

Leona Rust Egan Papers
Provincetown Public Library

1 record storage carton (plus ½ carton misc. clippings (unsorted), unidentified and out-of-scope photographs)

Biographical:

Leona Rust Egan (1928-2016) was a research psychologist and university professor who moved from Washington D.C. to live in Provincetown full-time in 1978. She was made a member of the Provincetown Historical Commission in 1976, and later joined the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum. She and her partner, Marguerite "Maggie" Young ran The Ironmongers, a shop on Commercial Street that sold antiques, jewelry, and prints, which they largely obtained by breaking up books.

Summary:

The Leona Rust Egan papers are principally composed of correspondence, clippings and ephemera surrounding the publication of her 1994 book, *Provincetown as a Stage: Provincetown, The Provincetown Players, and the Discovery of Eugene O'Neill* (Parnassus Imprints). There are typescripts of poems (perhaps mostly unpublished), in which Provincetown and lesbian sexuality are subjects. Correspondence between Egan and her friends Karen Tatom, Catherine Small, Sharen Shaw Johnson, Marjorie "Harjie" Likins, and others, reveal a lesbian circle of friends that acted as a support group and sounding board for personal issues: Harjie Likins' problems with her bi-polar domestic partner who threatens to out her to the administration of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Karen Tatom, attempting to adjust to the anomie of life as a lesbian in Hong Kong. There are also local history subject files. A third of the carton consists of photocopies of letters sent to Mary Heaton Vorse between 1907 and 1916, the originals in the Archives of Labor & Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, which Egan obtained in the course of doing preliminary research (and that apparently were of very limited usefulness to her).

Folders:

- 1-2: original poetry by Egan
- 3: poetry by others (inc. first day of issue Marianne Moore stamp/envelope/poem, 1990, and a copy of D.O. Ogden's *The Fuel Cycle Blues*, 1994)
- 4: correspondence, 1983-88
- 5: correspondence with libraries, 1985
- 6: correspondence, 1985-88
- 7: preface, 1988
- 8-9: correspondence, 1988-90
- 10: correspondence, 1990-91 (inc. "Dolly B. Heifer Goes to P-Town," a photo illustrated vacation reminiscence)
- 11: correspondence, 1992
- 12: correspondence (inc. w/ Karen Tatom)

13-19: correspondence, 1993-94 (inc. permissions, readings, publicity)
20-21: correspondence, 1994 (inc. w/ Harjie Likins, and regarding Sirens Workshop Center)
22: correspondence, 1995 (inc. w/ Mark Doty)
23-24: correspondence, 1995-96 (inc. regarding "O'Neill by the Sea" event)
25: "Beginnings 1915," 1987
Subject files
26: Reggie Cabral
27: cats
28: Historical Commission, 1976-78 (inc. meeting minutes, 1977)
29: Norman Mailer
30: "O'Neill 80," 1996
31: O'Neill Society (inc. Provincetown postcard, 1941 July 31, from "Agnes" (Agnes Boulton, O'Neill's first wife?))
32: Peaked Hill slide show, images and narrative
33: misc. Ptown history
34: Provincetown Players cast
35-36: Provincetown Playhouse
37: Heaton Vorse

With: WOMR interview, July, 1994, Sister Talk cassette recordings; O'Neill 90th at PAAM, 2006 on CD

Location: Range 5, Shelf J

Stephen Z. Nonack
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