

Reginald Gibbons:

A Preliminary Inventory of his Collection of William Goyen (1915-1983) and Thomas McGrath (1916-1990) in the Manuscript Collection at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

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| Creator: | Gibbons, Reginald, 1947- |
| Title: | Reginald Gibbons Collection of William Goyen and Thomas McGrath |
| Dates: | 1945-2004 |
| Extent: | 12 boxes (5.04 linear feet) |
| Abstract: | This collection reflects Gibbons' advocacy for the publication of the works of William Goyen and Thomas McGrath, especially during his years as editor of Northwestern University's <i>TriQuarterly</i> literary magazine and TriQuarterly Books. The collection primarily consists of typescripts of works, interviews, reviews, and correspondence. |
| Call Number: | Manuscript Collection MS-05000 |
| Language: | English |
| Access: | Open for research, except for restricted correspondence and versions of "Leander" |

Administrative Information

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| Acquisition: | Gift, 2005 (G12425) |
| Processed by: | Liz Murray, 2006 |
| Repository: | Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin |

Scope and Contents

Poet, writer, literary critic, and academic, Reginald Gibbons enjoyed a long-standing personal and professional relationship with William Goyen and Thomas McGrath. This collection reflects Gibbons' advocacy for the publication of both writers' works, especially during his years as editor of Northwestern University's *TriQuarterly* literary magazine and TriQuarterly Books. The material, primarily typescripts of works, interviews, reviews, and correspondence, is organized in three Series: I. William Goyen; II. Gibbons Correspondence re Goyen, 1981-2004; and III. Thomas McGrath.

The William Goyen Series is subdivided into three Subseries: A. Works; B. Goyen Correspondence, 1945-1983; and C. About Goyen.

The Works in Subseries A. contain short stories and novels already present in the Ransom Center's Goyen Papers. Titles include *Arcadio* (1983), *Had I a Hundred Mouths: New and Selected Stories, 1947-1983* (1985), *Half a Look of Cain: A Fantastical Narrative* (1994), *House of Breath* (1999), *New Work and Work in Progress* (1983) preface by Joyce Carol Oates, *Precious Door* (1982), and *Wonderful Plant* (1980). Also present are individual short stories and Study Master notes by Goyen for works by Willa Cather and Ralph Ellison.

Subseries B. Goyen Correspondence, 1945-1983, includes original and photocopied letters to and from writers Eve Caram and Katherine Anne Porter, theater director-producer Margo Jones, editor and publisher Carol Southern, and Reginald Gibbons.

Material about Goyen in Subseries C. includes articles, obits, reviews, biographical entries, a 1982 interview for *Masques*, inventories of Goyen's literary papers, and a 1992 issue of *Mid-American Review* on Goyen.

The Gibbons correspondence regarding Goyen in Series II. has much to do with his active role as Goyen's literary executor and the publication of Goyen's works. Correspondents include Eve Caram; Clark Davis; Gary Haber; Robert Phillips; Patrice Repousseau, Goyen's wife, actress Doris Roberts; Stephen Spender; Eudora Welty; and others.

The Thomas McGrath papers in Series III. are arranged in two Subseries: A. "Thomas McGrath: Life and the Poem," in *TriQuarterly* 70, 1987, and B. Correspondence re *TriQuarterly* issue and McGrath-Related Material.

Subseries A. contains drafts, corrections, and proofs of an interview conducted between January 30 and February 1, 1987 by Gibbons and Terrence Des Pres. The interview titled "Thomas McGrath: Life and the Poem" was subsequently published as a special issue of *TriQuarterly* and in an expanded version by the University of Illinois Press in 1992.

Much of Subseries B. regarding the *TriQuarterly* interview includes Gibbons' correspondence with Philip Levine, Frederick Stern, British historian E. P. Thompson, and Josh Weiner. Of special interest are numerous letters from McGrath to Gibbons from 1987-1988. Also present is a typescript of an oral interview of Alice McGrath conducted by Michael Balter in 1987.

Separated Material

An audio cassette commemorating a celebration of Tom McGrath on March 15, 1991, in Chicago was transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recordings Collection.

Series I. William Goyen

Subseries A. Works

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| "Another Man's Son," short story, corrected typescripts | Box 1 Folder 1 |
| <i>Arcadio</i> (1983), novel | |
| Corrected typescripts | |
| October 9, 1979 | Folder 2 |
| September 8, 1981 | Folder 3 |
| Uncorrected proof with marginal notes by Gibbons | Folder 4 |
| Drafts of Gibbons's review for <i>The New York Times</i> , November 6, 1983 | Folder 5 |
| Reviews and publicity | Folder 6 |
| <i>The Faces of Blood Kindred: A Novella and Ten Stories</i> (French translation, 1996), reviews | Folder 7 |
| "The Fallen Aerialist: Marvello's Story," published version in <i>The Southern Review</i> , Spring 1991 | Folder 8 |
| <i>Had I a Hundred Mouths: New and Selected Stories, 1947-1983</i> (1985) | |
| Edited typescript and print versions of title story | Folder 9 |
| Edited draft of collected stories | Folder 10 |
| Edited draft, cont'd | Box 2 Folder 1 |
| Preface by Joyce Carol Oates, typescripts and correspondence | Folder 2 |
| Proof, corrected pages | Folder 3 |
| Reviews and correspondence | Folder 4 |

Half a Look of Cain: A Fantastical Narrative (1994), novel

Typescript, incomplete photocopy

Folder
5

"Related papers," typescripts, 1993

Folder
6

Edited typescript, selected galley pages, and afterword, Spring 1994

Folder 7Excerpt in *Gulf Coast*, Summer 1994**Box 3 Folder**
1*House of Breath* (1999), novel

Afterword drafts by Gibbons

Folder 2

Book proposal by Gibbons and Hahn; reviews

Folder 3

"Jesus in My Body, Jesus in My Flesh," uncorrected carbon typescript

Folder 4*New Work and Work in Progress* (1983), short works and interview

Interview, typescripts and fragments

Folder
5-7*TriQuarterly* 56, Winter 1983 issue**Folder**
8*TriQuarterly* and Palaemon Press, camera-ready copy and photocopy of published version, with correspondence**Folder**
9-10*Precious Door* (1982), short stories**Box 4 Folder**

Partial uncorrected typescript

Folder 1

Final versions, November 1980 and 1982

Folder 2-3

Typescript copy from Goyen, inscribed to Gibbons, April 29, 1981

Folder 4

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| "Recovering," typescript, and print version in <i>TriQuarterly</i> 58, Fall 1983 | Folder 5 |
| Short stories, various typescripts and print versions, photocopies | Folder 6 |
| Study Master notes (text by Goyen) for Willa Cather's <i>My Antonia</i> and Ralph Ellison's <i>Invisible Man</i> | Folder 7-8 |
| <i>Wonderful Plant</i> (1980), novel, photocopy of Palaemon Press edition | Folder 9 |
| Subseries B. Goyen Correspondence, 1945-1983 | |
| Caram, Eve, copies of Goyen's letters, with Robert Phillips' correspondence, 1980-1982 | Box 5 Folder 1 |
| Gibbons, Reginald, 1979-1983 | Folder 2 |
| Harry Ransom Center, 1974-1983, and related material | Folder 3 |
| Jones, Margo, photocopies, 1945-1955 | Folder 4-5 |
| Porter, Katherine Anne, photocopies, 1947-1951 | Folder 6 |
| Rice University, 1969-1979 | Folder 7 |
| Southern, Carol, photocopies, 1982-1983 | Folder 8 |
| Subseries C. About Goyen | |
| Articles, obits, reviews, etc. | Box 5 Folder 9 |
| <i>Dictionary of Literary Biography</i> , re Goyen entry | Folder 10 |
| <i>The Handbook of Texas</i> , 1984-1985, with typescripts of Goyen article | Folder 11 |

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| Interview for <i>Masques</i> , Summer 1982, full and edited typescripts | Folder 12 |
| Inventories | |
| 1983, Gibbons | Folder 13 |
| 1984, Nancy Escher | Folder 14 |
| <i>Mid-American Review</i> , vol. 13, no. 1, 1992, issue on Goyen | Box 6 Folder 1 |

Series II. Gibbons Correspondence re Goyen, 1981-2004

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| re Goyen's script "Aimee," 1990 | Box 6 Folder 2 |
| Caram, Eve, 1984-1987 | Folder 3 |
| Davis, Clark, and others re Goyen book projects, 1993-2004 | Folder 4 |
| Haber, Gary, 1984-1985 | Folder 5 |
| Harry Ransom Center | |
| 1983-1988, Decherd Turner | Folder 6 |
| 1990-1999 | Folder 7-8 |
| Hoffman, Mary-Pat, 1987-1995 | Folder 9 |
| Horvath, Brooke, and others re <i>A Goyen Companion</i> (1997) | Folder 10 |
| ICM (Jed Mattes, Roberta Pryor), 1981-1988 | Folder 11 |
| <i>Mid-American Review</i> , 1990-1993 | Box 7 Folder 1 |
| Miller, Steve (Red Ozier Press), 1983-1985 | Folder 2 |
| Permissions, 1989-1994 | Folder 3-4 |
| Phillips, Robert, 1983-2004 | Folder 5 |
| Repusseau, Patrice, 1982-2004 | Folder 6-7 |
| Rice University, Fondren Library, 1984-1985 | Folder 8 |
| Roberts, Doris, 1984-1996 | Box 8 Folder 1 |
| Serpent's Tail Press, 1987 | Folder 2 |
| Spender, Stephen, 1993, with typescript introduction to <i>Selected Letters from a Writer's Life</i> | Folder 3 |

The Texas Humanist, 1983-1986

Folder
4-5

University of Chicago Press, 1985

Folder 6

University of Texas Press, 1984-1994

Folder
7-8

Vaughn, Sam (Doubleday), 1984-1985

Folder
9

Welty, Eudora, 1984

Folder 10

Various correspondents, 1982-1999

Folder
11-12

Series III. Thomas McGrathSubseries A. "Thomas McGrath: Life and the Poem," in *TriQuarterly* 70, 1987

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| Typescripts, corrections, and proofs | Box 9 Folder |
| Unedited top copy | Folder 1-2 |
| Full interview with corrections and marks for first cuts | Folder 3-4 |
| First revision | Folder 5 |
| Second revision | Folder 6-7 |
| Edited version sent to McGrath, January 1987 | Folder 8 |
| Des Pres corrections | Box 10 Folder 1 |
| McGrath corrections | Folder 2 |
| Page proofs | Folder 3-4 |

Subseries B. Correspondence re *TriQuarterly* issue and McGrath-Related Material

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| ACM interview, "Thomas McGrath: A Conversation" | Box 10 Folder 5 |
| Gibbons, Reginald, especially letters from McGrath, 1987-1988 | Folder 6-8 |
| Gibbons, Reginald, cont'd | Box 11 Folder 1 |
| Levine, Philip | Folder 2 |
| McGrath, Alice. "The Education of Alice McGrath," oral history interview by Michael Balter, 1987 | Folder 3 |
| Stern, Frederick C. | Folder 4 |
| Thompson, E. P. | Folder 5 |
| University of Illinois, re "Life and the Poem" | Box 12 Folder |

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| General | Folder 1-2 |
| Permissions | Folder 3 |
| Royalties | Folder 4 |
| <i>TriQuarterly</i> issue annotated for publication (1992) | Folder 5 |
| Weiner, Josh | Folder 6 |