Finding-aid for the Babette Deutsch Paper (MSS034)

©2003 University Libraries, Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Special Collections
Olin Library
Campus Box 1061
1 Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 935-5495
Fax: (314) 935-4045
spec@wumail.wustl.edu
http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec

Funding and support for digitization of finding-aids provided by The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

Table of Contents

Collection Outline
Descriptive Summary
Biographical Note
Scope and Contents Note
Restrictions
Administrative Information

Collection Outline

Oct. 14. _____.
Jeffers, Robinson, to Deutsch, Babette. Carmel. 1931 Feb. 11.
Jeffers, Robinson, to Deutsch, Babette. Carmel. 1934 Nov. 7.


Blockadefrei Tag. Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. n.p. [1943]


Rutherford, N.J. Jan. 21. ______.

Williams, William Carlos to Deutsch, Babette. n.p. 1943 June 4.


Dublin, Sept. 9. ______.

Dublin. Nov. 5. ______.

to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. 1947 Feb. 17. ______.


to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. Apr. 10. ______.

to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. Apr. 26. ______.


to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. June 4. ______.

to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. July 5. ______.


Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn, N.Y. July 31.

Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. July 31.

Richardson, Dorothy M. to Deutsch, Babette. [Cornwall]. Aug. 2.

Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. Comments further on The pink church. ca. Aug. 10.


Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn, N.Y. Sept. 11.


Richardson, Dorothy, to Deutsch, Babette. Cornwall. Sept. 28.


Richardson, Dorothy, to Deutsch, Babette. [Cornwall]. Dec. 6.

MacGreevy, Thomas, to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. 1948 Jan. 15.


to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. Apr. 1. ______.

Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. May 25.

MacGreevy, Thomas, to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. Sept. 27.

to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. Sept. 28. ______.

Rexroth, Kenneth to Deutsch, Babette. San Francisco. Aug. 22.
Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn, N.Y. Nov. 10.
to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. 1952 Mar. 3.
to Deutsch, Babette. San Francisco. Sept. 3.
to Deutsch, Babette. San Francisco. Nov. 7.
to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Aug. 23.
Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. 1956 Jan. 27.
Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. July 8.
Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. July 12.
Rexroth, Kenneth, to Deutsch, Babette. San Francisco. [ca. Sept. 6, 1956].

Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Nov. 2.

Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Nov. 18.

Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. ca. Nov. 28.


Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. June 10.


Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Nov. 18.


Moore, Marianne to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. May 1.
Moore, Marianne to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. 1963 Mar. 5.
Moore, Marianne to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. 1964 Feb. 18.
Moore, Marianne to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Feb. 22.
to Deutsch, Babette. [Brooklyn]. Nov. 30.
Deutsch, Babette to Ridgeway, Ann N. December 27, 1965
Deutsch, Babette to Ridgeway, Ann N. December 28, 1965
to Deutsch, Babette. August.
MacGreevy, Thomas, to Deutsch, Babette. [Dublin]. n.d.
Rexroth, Kenneth, to Deutsch, Babette. San Francisco. n.d.
Roethke, Theodore, to Deutsch, Babette. Seattle. n.d.
Series 2. Literary manuscripts as follows

Return to the Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Babette Deutsch Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification:</td>
<td>MSS034</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to the Table of Contents
Biographical Note


Scope and Contents Note

Adds: Acc. 1129 Reported

Correspondence, manuscripts, 1921-1969.

Correspondence, 1921-1966, bulking 1949-1966, of Babette Deutsch including letters of Conrad Aiken, writing 1921-1965 discussing The house of dust and [The charnel rose:] Senlin, his dissatisfaction with [Ushant: an essay], his difficulty with Deutsch’ poems, 4 items; Elizabeth Bishop, 1963, 1 item; Robinson Jeffers, writing 1926-1934, on reviews of Deutsch poetry, 4 items; Kenneth Rexroth, writing 1949-1956, discussing in detail his introduction to New British poets, Deutsch poems in Take them, stranger, and Animal, vegetable, mineral, her omissions in Poetry in our time, and his review of it, his literary-political position, early career, views of Kenneth Burke, R.P. Blackmur, Peter Viereck, Leonie Adams, Louise Bogan, Kenyon Review, Poetry, others, 12 items; Dorothy M. Richardson, 1942, on her writing and life in England, 3 items; E.A. Robinson, 1932, commending Epistle to Prometheus, 1 item; Theodore Roethke, 1941-1957, interpreting sections of The lost son, commenting on Poetry in our time, his writing and teaching, personal matters, 8 items. Three principal correspondents are Marianne Moore, William Carlos Williams, and Thomas MacGreevy, Irish poet, art historian. Moore, writing 1927-1965, bulking 1947-1965, discusses acceptance of Deutsch poems for Dial, 1927, of which Moore was then editor, her approval of various Deutsch poems and of Poetry in our time, Poetry Handbook, Deutsch Rilke translations, Coming of age, and Collected poems, comments throughout on her own work, physical and mental condition, 41 items. Williams, writing 1940-1961, discusses at length [Choral]: The pink church, sections of Paterson, The yachts, comments on W.B. Yeats, Ezra Pound, Kenneth Rexroth's analysis of the Objectivist movement, Deutsch's poetry and Poetry in our time, 32 items. Thomas MacGreevy, writing 1946-1965, discusses painter Jack B. Yeats, W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, D.H. Lawrence, Wallace Stevens, others, his and other Irish poetry, Irish politics, religious matters, music, 33 items. Included also are two Deutsch letters, to Conrad Aiken, 1921, and W.C. Williams, 1949, and miscellany. Series 2, material relating to Collected poems of Babette Deutsch, inc. ts., with printed inserts, of entire text, three sets of galleys, inc. reader's, authors, and one author set at a later stage, misc. memos and notes.

Disputes her Post and Dial reviews in which she criticizes The house of dust and Senlin [The charnel rose: Senlin] for their dependence on the work of T.S. Eliot.


Thanks her for her review of Roan stallion, commends Deutsch poem appearing in the Nation.


Writes as editor of the Dial that Deutsch poem retitled At Croton Dam can be published if a line is changed.


Cannot publish At Croton Dam because Miss Deutsch feels no change can be made in third line.


Commends Deutsch poem, Epistle to Prometheus, promises to send her a discussion of it. He has been asked for poetry by The new freeman and has offered a review of the Deutsch book instead.


Sends review of Prometheus... to be submitted to the New freeman. Sends picture of the winding stair, used by Yeats in poem title, and reviewed by Deutsch.

Thanks her for sending [Epistle to Prometheus], commends it.

Return to the Table of Contents


Jeffers will be a reference for Miss Deutsch's Guggenheim application. Asks for a copy of Honey from the rock [sic].

Return to the Table of Contents


Return to the Table of Contents


Thanks her for her appreciation of a part of his work, reminds her of an experience at Princeton when they were attacked by a group of instructors. Published in Selected letters. Edited with an introduction by John Thirlwall. New York, McDowell, Obolensky [1951]. p. 209.

Return to the Table of Contents

Comments on [Ezra] Pound’s college years at the University of Pennsylvania and Hamilton College, his acquaintance in London, 1910, with Yates [sic]. Published in Selected letters. pp. 210-11.


Comments further on Pound, agrees that anti-yokelism was basis of his career.


Commends her letter in P[artisan] R[evieuw], encloses his reply to [Sidney] Hook, [Meyer?] Shapiro. [Deutsch letter commending PR for its integrity appeared in v. 8, no. 1, Jan-Feb, 1940 issue].


Discusses painter Jack Yeats, her remarks about Yeats’ father, antisemitism, comments at length on lines “we are members, one of another, and we are sick” in Take them, stranger, other poems in book.


Pleased that she has again referred to his poetry in a Herald Tribune review, July 28.

Explains why he has stopped writing poetry, justifies his present living situation.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Comments on the lack of fuel in Dublin, the success of the tapestry image in a Deutsch poem, Thomas Moore's poetry, his taste for Pushkin.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Discusses scarcity of copies of [Kora in Hell?].

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Comments further on Dublin winter, thanks her for a blanket she is sending. Relates an anecdote about Samuel Beckett, discusses him at length. Remarks a Protestant Catholic feeling in Ireland, a program of records he presented in the United States, the unauthorized reprinting of his poems.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Discusses religious matters, disputes Deutsch contention that Hell is here, comments on his music broadcast selection of records.

Return to the Table of Contents

Reminisces about his childhood, discusses an uncredited Lawrence Campbell head of Jack Yeats, Irish painter, found in a catalog.


Discusses personal plans with Samuel Beckett, recounts writing of The special, concerning Lusitania sinking, and personal experiences. Sends from memory a poem written in London.


Discusses Cable's The Grandissimes, notes he is trying to collect some Beckett poems for Deutsch to use in a book.


Comments on broadcasting, rebukes her on [adverse] remarks about MacDowell's music, Cable's The Grandissimes. Recollects early reading of Henry James, finding a copy of Alice James' Journals, recounts a remark by Catherine Corswell about novelist Dorothy Richardson, a drive with painter Jack Yeats and Samuel Beckett; discusses religious matters, a conversation with D.H. Lawrence.

Enjoyed Utah literary conference, shared with Allen Tate, Ray West, Mark Shorer [sic], Walter van Tilbury [sic] Clark, Brewster Ghiselin, Eric Bently [sic]. Discusses labor violence in Paterson, tells her plan for remaining three parts, notes he is not a Marxist. Comments on Jarrell reviews of his work, discusses “that green bottle piece” [unnamed poem]. Incomplete in Selected letters, pp. 258-259.

She denies disliking poetry, but prefers manner of certain kinds. Thanks Deutsch for speaking to her at T.S. Eliot lecture.

Discusses her criticism of The pink church [poem], noting his distrust of a militant church and religious action to right social wrongs. Commends her view that he has underrated Paterson's labor problems.

Richardson, Dorothy M. to Deutsch, Babette. [Cornwall]. Aug. 2. A.L.S., 2pp.
Comments on distaste for most modern poetry, commends Deutsch's poetry, and her Rilke translation. Remarks her personal life.

Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. Comments further on The pink church. ca. Aug. 10. T.Postal card.S.


Thanks her for perceiving Moore's feelings [on the death of her mother].


Describes his vacation in Kerry, an evening with Herbert Read discussing Eliot and Joyce, an anecdote, other personal affairs.


Thanks her for food package, comments on monotony of her diet, increasing mechanization of poetry, attitudes of college youth.


Sends her a reprint of The lost son. He has read with Robert Lowell at Breadloaf, and is now on the Olympia Peninsula. He admires the land but feels isolated. He sends her a poem to be placed between The long alley and The shape of the fire, in [The lost son?]. Considers her advice on dropping notes, adding information to jacket.

Recounts his recent London trip with Jack Yeats, favorite travel sites.

Return to the Table of Contents


Thanks Deutsch for her Rilke book [Poems from The book of hours, [1947]]. Comments on Deutsch's appraisal of herself as a materialist.

Return to the Table of Contents


Describes Christmas holiday in Kerry, sympathizes with Avram Yarmolinsky's feeling about Christmas.

Return to the Table of Contents


Will send Deutsch a copy of Profile when she is well.

Return to the Table of Contents


Quotes from Jung to effect that poet should not be expected to interpret his work, explains first four sections of The lost son, The long alley, A field of light, lets her work out The shape of the fire. Poems have been “written out of suffering,” are meant to be heard. Notes that in this kind of poem, poet should render experience, not comment.

Return to the Table of Contents

Regrets that Irish poetry must now conform to “British Council” standards. He has sent her a Dante article, one of “dozens” of essays which would make “successful books” had he a publisher. MacGreevy's only poem published in an Irish newspaper, the Irish Statesman, was Godh Ruadh, given to A.E. (George William Russell) after Mrs. W.B. [Yeats] had read it to him. Beckett will be home soon; MacGreevy cannot understand an Irish Protestant's writing in French. Discusses Irish elections, Sean McBride, cabinet candidate.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Chides her for calling him Mr. McGreevy [sic], explains Dublin use of first names. Waits for Paradiso note in Deutsch poetry, as he had told James Joyce he waited in Joyce's work. Goethe, Valery had it. Notes that W.B. Yeats used other writers “as grist for his own mill” but “would be at pains never to misrepresent them.” His knowledge of Irish would have been from hearing it spoken by Lady Gregory. Mentions Denis Devlin. Hopes she is wrong in calling MacGreevy anti-British, explains his feeling. He assumes he is not included in Iremonger's Irish anthology with Faber and Faber. Quotes D.L. Kelleher's “The five lesser joys of money,” remarks the new Francis Thompson book, Irish literary “provincialism.”

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Cannot understand the “obscurity of purpose” of Auden's Age of anxiety. Often finds “little to praise” in his own attempts at poetry, comparing them to “not only the vigor but the sensitiveness to the life in a thousand phases” of Pound's cantos.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Lists his past months occupations, including his part in the Galway reburial of W.B. Yeats.

In answer to her question about Joyce's “ineradicable Catholicism,” MacGreevy says one shouldn't “presume to speak about more than his ineradicable preoccupation with Catholicism.” He does not agree with her view that there is “no radiance” in Ulysses or Finnegans wake. Disputes idea of Irish fascism, said by an Irishman to have come from the Sinn Fein movement. Notes that nationalism is a reaction to imperialism. Berates film Elizabeth and Essex, film portrayal of Hugh O'Neill, notes Ireland holds her own as long as she's berated.


Asks Williams view of a passage in the introduction to Rexroth's anthology, New British poets regarding American objectivism. She questions his list of originators. Asks also if Williams agrees to Rexroth's view that it is the “last gasp of literary cubism.”


Thinks Rexroth's analysis of the Objectivists “silly.” Williams, Oppen, Zukofsky were part of the “To” group from which movement arose as a result of dissatisfaction with Imagism. [Yvor] Winters was not involved.


Thanks her for kind remarks about British poets anthology. Explains his circumstances on American Objectivism: originally Zukofsky's idea, it emphasized “presentational immediacy,” Eliot's “objective correlative,” Pound's “ideographic method.” Rexroth disliked the “cuckoo
land of malice [with] which Pound has always surrounded himself,” withdrew. George Oppen, Zukofsky parted, both unrealized as poets. Rexroth adds to list of influences [Introduction New British Poets] André Salmon, and that of U.S. Gestaltists. Reasserts that objectivism tried to oppose art of the surrealists with “an idiom of objectivity and rational order.” Rexroth had tried to incorporate technical devices of Mallarmé, Rimbaud with medieval Latin chants, thought Stein, Pound inadequate. His prosody owed much to primitive song, savage languages, and could not satisfy a wide audience. Thinks poetry best which is “communicative and personal.” His influences now “Greek, Latin, Chinese verse..., Burns, Landor, Tudor and Jacobean songs, Christina Rossetti.


Comfarts her in a family death. The Padraic Colums visited him. He has been reading a life of Lord Lansdowne, went to a circus.


Explains that [The yachts] is in two parts, the picture of the yachts, and the sea of arms. The race is “the last international race for the America's cup,” coming during the depression. Thus “the yachts, the symbols of wealth ride over and crush the human sources of their grace and beauty which supports them.” Notes she may use this.


Explains that letter of Jan. 22, 1948 [in collection] was typed in carbon, shown to K. Burke, later incorporated in preface to Mid-Century American Poets. Assures her he “wasn't just throwing around a letter, a purely personal one, to you.”
**Rexroth, Kenneth to Deutsch, Babette. San Francisco. Aug. 22. A.L.S., 1p.**

Thinks poems in Take them, stranger are good, have “lucidity, control of the medium and the mind of the poet…”

*Return to the Table of Contents*

---

**Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn, N.Y. Nov. 10. T.L.S., 1p.**

Commends poem just appearing in the N.Y. Herald Tribune, thanks her for sending the newspaper.

*Return to the Table of Contents*

---

**Williams, William Carlos to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N.J. Dec. 8. T.L.S., 1p.**

Thanks her for a review, notes that her discovery of the omission of a section of the Collected Later Poems “floored me.” Perhaps these, others are contained in the Selected poems.

*Return to the Table of Contents*

---

**to Deutsch, Babette. [Rutherford, N.J.] 1951 Jan. 4. _____ T.L.S., 1p.**

Laughlin [James Laughlin, New Directions editor] is printing a “signature,” 14-16 pages, to include poems omitted in Collected Later Poems [New Directions, 1950] these will appear in remaining unbound 2500 copies. He is working on his autobiography, “A strange experience.”

*Return to the Table of Contents*

---

**to Deutsch, Babette. [Rutherford, N.J.] Mar. 2. _____ T.L.S., 4pp.**

“Never look for *exact* symbolism in me. Kra is for anything elemental, even diabolical…” Williams, like Allen Tate, liked Tolson's Ode for Liberia in Poetry [1950]. Discusses use of the sea in a poem: “we come out into the sea but [we must] turn around and strike into the land again.” Prefers first part of book IV [Paterson], likes “the old bitch facing the little Paterson
nurse...” “Nobody else loves her but me: and Theocritus.” Dissatisfied with nudes of girl. Discusses characters of Gurlie Flynn, John Johnson, who killed the judge. “War: stupidity... There is nothing, nothing but the imagination (whatever that is).” Closing on page 2, letter continued on numbered pages 3 and 4.


“...Williams faults not reckless.”


“Getting along. Speech is a little thick but that beside it moves.” He is speaking on May 25.


Praises [Poetry in our time, Holt, 1952]. “I like its positiveness... It does not waver... I like that - but gently, smoothly.”


Unlike “posturing” of New Criticism, many “partisan and tedious” explanations of modern poetry, [Poetry in our time] is “a fine book, very judicious.” Quarrels with omission of Kenneth Patchen, proletarian poets (mentions Magill, Potamkin, Gold, others). Feels movement failed. “Why has the promise of a whole generation just been blotted out by the respectable and academics?” Opposite occurred in France: Prevert, Eluard sell well, “idiom is well established... Only some aged crone... would read anybody like the people who appear in the Kenyon and
Partisan Reviews...” “...there lexists [in America] a sort of poetic underground of the unpublishable... who write like Amy Lowell and for Carl Sandburg... sure don't write like Cal [Robert] Lowell.” Only the Kenyon Review contributors read the journal. Rexroth reads this modern poetry (William Barnes, Landor) more than that of T.S. Eliot or Wallace Stevens, French poetry all the time. Prefers “great Greeks and Romans.”

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Thinks Tale of Genji probably “the greatest work of prose fiction ever written.” “...pretty comic... But as you read on you will discover that it is a religious novel of the most profound import...” “Perhaps it has played a role in my life similar to that played by the Gospels or Capital in the lives of disagreeable people.”

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Comments on Genji, notes his own dissatisfaction with Proust. Asks Deutsch to review 14 poems of O.V.L.-Milosz [published as 23 poems of O. V. Lubicz-Milosz, Peregrene Press, 1952], a practice he dislikes. Has just read a review in Mandrake of Brooks on poetry, summarizing Brooks. “Very handy to have - I disagree with every word of it.”

Return to the Table of Contents

---


He has been sent Deutsch book to review [Poetry in our time] and “very subtilely I will controvert Comrat Ciardi.” Rexroth's book is being done by a local typographer, H.H. Evans [23 poems...?]. Rexroth is himself anti-Bolshevik, sees his poetry as “another nail in the coffin of `moribund society...'” But he feels defeated in this, would join the Communist party before joining “the leaders of American Fascism.” (Caroline Gordon, Philip Rahv, Robert Penn Warren) Admires Deutsch because of her husband - “that he is still there I mean.” Has received Peter Viereck poems: “…he is the loudest man in the Stars and Stripes forever band of Political Sousaism...”

Return to the Table of Contents

Commends [Poetry in our time]. “It's so far superior to the other books of its kind that there is no comparison.” Roethke is incensed at Ciardi's remarks in the Times, but “I still think you give a bit too much to certain 'Key' figures, particularly Ez[ra Pound] and Tiresome Tom [T.S. Eliot]. Roethke's [Praise to the end!] sold only 550 copies, in spite of press. He will consider adopting Deutsch book for classes.

Return to the Table of Contents


Thanks her for writing him about his book [Ushant: an essay, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1952?]. She is not alone in disliking the style; he “can cheerfully admit to having had misgivings about it…”

Return to the Table of Contents


Feared Deutsch might think his review of [Poetry in our time] vulgar, he wants only to sell the book. He first reviewed books in the Chicago Post while he was in high school. Journalese easy to lapse into: Hecht, Samuel Putnam do, Rexroth's voice on the radio the same that “used to come into the City News Bureau from a speakeasy phone.” Rexroth made a living “reading poetry from a soapbox when I was in my first long pants,” and he was also a pitchman.

Return to the Table of Contents


Disparages lack of “literary journalists,” apparently in answer to Deutsch complaint about a review of her book in Saturday Review. Rexroth's issue of Perspectives is done except for reviews. J[ames] L[aughlin] allows one poet an issue. “It is...a reprint medium.”

Return to the Table of Contents
Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Nov. 20. T.postal card

Quotes Ephesians 6: 23.

Return to the Table of Contents


Has read Partisan Review article on Leslie Stephen by Virginia Woolf. “Silly stuff.” She “…was a poor guide to her father's personality.” Thinks he is Post War generation, thinks Kenneth Burke, R.P. Blackmur “silly fustian.” Will send Deutsch a copy of In what hour.

Return to the Table of Contents


Replies to her letter [possibly concerning election of Eisenhower]. He lost faith in Liberals after WW II. Comments on his sister, who has recently died.

Return to the Table of Contents


She was probably referring to Mr. Steiglitz in “that piece about the wedge,” which Deutsch complimented.

Return to the Table of Contents


Miss Moore feels “most of the work [her new book] is only half good.” Deutsch has apparently asked her to write something concerning Homage to John Skelton, which she will do. Of Deutsch's work: “Where you keep strictly within your idiosyncracies and characteristic temperament... you prepossess me every time... when you verge on somebody else's manner I
become nervous and forget the note of individuality you've sounded.”


“If I am not exhilarated by Homage to John Skelton may I have `a frost-bitten thumb that can pick up no crumb'…”


He has reviewed her book for the Herald Tribune [Animal, vegetable, mineral, Dutton, 1954]. Commends its “depth of beauty and wisdom…” Louise Bogan has “…the unmistakable accent…gripping is the word.” Thinks little of Leonie Adams work: “managing only to be cranky when experimental.” He is not applying for a grant renewal: “I don't like asking people for such letters at all.”

Williams, William Carlos, to Deutsch, Babette. Rutherford, N. ca. Nov. 21. T.postal card

Commends her poem to Dylan Thomas in Yale Review “or Yale Literary Magazine.” Asks if she'll start a salon.

Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. 1955 Mar. 10. A.postal cardS.

Thanks Deutsch for a [print?]. “If I ever get to Boston and can choose, I shall explore that Museum…”

He has only one meeting with Wallace Stevens [who Deutsch has told him has died]; MacGreevy had to leave but “it remained a shining wonder of a visit.” He did not know he was in Samuel Putnam's book, recounts a meeting.

Return to the Table of Contents


“That you have enjoyed the [Williams'] poems means much to me.” Friends react unpredictably to poems. Asks her to see Arts for Williams article on Brancusi.

Return to the Table of Contents


Sends holiday greeting to her and husband Avrahm Yarmolinsky, children. Recounts his Italian trip. He was Wallace Stevens only Tom MacGreevy: Stevens had sent him poems, visited in New York. MacGreevy comments on friendship.

Return to the Table of Contents


Wallace Stevens sent two poems to MacGreevy in 1948 or 1949, Our stars came from Ireland and Auroras of autumn. “My feeling is that my poems made him think of his own boyhood.”

Return to the Table of Contents

Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. 1956 Jan. 27. A.postal cardS.
Deutsch has agreed to substitute for Miss Moore at a “college evening.” “I can't do it; am not reliable...” She would talk about the artist's difficulties but “seem self-impeded in all senses.”


Williams is glad to be included in the revision of [Poetry in our time, Columbia University Press, 1956]?, pleased at her “courage and persistence [sic]”.


Gives Deutsch permission to use a poem later to appear in a New Directions book, will waive royalties as other poets do so.


Gives permission to quote six lines from Prolegomenon to a theodicy. Rexroth's wife has left him for Robert Creely; Rexroth is concerned about the care of the children, needs work.


She will have dinner with [Columbia University] faculty, read, on Dec. 12.
to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Nov. 2. ____ , T.postal cardS.


Return to the Table of Contents

---


Deutsch may use anything Miss Moore has said about Poetry in our time. She is unsure about dinner and reading.

Return to the Table of Contents

---

to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. ca. Nov. 28. ____ , A.postal cardS.

Arranges route to reading.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Williams cannot attend Poetry Society dinner at which Deutsch is receiving a prize. Asks her to thank Elizabeth Jennings for her kind words about Williams.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Glad to have the Rilke [Poems from the book of hours]. Bloomingdale's would not let her credit a refund to Deutsch account.

Return to the Table of Contents

A set of Coleridge has come. She awaits the Poetry Handbook [A dictionary of terms, Funk, 1956], sends a list of bookstores for it. Thanks her again for Coleridge.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Values emendations [made by Deutsch in Moore poems?]. She is glad to have met [Avrahm] Yarmolinsky.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


“Your really super poem...seems to me the equal to anything I have read in recent years.”

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Williams has heard from “that leach E.S.,” whose verse he disparages. Williams name appears on E.S.’ book, though without his permission. He is delighted to get Deutsch's Poetry Handbook. He is waiting for Hudson Review to publish a story.

Return to the Table of Contents

---


Return to the Table of Contents

She is correcting misprints in a book of her poems. She has again written to Funk and Wagnalls. “I just wish I could contribute anything solid like the Handbook.”

Return to the Table of Contents


Preface [to Poetry handbook] is fine. “Your advice to the beginner is more in accord with my line.” “The silent hours of skilled attention which you devotedly served is saluted by one poet at least with gratitude.” New Directions anthology contains his “lost or mislaid poems.”

Return to the Table of Contents


Disagrees with her comments on measure in [Poetry handbook]. “Measure... is the generic term. All verse starts with measure after which comes foot.”

Return to the Table of Contents


He is enclosing a reprint of Words for the wind. They have not been set to music, though Chester Kallman praised them. Thanks her for Poetry handbook. Beatrice [Roethke] was hospitalized for tuberculosis.

Return to the Table of Contents

Needs “longevity stationery, and patience on the part of friends...” since adventures in the west. Discussed [Poetry] handbook there.

**to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Dec. 22. _____, A.postal cardS.**

Christmas greetings.


She and MacGreevy's friend, Brian O'Doherty, are abusing him for writing neither letters nor poems. His work keeps him too busy. Stevens regarded him as his best correspondent. His own letters to [Bernard] Berenson are infrequent. He has sent Stevens letters to Morse? in Hartford, is looking for others. He has heard the Essen opera company in Die Walküre. He saw Beckett in Paris in October, and was in London in November where his sister was decorated by the Queen. He recommends a new French edition La Bible de Jerusalem.


He is working on Paterson 5. He also finds inconsistencies in Paterson “…the movement within the theme...didn't brook much thought about it.” The image of the shark, Book 4 concerns “everything in the world of our thoughts which is beyond them and inimical to them.” “Home” equals “home free.” Paterson 5 was necessary because coming “home” was inadequate. Williams is convinced that “man can know nothing.” Emily Dickinson wanted to belong, but poems showed ridiculousness of this.

**Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Jan. 22. A.postal cardS.**
“That explosion may lengthen my life.”


Thanks her for stockings, which will replace a pair she had for 15 years, “speckled dull, cocoa silk mercerized sort of gauze stockings which I conservingly wore only on presentation at court occasions...”

to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. June 11. _____, A.postal cardS.

She plans to visit an invalid friend in Boston, will try to see Deutsch. “Sisters of Charity and travellers with a mission, eat up my time.”

to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. June 25. _____, A.postal cardS.

She will see Deutsch, comments disapprovingly on Sherman Adams investigations.

to Deutsch, Babette and [Avrahm] Yarmolinsky. June 28. _____, A.postal card2 S.2

Brooklyn. Thanks Yarmolinsky for hospitality. Thinks she was “a little too graphic” about her western trip. Sends Dr. Yarmolinsky citation for First love and Rudin [Turgenev] with translator’s note.

Thanks Deutsch for a gift sent from the shore. “I am glad you throve, despite your services rendered, and found the western food good.”

Return to the Table of Contents

-----


[Deutsch has sent or shown her sketches]. “The calligraphic animals are a triumph.” Comments on a phrase of R.P. Blackmur.

Return to the Table of Contents

-----


Moore has suffered “a kind of near-stroke that affected my throat and speaking.” Is restricted to her rooms.

Return to the Table of Contents

-----


Praises magazine, Columbia University Forum.

Return to the Table of Contents

-----


Comments favorably on poems in [Coming of Age: New and selected poems]: Earliness at the cape, small colored boy on the subway, and Rilke and Pushkin translations.

Return to the Table of Contents


**Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. July 11. A.postal cardS.**

Comments on errors in a review of [Coming of age].

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

---


A Hy Sobiloff poem is missing from the collection [In the deepest aquarium: poems?] which Aiken had read in text, and had commented on in report on the book, later used as a preface. Of Deutsch's poems: “...are somehow just not my cup of tea -- a blindness perhaps.”

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

---

**Moore, Marianne, to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. Sept. 20. A.postal cardS.**

Comments on a Vermeer; thanks her for continuing to like Moore's review of Coming of age in the New Yorker.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

---


He is pleased that Deutsch and Avrahm Yarmolinsky are coming to Europe. Suggests she come to Dublin after Padraic [Colum] returns, since he can introduce her to literary figures MacGreevy cannot. His friends, “however sympathetic, are not `in the movement.' ” Discusses background of Moments, his poem concerning music and the arts. He thinks Brian O'Doherty's silence is a result of his being in love. Notes Samuel Beckett deplored MacGreevy's tendency to “lapse too easily into iambics.” Wallace Stevens letters have been returned.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

---

**to Deutsch, Babette. Dublin. Apr. 12. _____, A.L.S., 2pp.**
Envies Deutsch, her trip to Israel, hopes some day to be able to write about his discovery of Italy, recounts some anecdotes of his Italian visits.


[Deutsch has sent her a card of a mosaic] which Moore comments on. “First holiday in 30 years.”


Monsignor “Paddy” Brown has died; the country, from de Valera down, is shocked. Again invites Deutsch and Yarmolinsky to Dublin. He is sorry Deutsch did not meet Beckett.


She is mistaken in thinking he called the variable foot new, urges her to read him again.


His study of Poussin “implies some questioning of current values” and will “be ignored or cold shouldered.” “With it I run the risk of being considered a bigoted papist and Irish nationalist.” Deutsch understands it; he feels W.B. [Yeats] would have done so also. Recounts a dream; notes Stevens said he did not use things that came to him in his sleep.
T.L.S., 1p.

Congratulates her on recovering from pneumonia. “In my present condition that would have been the end of me.” Laughlin is bringing out five plays and a short story reprint. Williams is with a new doctor who “…may get me to Paul[?] Zukofsky's at Carnegie Hall Feb. 3.”

Moore, Marianne to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. May 1. A.postal cardS.

She has received “an irresistible tiny starfish” from Florida. Liked Deutsch review of Turgenef’s letters. Remarks compliments paid her for the stockings Deutsch gave her.

to Deutsch, Babette. Brooklyn. July 12. _____ A.postal cardS.


Discusses Deutsch's A view of the Piazza [poem]. “Anyhow, the poem is an evocation not a statement. Surely Mallarmé would approve.” Brian Coffey's poetry is now being recognized in Dublin. Comments on a radio reading by Tom Kinsella, religious affairs.


She has received Poetry in our time (Anchor Books, 1963), “…a most nutritive book.” “All I can do is carry a hod or guide a donkey - (myself).”

She is delighted to have “your new book” [Poetry in our time]. “I think it must be a great deal harder to re-write a whole book like that than to write an entirely new one...” “Brazil is so broke I can't imagine what they're going to do next...” Her translations of Brazilian poetry will appear in October Poetry. Takes exception to Deutsch remarks on Edith Sitwell.


Is glad to have Collected Poems [Indiana Univ. Press, 1963].


Deutsch has sent a student's comment which pleases Moore “if it is true...for I am chaffed constantly about being self-entwined and making comprehension a test of ingenuity.” Moore is “impounded for observation” for high blood pressure.

Deutsch, Babette. Note appended to Moore, Marianne to Deutsch, Babette, Would send Moore books if they were not forbidden, remarks Moore's “extravagant gratitude for trinkets? or tokens of regard...” ca. Feb. 20. Feb. 18, 1964. A.N.

“Am foundering with work, not ill and should be sent nothing.

Return to the Table of Contents


Moore has forbidden the soliciting of tributes to her. “Close to suicide by the exhorting of tributes to known and unknown contemporaries all through 1963-4.” “How irresistible your elegance is.”

Return to the Table of Contents


Sympathizes with troubles of Adam [Yarmolinsky?], physical and political. “We live in the most ingnominious century since history began.” Asks how good a poet [Louis] MacNeice was; MacGreevy found him a dull talker.

Return to the Table of Contents


Criticizes a poem she has sent, does not agree with her on comments about poets “perhaps with the exception of WCW---this is like, and the reference to his funeral poem much to the point.”

Return to the Table of Contents


She has found Lament for the makers [poem]. “Am grateful - moved to the soul...”

Return to the Table of Contents


Return to the Table of Contents


MacGreevy thinks he told poet James MacAuley to send his book to Deutsch; now finds a copy at his bedside. He may also have told poet Brian Coffey to send her his Mallarmé Dice translation. Perhaps if MacGreevy had read the existentialists he “would have more understanding of some of the youngsters” [including Coffey]. He didn't love Sartre enough long ago in Paris to want to read him... little Simone Weill had me so persecuted with questions that I haven't been tempted to read her either.”

Return to the Table of Contents


A Yeats exhibition was held at the National Gallery. [Paul] Engle lectured recently at the American Embassy, reading a poem about John Kennedy. He has not seen Schlesinger's book on Kennedy, but thinks “the world instinct is to see him in a kind of effulgence.” Comments on his health.

Return to the Table of Contents

Deutsch, Babette to Ridgeway, Ann N. December 27, 1965 T.L.S., 1 p. with env

Return to the Table of Contents

Deutsch, Babette to Ridgeway, Ann N. December 28, 1965 T.L.S., 1 p. with enclosure and env

Remarks Two centuries of Russian verse: “What care and experience and varied rhythms.”


Comments on Vivenne Koch biography [William Carlos Williams, New Directions [1950]]. She did not consult him; he saw only rough draft which he pencilled extensively. “As a biography it is, I'm afraid, unsatisfactory - even false. I'm sure in many instances in its interpretation of individual pieces... I give you my permission to rip the book to shreds only I don't think you should quote this letter.”


Notes he has no proofs of unspecified book, and that “Van Vechten is a grand printer and friend...” who will have the book by April.

to Deutsch, Babette. August. _____, T.L.S., 1p.

Discusses [Choral:] The pink church. He is not a red, but pink: “the pink of life, of a pink cheek...” The poem is “anti-Catholic, anti all that the Bible damnation theorizes.. Servitus...is my saint...I particularly detest Eliot, the Catholic Church and the Dictatorship not of the Proletariat but of such rats as Stalin and all his kind.” Thinks The pink church fails, “It is, however a protest poem...against palpable abuses against reason.”

Deutsch should by now have [his] book. Roethke wishes he could “read and work for about five years at this point, instead of having the hoorah and hullabaloo of teaching...” Thinks he may “collapse into matrimony around 50.” He is Winterset Rothberg of Last class, appearing in Botteghe Oscure V [1950].

Return to the Table of Contents


He has received Coming of age...“a noble achievement...” Regards her as “a great literary personage...” Thinks many poets do not avoid “being self-consciously poetic...” Deutsch may have brought MacGrevey nearer to poetry again; although he had “intellectually accepted poetry as the most essential truth,” he had felt removed from it.

Return to the Table of Contents

MacGrevey, Thomas, to Deutsch, Babette. [Dublin]. n.d. A.greeting cardS.

[On card with printed Margaret Clark painting of Harlequin and Columbine]. “I don't think Harlequin's hands and foots are mine only the head but that was forty years ago.”

Return to the Table of Contents


Distinguishes between a Milosz [whom Deutsch may have mentioned] and poet O.V. Lubicz-Milosz. Rexroth is angry at the anti-Stalinists, who are turning him toward “an attitude of passivity if not sympathy” with the Communist Party; remarks a Commentary editorial. Berates Poetry: “Miss Monroes epigones will claim to have `first published' even me.”

Return to the Table of Contents

He has spent the summer finishing the third book, editing an issue of Poetry for Karl Shapiro. He is touched at her comment that “the long pieces came through...more completely on subsequent readings.”

Series 2. Literary manuscripts as follows


Folder
2/1 Typescript, with printed inserts, occasional ms. corrections. 207p.

Folder
2/2 Galley proof, with ms. notations in hand of author, text revisions on galleys 4, 15, 61. 70 galleys

Folder
2/3/1Page proof on galley, initialed BD top right, labeled reader’s set. dated 11/8/68. 89 galleys

Folder
2/3/2Page proof on galley, ms. queries and comments in hand of the author on galleys 19, 26, 30, 41, 3, 5, 8, 13, 52, 60, 61, 63, 66, 71, 73, 78, 82, 86. 89 galleys

Folder
2/4 Miscellaneous emorande, inc. list noting page proof corrections signed by Miss Deutsch, note from J. Leach, editor, commenting on list. 4 items