Guid to the the Olive Constant Dougan Collection

Prepared by Special Collections Staff
Ella Strong Denison Library
Libraries of The Claremont Colleges
Scripps College
1090 Columbia Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: (909) 607-3941
Fax: (909) 607-1548
Email: denison@libraries.claremont.edu
URL: http://libraries.claremont.edu/den/
© 2005
Claremont University Consortium. All rights reserved.
Finding aid of the Olive Constant Dougan Collection

Collection number: D1983.1

Ella Strong Denison Library
Libraries of The Claremont Colleges
Claremont, California

Processed by:
Special Collections Staff
Date Completed:
2005
Encoded by:
Kelley Wolfe Bachli

© 2004 Claremont University Consortium. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary
Title: Olive Constant Dougan collection
Dates: 1915-2005
Bulk Dates: 1920-1963
Collection number: D1983.1
Creator: Dougan, Olive, d. 1962
Collector: Dougan, Robert
Collection Size: 3.58 linear feet (8 archives boxes)
Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library. Ella Strong Denison Library. Claremont, California 91711
Abstract: Olive Constant Dougan was an author of children's literature and poet who lived and worked in the United Kingdom and in Southern California. The collection at Scripps College contains the author's personal correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, photographs, drawings by the author, and ephemera. The materials in the collection range from 1915 to 2005, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1920 to 1963.
Physical location: Please consult repository.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection open for research.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish must be submitted in writing to Denison Library.
Preferred Citation
Acquisition Information
Biography / Administrative History
Olive Constant Dougan was born Olive Constant McMicken on September 1, 1904, in North London. She was the eldest of four children. Her mother was Welsh and her father was Scottish but of English birth. Dougan went on to take a degree at the University of London School of Librarianship in 1926. Three years later, she married Robert Ormes Dougan.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Olive C. Dougan began composing poems, short stories and juvenile fiction novels and submitting these for publication.

Dougan had seven books published during her lifetime, all in England during the 1930s and 1940s. They were written mainly for preteen girls. Her first book, The Bendon Bequest: The Story of a Romantic Schoolgirl, was published by Hutchinson and Company in 1934, but the height of Dougan's fame came during the latter half of the 1940s, when her fifth and seventh books were published by one of the leading firms in England, Faber and Faber. She was in high demand at this time.
Sent to Scotland for World War II in 1940, Robert Dougan was joined by his wife in 1941; they lived in Perth until 1952, and then in Dublin, Ireland until 1958, when Robert became a librarian at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. While living in Southern California (Pasadena, and then Sierra Madre after 1953), Olive Dougan was busy with various manuscripts of stories for juvenile American girls. None of these appear to have been published before her death on January 4, 1963 of heart disease. After her death, Robert Dougan collected some of his wife's poems and had them privately published by the Raccoon Press in Arcadia, California, for distribution among friends and family. Some of the poems in Shadows and Other Poems had previously been published in The Poetry Review in 1936.

Adapted from booklet by Charline Wu.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains personal correspondence, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, photographs, drawings by the author, and ephemera. Letters to and from Dougan, and Dougan's poetry, are supplemented by condolence letters, the author's early writings, and articles and quotes collected by the author. Manuscripts include typescripts of Dougan's poetry from 1933 to 1961, short stories from 1930 to 1940, and fiction novels from 1960. Not all of these short stories and poems were published.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Dougan, Olive, d. 1962
Children's authors
Women Authors
Children's literature
Women poets

Processing Information

Front matter compiled by Caitlin Silberman, 2005.
Box 3 : 5  Letters of Condolence, F-G
Box 3 : 6  Letters of Condolence, H-J
Box 3 : 7  Letters of Condolence, K-L
Box 3 : 8  Letters of Condolence, M
Box 3 : 9  Letters of Condolence, N-Q
Box 3 : 10 Letters of Condolence, R-S
Box 3 : 11 Letters of Condolence, T-V
Box 3 : 12 Letters of Condolence, W-Z
Box 3 : 13 Letters of Condolence, misc
Box 4 : 1  Poetry by Olive Constant Dougan 1935-1940
   Physical Description: typescripts; originals and revisions
Box 4 : 2  Poetry by Olive Constant Dougan 1941-1961
   Physical Description: typescripts; originals and revisions
Box 4 : 3  Short Stories by Olive Constant Dougan 1930-1940
   Physical Description: typescripts
Box 4 : 4  Short Stories by Olive Constant Dougan Undated
   Physical Description: typescripts
Box 4 : 5  Artwork by Olive Constant Dougan
   Physical Description: pencil drawings; watercolors
Box 5 : 1  Quotes and Anecdotes collected by Olive Constant Dougan
Box 5 : 2  Booklets of Notes and Story Ideas undated
Box 5 : 3  Booklets of Notes and Story Ideas; fragments of poems
Box 5 : 4  Booklets of Notes and Story Ideas
Box/Folder 6  Manuscripts (typed)
Box 6 : 1  Bridie, Come Home 1960's
Box 6 : 2  Bridie, Come Home (revision; 1962)
Box 6 : 3  A Summer Vacation (revision of Bridie, Come Home, undated)
Box 6 : 4  Myfawny undated
Box/Folder 7  Manuscripts (typed)
Box 7 : 1  The Ghost Town Inheritance undated
Box 7 : 2  The Ghost Town Inheritance (revision; 1962)
Box 7 : 3  The Steadfast Friends or Through Thick and Thin undated
Box 7 : 4  Untitled undated
Box 7 : 5  The Children of the Lost Canyon undated
Box 8 : 1  The Forbidden Friendship undated
Box 8 : 2  Shadows and Other Poems
   Physical Description: 3 copies; in memory of Olive Constant Dougan
Box 8 : 3  Proofs of Shadows: One Letter from Robert O. Dougan to Mr. Moult