers, 1976-2007

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical Note	3
Collection Scope and Content	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Bibliography	6
Collection Inventory	11
Granite Press	11

Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Title:	Beatrix Gates papers
ID:	0189
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/3/resources/989
Date [inclusive]:	1976-2007
Physical Description:	11 linear feet 11 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Beatrix Gates papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical Note

Beatrix Gates was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1949, and it was there, prowling the neighborhood bookstores in her youth, that she began to teach herself about poetry. One thing that distinguishes her work is her holistic approach to writing, as she has contributed to every phase and aspect of bookmaking; she is also a pioneer in the Women-in-Print movement of lesbian writers and artists.

Gates designed and printed her first book, *native tongue*, in 1973 in a letterpress edition under the Hopalong Press imprint. A few years later, as poet, printer, book artist, and lesbian feminist publisher, she founded Granite Press (1975-1989) in Penobscot, Maine. She has participated in building three printshops: in a barn in Monterey, Massachusetts; the old post office in Hancock, Maine; and the old cannery in South Penobscot, Maine. Gates designed and printed her second book, *Shooting at Night*, at Granite Press (1980), supported by the Maine Arts Commission. She entered trade publishing as an independent publisher with Grace Paley's first book of poetry, *Leaning Forward*, followed by Joan Larkin's *A Long Sound*; *IXOK AMAR.GO: Central American Women Poets for Peace* (ed. Zoe Angelsey), a multilingual anthology of 50 women poets and translators; and letterpress editions by Rosa Lane and Jean Valentine. Other

anthologies she edited include *The Wild Good: Lesbian Photographs and Writings on Love* (1996) and her translation with Electa Arenal of Jesús Aguado's *The Poems of Vikram Babu* (2009), which won a Witter Bynner Award.

As poet, activist, and publisher, Gates values working in community and has collaborated with many artists who enjoy the act of play. She has promoted poetry in community settings, such as her collaboration on "Poetry and Masks" with weaver, farmer, and gay activist Ron King for the Farm/Arts Exchange at Reversing Falls Sanctuary. Gates ran the Poetry Series at A Different Light Bookstore in New York City, the oldest LGBTQ bookstore in the U.S., from 1990 to 1996, highlighting emerging and published poets and honoring Essex Hemphill, Audre Lorde, and Muriel Rukeyser. She conceived and wrote the libretto for *The Singing Bridge*, an opera supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and produced in 2005 by Opera House Arts in Stonington, Maine. During the Covid pandemic, Gates led "Reading Poetry Together" for her local library, sharing works of poetry and prose online by former Poet Laureate Joy Harjo of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mary Oliver, Walt Whitman, and Pablo Neruda (in translation). And she curated the reading and conversation series "SIDELINES/ In Translation in more than one language" at The Cannery in South Penobscot, Maine, where she also served on the Board and participated in "Making the Archives Sing! Voicing Histories," where she and former Maine Poet Laureate Julia Bouwsma shared poetry from invisible histories.

Beyond those works already mentioned, Gates is the author of *Ten Minutes* (2006 and 2011) and *Dos* (2014); more recently, in 2020 Artifact Press published her *desire lines*, which addresses forced and chosen migration, as a letterpress limited edition with prints on hand-made paper by poet and artist Heidi Reszies. Gates' 2023 book, *The Burning Key: New and Selected Poems 1973-2023* (Thera Books), featured new and uncollected poetry, letterpress editions, award-winning translations, and selections from seven books, including her Lambda Literary Award Poetry Finalist *In the Open* (1998). She has also published nonfiction, translations, and original poetry in *The Kenyon Review*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, *Anthem*, and many other venues.

A member of the Goddard MFA faculty for many years, Gates taught writing and literature in graduate and undergraduate programs at NYU, Bedford Hills Correctional facility, Borough of Manhattan Community College and City College in CUNY's system, Maine Maritime Academy, and Colby College, as well as in urban and rural library and community settings. She earned an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and a BA from Antioch College and has been awarded fellowships by the MacDowell Colony, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Ucross Foundation, among others. She lives in Down East Maine.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Scope and Content

The Beatrix Gates papers covers diverse materials from late 20th century poetry, publishing, and letterpress printing. In the Granite Press series, which makes up the majority of the collection, one can follow the various steps necessary to publish a trade paperback poetry book from pre-publication and editing to publicity, as well as examining the various business/financial aspects of a small press. In addition to information about Granite Press's two paperback poetry books by Grace Paley and Joan Larkin, there is a significant amount of material on Granite Press's ground-breaking anthology of Central American Women Poetry, IXOK AMAR GO, including the complicated relationship between Gates and the anthology's editor. The papers also contain a substantial number of letterpress drafts and proofs, which document the various stages of letterpress printing. In both the career and biographical series, there is information about Gates's career as a poet and teacher, correspondence with poets, as well as material about lesbian and gay activities such as "Gary's Gay Roommate Service" and a 1992 Pride Guide New York City.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically into four series (Granite Press, Career, Writing, Biographical).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library
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716 Stevens Avenue
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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Bibliography

Beatrix Gates papers Books donated with Gates papers

created by MWWC Archivist Jefferson Navicky (December 2024)

!AHA! Hispanic Arts News

No. 49, May 1985

The American Poetry Review Vol. 17 No. 3, May/June 1988; Vol. 17 No. 2, March 1988;
Vol. 16 No. 6, November 1987; Vol. 16 No. 5, September 1987; Vol. 16 No. 1, January 1987;
special supplement May/June 1983;

The Antioch Review

Winter 1981

Belles Lettres: A Review of Books by Women

September/October 1987; May/June 1987; March/April 1988; September/October 1985;

Beloit Poetry Journal

Vol. 66 No. 2, Winter 2015-2016; Vol. 65 No. 3, Spring 2015

Bilingual Review/Press 1983-84 Catalog

Black Studies: Books for Courses, Oxford University Press

Book People Subject Catalog

Spring 1988

Book Paper

March 1988; April 1982

The Boston Review

Vol. 13 No. 5, June 1988

Bridges: A Journal for Jewish Feminist and Our Friends

Vol. 1, Spring 1990; Vol. 2 Spring 1991; Vol. 1, Spring 1990; Vol. 3, Spring 1992; Vol. 2, Fall 1991

Cleis Press

1988 catalog

Clergy and Laity Concerned Report

Vol. 13, No. 6

Crab Orchard Review

Vol. 17 No. 1, Winter/Spring 2012

Cream City Review

Spring 2006

The Crossing Press

Spring 1987 catalog; Fall 1982 catalog

The Crystal Quilt

Spring 1993

Curbstone Press

Winter 1988 catalog

David R. Godine, Publisher

Spring and Summer catalog 1975;

Denis Johnson and Jean Valentine Reading, Dia Center for the Arts, NYC, March 4, 1999

Despairwork by Joanna Macy

Duke Ellington Sacred Concert, Manhattan School of Music, December 1993

Fine Print: The Review for the Arts of the Book Vol. 12 No. 1, January 1986; Vol. 11 No. 4, October 1985; Vol. 11 No. 2, April 1985; Vol. 11 No. 3, July 1985; Vol. 13 No. 4, October 1987; Vol. 13 No. 2, April 1987;

The Gay & Lesbian Review

Vol. XI No. 1, Jan/Feb 2004

Gay Community News

Vol. 16 No. 3, July 24-30 1988; Vol. 13 No. 43, May 24 1986; Vol. 15 No. 17, November 8-14 1987; Vol. 15 No. 28, January 31-February 6 1988; Vol. 15 No. 4, August 2-8 1987; Vol. 15 No. 44, May 29-June 4 1988; Vol. 15 No. 14, October 18-24 1987; Vol. 15 No. 33, March 6-12 1988; Vol. 15 No. 34, March 13-19 1988; Vol. 15 No. 39, April 17-23 1988; Vol. 15 No. 3, July 26-August 1987; Vol. 12 No. 9, September 15 1984;

GCN: The National Queer Progressive Quarterly

Vol. 24, No. 2, 1998

The Georgia Review

Spring 2024

Feminist Bookstore News Vol. 11 No. 1, June 1988; Vol. 10 No. 6, April 1988; Vol. 9 No. 5, March-April 1987; Vol. 10 No. 5, February 1988; Vol. 10 No. 4, December 1987; Vol. 9 No. 6 and Vol. 10 No. 1, May-June 1987; Vol. 9 No. 3-4, January-February 1987; Vol. 9 No. 1, September-October 1986; Vol. 8 No. 5, April-May 1986;

The Feminist Press catalog 1977

First Proof

Summer 2008

Harrington Park Press

Spring 1988 catalog

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press

1986 catalog

Lambda Book Report: A Contemporary Review of Gay & Lesbian Literature Vol. 9 No. 4, December 2000; Vol. 10 No. 1, July/August 2001; Vol. 10, No. 2, September 2001; Vol. 10 No. 3, October 2001; Vol. 10 No. 4 and No. 5, November/December 2001; Vol. 10 No. 6, January 2002; Vol. 10 No. 9, April 2002; Vol. 10 No. 7, February 2002;

Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter

June 1993; June 1992; February 1988

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance brochure (undated)

The Maine Review

Vol. 3 No. 2, Spring 2017; Vol. 3 No. 2, Winter 2016

Matrix: Women's News Magazine

June 1987;

NACLA: Report on the Americas

Vol. 32 No. 5, March/April 1999

The Nation

July 5, 1993

New Directions for Women

Vol. 17 No. 3, May 1988; Nol. 17 No. 1, January 1988; Vol. 16 No. 4, July/August 1987; Vol. 17 No. 2, March/April 1988

Nicaraguan Perspectives

No. 16, Winter 1988;

Nimrod

Vol. 21 No. 1, Fall/Winter 1987

off our backs: a women's journal

Vol. 18 No. 4, April 1988; Vol. 18 No. 5, May 1988; Vol. 18 No. 8, August/September 1988

One Meadway

Issue No. 1, Spring 1991

Open Places No. 41, Spring 1986; Nos. 31 & 32, Fall 1981; Nos. 38 & 39, Spring 1985; No. 33, Spring 1982; No. 36, Fall/Winter 1983

Outlines: The Voice of the Gay and Lesbian Community

Vol. 1 No. 35, February 1989

Pen America: A Journal for Writers and Readers

Issue 2017, 2014

Poetry April 1986; November 2013; March 2014; July/August 2013; December 2013; October 2013; May 2014; April 2014; September 2013; January 2014; February 2014

Prairie Schooner

Spring 2017

Publishers Weekly

Vol. 231 No. 4, January 30, 1987

Puckerbrush Review

Vol. 4 No. 1, Summer 1981; Vol. 3 No. 2, Autumn/Winter 1980; Vol. 2 No. 1, Spring 1979

Rattapallax 7, 2002

Rattle

Winter 2016

Review: Latin American Literature and Arts

July-December 1987;

River City

Vol. 19 No. 2; Summer 1999

Skimming for Krill: Poems by Students of Fisher Mitchell School, 1986

Sinister Wisdom

Fall 2010

Small Press: The Magazine of Independent Publishing Vol. 2 no. 4, March/April 1985; Vol. 3 No. 1, September/October 1985; Vol. 2 No. 6, July/August 1985; Vol. 2 No. 5, May/June 1985; Vol. 3 no. 3, January/February 1986; Vol. 3 No. 4, March/April 1986; Vol. 3 no. 5, May/June 1986; Vol. 2 No. 3, January/February 1985; Vol. 2 No. 2, November/December 1984; Vol. 4 No. 1, September/October 1986; Vol. 5 No. 2, December 1987; Vol. 5 No. 1, October 1987; Vol. 1 No. 6, July/August 1984; Vol. 4 No. 5, June 1987;

Sojourner: The Women's Forum Vol. 24 No. 11, July 1999; Vol. 14 No. 1, September 1988; Vol. 13 No. 9, May 1988; Vol. 13 No. 8, April 1988; June 1984; Vol. 12 No. 11, July 1987; February 1986; January 1986; December 1985; Vol. 13 No. 3, November 1987; Vol. 12 No. 12, August 1987;

South End Press

Spring 1988 catalog

Sunbury Press catalog, undated

The Talman Company catalog (undated)

The Threepenny Review

Spring 1988

Teachers and Writers Collaborative 1988-1989 Catalogue; Selections from Discussion on Writenet in the aftermath of September 11, 2001;

Time Out New York

No. 351, June 20-27 2002

Walking to New Zealand: Poems, Stories, and Recipes by Viki Radden

White Pine Press

Winter/Spring 1989 catalog

Woman of Power: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics

Issue 4, Fall 1986

The Women's Review of Books Vol. 3, No. 12, September 1986; Vol. 3 No. 9, June 1986; Vol 4 No. 8, May 1987; Vol 4 No. 2, November 1986; Vol. 4 No. 6, March 1987; Vol. 9 No. 9, June 1992; Vol. 8 No. 6, March 1991; Vol. 5 No. 9, June 1988; Vol. 5, No. 8, May 1988; Vol 5 No. 7, April 1988; Vol. 4 No. 12, September 1987; Vol. 9 No. 9, June 1987; The Writer's Voice

Fall 1991

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Granite Press, 1976-1988, undated

Title/Description	Instances	
Marilyn Anderson photos of Guatemalan women - 8: x 10" IXOK, 1976, undated	Box 1	Folder 001
Lisa Creed broadside "Jazz", 1977	Box 1	Folder 002
Personal Printing Jobs, 1978-1983, undated	Box 1	Folder 003
"Job for Bill Rand" -- Large format prints, 1979-1980	Box 9	Folder 004
A Spectra I Anthology cover design & original art (Westbrook College and Maine Association of Women in the Fine & Performing Arts), 1979	Box 1	Folder 005
Roots & Reckonings by Rosa Lane, letterpress proofs, 1980	Box 1	Folder 006
Roots & Reckonings by Rosa Lane Layout/Design, 1980	Box 9	Folder 007
Lilian Jimenez for IXOK, 1980	Box 1	Folder 008

Beatrix Gates papers, 1976-2007

Shooting at Night by Gates proofs, 1980	Box 1	Folder 009
Granite Press publicity/press, 1981	Box 1	Folder 010
Granite Press correspondence, 1982-1988	Box 1	Folder 011
Granite Press supplies/Vandercook repairs, 1982	Box 1	Folder 012
Jean Valentine poem proofs from Vandercook, 1982	Box 9	Folder 013
Letterpress class, 1982	Box 1	Folder 014
Blue Hill Library Art Show, 1983	Box 1	Folder 015
Bagaduce Vineyards, 1984	Box 1	Folder 016
Michael Bixler Press & Letterfoundry, 1984	Box 1	Folder 017
Emerson Books of Blue Hill stationary, letterhead, bookmarks, 1984	Box 1	Folder 018
IRS/tax related receipts, 1984-1989	Box 1	Folder 019
Inland & BookPeople correspondence, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 020
Financials, 1985	Box 1	Folder 021
Leaning Forward printer plans & expenses, Furbush-Roberts, 1985	Box 1	Folder 022
Leaning Forward trade paperback announcement, 1985	Box 1	Folder 023
Baker & Taylor, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 024
Returns & credit, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 025
Invoices, comps, review copies, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 026
Inland Books, Daedalus Books, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, Publishers Group West, Bookslinger, New York Bookfair, 1985-1987	Box 1	Folder 027
"Grand totals, costs to date", 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 028
Leaning Forward proof & blues, 185	Box 1	Folder 029
Granite Press account sheets, 1985-1990	Box 1	Folder 030
Bookpeople & Blackwell North America, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 031
Comps, press releases, ads, 1985-1987, undated	Box 1	Folder 032
Correspondence with Sarah Creighton, book binder, 1985	Box 1	Folder 033
Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance trip with Gates to Nicaragua, 1985	Box 1	Folder 034
IXOK advertising info, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 035
IXOK related periodical materials, 1985-1988	Box 1	Folder 036
IXOK calls for submissions, 1985-1986	Box 1	Folder 037

Beatrix Gates papers, 1976-2007

Photos & correspondence from Margot Balboni re: Grace Paley headshots and cover of Leaning Forward, 1985	Box 1	Folder 038
Grace Paley & Joan Larkin contracts, 1985	Box 1	Folder 039
Purchasing publishing rights for Leaning Forward & A Long Sound, 1985-1990	Box 1	Folder 040
Letter drafts to Adrienne Rich & Michelle Cliff, 1985	Box 1	Folder 041
Granite Press logo designed by Adrienne Weiss, 1985, undated	Box 2	Folder 042
Granite Press permissions, 1985-1989	Box 2	Folder 043
Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance newsletter with photo of Gates & Paley on back, 1985	Box 2	Folder 044
Warwick Press correspondence, 1985	Box 2	Folder 045
American Friends Service Committee re: IXOK, 1985	Box 2	Folder 046
IXOK grand totals, cost to date + sales reports, 1985-1988	Box 2	Folder 047
"Poems CA '85 -- YB, BR, PA, DZ, MM, SGB" for IXOK, 1985	Box 2	Folder 048
New York Central Supply Correspondence + Fine Papers catalogue, 1985	Box 2	Folder 049
Tewell Advertising, Ellsworth, 1985-1986	Box 2	Folder 050
Motley paid invoices Oct-Dec, 1986	Box 2	Folder 051
New England telephone bills, 1986-1987	Box 2	Folder 052
IXOK itinerary tour, 1986	Box 2	Folder 053
IXOK table of contents, 1986	Box 2	Folder 054
Zoe Angelsey, IXOK editor + correspondence with Gates + contract, 2 of 2, 1986-1988	Box 2	Folder 057

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)