

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Annie Finch Papers

YCAL MSS 1558



by Brooke McManus

December 2023

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1558

CREATOR: Finch, Annie, author

TITLE: Annie Finch papers

DATES: 1842-2015

BULK DATES: 1965-2015

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 97.9 linear feet (100 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of writings, journals, correspondence and literary business files, teaching materials, personal and family papers, and computer and audiovisual media documenting the career and life of American author Annie Finch.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.finch>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.finch>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Annie Finch on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and the Martin Greenblat Foundation Book Fund in American Literature, 2016.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 94-97 (audiovisual materials): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 98-100 (computer media): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Annie Finch Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Annie Finch Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

Annie Finch (1956-)

Annie Finch is an American poet, translator, critic, performance artist, and educator. Her collections of poetry include *Eve* (1997) and *Calendars* (2003), which were finalists for the National Poetry Series, and *Spells: New and Selected Poems* (2012). Finch's other works include the verse play *Among the Goddesses: An Epic Libretto in Seven Dreams* (2010) and the opera *Marina* (2003). She has written or edited a number of books on poetics and poetry, such as *A Formal Feeling Comes: Poems in Form by Contemporary Women* (1993), *The Ghost of Meter: Culture and Prosody in American Free Verse* (1994), *Carolyn Kizer: Perspectives on Her Life and Work* (2001), *An Exaltation of Forms: Contemporary Poets Celebrate the Diversity of Their Art* (2003), and *The Body of Poetry: Essays on Women, Form, and the Poetic Self* (2004). Finch also edited the anthology *Choice Words: Writers on Abortion* (2020).

In 2013, Finch founded American Witch Enterprises, an online community and marketplace. In 2021, she founded Poetry Witch Press.

Finch graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in English in 1979, earned an M.A. in poetry and verse drama from the University of Houston in 1983, and completed a Ph.D. at Stanford University, where she studied versification, in 1990. She was the director of the Stonecoast MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of Southern Maine for ten years and has lectured on meter and poetry at institutions including the University of Toronto, University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard University.

Finch married Glen Brand in 1985, and they have two children, Althea Finch-Brand and Julian Finch-Brand.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of writings, journals, correspondence and literary business files, teaching materials, personal and family papers, and computer and audiovisual media documenting the career and life of American author Annie Finch. Included are drafts, ephemera, publishing correspondence, notes, and other materials relating to poetry collections and chapbooks by Finch, such as *Among the Goddesses*, *The Encyclopedia of Scotland*, *Eve*, *Calendars*, and *Spells*; books on poetics, such as *The Body of Poetry*, *The Ghost of Meter*, and *A Poet's Craft*; and edited or co-edited works, among them *After New Formalism*, *An Exaltation of Forms*, *A Formal Feeling Comes*, and *Villanelles*. Also included are Finch's writings on feminism and abortion; *The Complete Poetry and Prose of Louise Labé: A Bilingual Edition*, with poems translated by Finch; *Marina*, an opera libretto by Finch; and college and graduate school papers. The collection contains correspondence with colleagues, former teachers, editors, publishers, and friends, including Marie Borroff, Toi Derricotte, Jonathan Galassi, Marilyn Hacker, Langdon Hammer, Joy Harjo, John Hollander, Carolyn Kizer, Maxine Kumin, Diane Middlebrook, Molly Peacock, Adrienne Rich, Grace Schulman, and Ntozake Shange. Teaching materials consist of notes, correspondence, syllabi, and readings for Finch's courses at the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine and Miami University of Ohio, as well as independent workshops.

Personal and family papers contain correspondence with Finch's parents, husband, children, and other relatives; artwork and realia; files pertaining to American Witch Enterprises, an online community and marketplace founded by Finch; and photographs and scrapbooks. Also included is research for an unpublished book by Finch on her great-aunt, educator and activist Jessie Wallace Hughan, and writings of her mother Margaret Rockwell Finch and father Henry Le Roy Finch.

Arrangement

Organized into seven series: I. Writings, 1965-2014. II. Literary Work and Correspondence, 1965-2015. III. Journals and Notebooks, 1966-2015, undated. IV. Teaching Materials, 1998-2014. V. Personal and Family Papers, 1848-2015. Series VI. Printed Material, 1842-2015. VII. Audiovisual and Computer Media, 1983-2003, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1965–2014

34.4 linear feet (36 boxes)

This series consist of poetry, works on poetics, edited books, and other writings by Annie Finch.

Writings can also be found in Series II. Literary Work and Correspondence, Series III. Journals and Notebooks, and Series V. Personal and Family Papers.

Organized into seven subseries: Poetry, Critical Work and Poetics, Edited Works, Music and Theater Projects, Translation, Early and School Writings, and Other Writings.

Series II: Literary Work and Correspondence, 1965–2015

11 linear feet (11 boxes)

This series contains correspondence, contracts, printed material, and other papers relating to Annie Finch's career as an author and educator. Finch sometimes arranged incoming correspondence by first name, and letters from the same individual may be filed under either their first name or surname.

Correspondence is also located in Series I. Writings, Series IV. Teaching Materials, and Series V. Personal and Family Papers.

Arranged roughly by folder title or correspondent, with unsorted and unidentified materials filed at the end of the sequence.

Series III: Journals and Notebooks, 1966-2015, undated

7 linear feet (7 boxes)

This series consist of diaries, journals, and notebooks by Annie Finch relating to professional and personal matters.

Arranged chronologically.

Series IV: Teaching Materials, 1998–2014

5.8 linear feet (6 boxes)

This series consists of files relating to courses taught by Annie Finch at Miami University of Ohio and University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing program, as well as materials documenting independent workshops and lectures, and job applications by Finch.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series V: Personal and Family Papers, 1848–2015

30.8 linear feet (30 boxes)

This series consists of correspondence, artwork, photographs, memorabilia, writings, and printed material by or relating to Annie Finch, her parents Henry Le Roy Finch and Margaret Rockwell Finch, and other family.

Organized into three subseries: Annie Finch, Henry Le Roy Finch, and Margaret Finch.

Series VI: Printed Material, 1842–2015

3.67 linear feet (3 boxes)

This series consists of journals, magazines, newspapers, catalogs, programs, fliers, posters, and broadsides relating to Annie Finch and other authors, as well as Finch's family and her early life.

Arranged by alphabetically by folder title.

Series VII: Audiovisual and Computer Media, 1983-2003, undated

5.25 linear feet (7 boxes)

This series consists of audio and video recordings and computer media documenting the life and career of Annie Finch.

Organized into two subseries: Audiovisual Media and Computer Media.

Computer Media

This subseries consists of floppy disks, zip disks, CDs, and DVDs relating to Finch and her father Henry Le Roy Finch.

Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Shange, Ntozake

Subjects

American poetry -- 20th Century
American poetry -- 21st century
Feminism
New Formalism (American poetry)
Poetics -- History and criticism
Poetry -- Study and teaching
Poetry -- Women authors
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Poets, American -- 21st century -- Archives
Versification
Witchcraft

Occupations

College teachers
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century
Poets -- United States -- 21st century

Genres / Formats

Artwork
Audiovisual materials
Born digital
Realia

Names

Borroff, Marie
Derricotte, Toi, 1941-
Finch, Annie
Finch, Henry Le Roy
Finch, Margaret Rockwell, 1921-2018
Galassi, Jonathan
Hacker, Marilyn, 1942-
Hammer, Langdon, 1958-
Harjo, Joy, 1951-
Hollander, John, 1929-2013
Hughan, Jessie Wallace, 1875-1955
Kizer, Carolyn
Kumin, Maxine, 1925-2014
Middlebrook, Diane Wood, 1939-2007
Nelson, Marilyn, 1946-
Peacock, Molly, 1947-
Rich, Adrienne, 1929-2012
Schulman, Grace