

Harriet Morgan Tyng (1905-1952)
Papers, 1926-1952
MS 106 & MSA 473

Introduction

This collection consists of manuscript and published poems, plays, travel journals, and personal letters of Harriet Morgan Tyng (1905-1952) of Troy, New York, and other locations. The collection is housed in two archival flip-top boxes and consumes .75 linear feet of shelf space. The collection came to the Vermont Historical Society in two pieces from the estate of Ruth Savage Planten in 1964 and 1965.

Biographical Notes

Harriet Morgan Tyng was born May 17, 1905, in Cranford, New Jersey, the daughter of Sarah Margareta Hyde and Francis William Tyng, Sr. She graduated from Barnard College in 1928, and did graduate work in English and education at Columbia University and Bryn Mawr College. While at Barnard College Tyng was elected as an editor of *Bulletin*, the college weekly newspaper, and as editor-in-chief of *The Barnacle*, the college magazine.

She published two volumes of poems: *Open Letter and Other Poems* in 1938 and *Vermont Village* in 1947. *Later Poems* was published posthumously in 1954 by Barnard College. Her poetry also appeared in *The New York Sun* and *The Evening Telegram*, New York City, and in *Torchbearer*, a publication of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Tyng taught at Miss Fine's School in Princeton, New Jersey; Montgomery School for Boys (later Montgomery Country Day School) in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania; and Winsor School in Boston, Massachusetts.

She later served as Director of the Willard Day School in Troy, New York, from 1946-1952. She was a factor in making the Willard School a co-educational institution. Under her administration a curriculum was developed that included music, art, and science for all students as well as the regular course of studies.

She visited Vermont frequently and died October 31, 1952, at the age of 47 in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, after a lengthy illness.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of typed and penciled drafts of poems, 1926-1952; clippings of poems published 1926-1932; other writings, travel journals, 1938-1939; and personal correspondence, 1950-1952. The collection includes a typescript version of *Vermont Village* that contains about fifty more poems than in the published volume.

One notebook contains clippings of poems published 1926-1932 in newspapers with check stubs and a list of payments received for published works, along with rejection letters from the *Voices* magazine.

Personal correspondence contains letters written to her friend, Ruth Planten (Mrs. W.R.J. Planten), born in 1878, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, also referred to as 'Coolin' in correspondence. Mrs. Planten made generous donations to the public library in Craftsbury Common, Vermont, and served as library trustee there. These letters, together with poems dedicated to her and including her, depict a strong friendship between these two women and explain Harriet Tyng's connection to Vermont and especially to the village of Craftsbury Common.

Of particular note are Tyng's observations of pre-war Holland, Belgium, France, and England during her travels in July and August of 1939. She departed from London on August 25, 1939, arriving back in the United States on the day of Germany's invasion of Poland.

Related Collections

A copy of Harriet Tyng's book *Vermont Village* (New York: Stephen Daye Press, 1947) is in the VHS stacks at 811 T979. A photographic portrait of her is in the picture file at F-PO-Tyng, Harriet.

Inventory

Writings and correspondence

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| MS 106:01 | Handwritten poems. |
| 02 | Typed poems. |
| 03 | Booklets of typed and printed poems. |
| 04 | Essay, story and plays for children. |
| 05 | Barnard College and Emma Willard School related clippings. |
| 06 | Correspondence to Ruth Planten from Tyng 1950-1952, and from individuals regarding posthumous publication of poetry 1953-1954. |
| 07 | Typed manuscript, <i>Vermont Village</i> . |

Notebooks

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| MSA 473:01 | Composition notebook containing clippings of poems from various publications, with check stubs and list of receipts, labeled "Published Poems." |
| 02 | Tan notebook of typed poems, 1942. |
| 03 | Composition book of handwritten poems labeled Poems-Lists-Etc. |
| 04 | Composition book of handwritten poems. |
| 05 | Travel journal: Labrador-August, 1938. |
| 06 | Travel journal: Holland, Belgium, France, England-Summer, 1939. |
| 07 | Account book of charitable donations used also as an index to her poems. |

Leslie Rowell
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