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Julia Randall Papers


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Collection Overview

Title:	Julia Randall Papers
Date Range:	1930-2001
Abstract:	This collection includes correspondence, manuscripts, periodical publications, personal papers, publicity, lectures, schoolwork, teaching notes, and a sound recording.
Creator:	Randall, Julia, 1923-2005
Size:	15 cu. ft.
Donor:	Donated by Randall via letter, dated 14 November 2001; Acc# 1-1/2001
Access:	No restrictions
Rights:	Permission to quote from documents must be made through copyright owners.
Related Collections:	University Archives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ F-3a: Faculty Files—Randall, Julia.▪ E-1: VPAA—Faculty Files (under Sawyer; acc# 19-12/1999)▪ Articles by or about in University Publications X-2f: Photos—Faculty—Randall▪ Q-4a: Craig, Sally, Class of 1965▪ Q-4a: Hines, Marion (Larsen), Class of 1965 (acc#1-10/2009 (box))▪ Q-4a: Abbott, Jill, Class of 1965 (acc#2-5/2015)▪ Mss: Hopkins Papers correspondence, Ann B. Hopkins, Class of 1965 (acc#4-4/2017)

Revised June 2018

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& Beth S. Harris, Special Collections Librarian & Archivist*

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Biographical Statement:

Julia Randall was born on June 15, 1923 in Baltimore, Maryland, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Randall. She attended both Calvert School and Bryn Mawr School, and graduated with a B.A. in English from Bennington College in 1945. Randall first went into medicine, studying at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, but returned to her undergraduate interest in English. She studied at Harvard, but returned to Johns Hopkins to complete her degree (M.A. 1950). In 1952, she married Kenneth Sawyer, a poet and art critic who wrote for the *Paris Tribune* and the *Baltimore Sun*; they divorced in 1962.

Julia taught at Johns Hopkins University from 1950 to 1952, the Paris branch of the University of Maryland from 1952 to 1953, the Peabody Conservatory from 1957 to 1958, and the Towson State Teachers College from 1958 to 1962. She also worked as a library assistant at Goucher College from 1954 to 1956. In 1962 she became an associate professor of English at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia, where she stayed for the next eleven years before retiring from teaching to write full time. While at Hollins she was the only female member of the English department and future authors such as Annie Dillard and Lee Smith among her students. According to Nancy Parrish, in *Lee Smith, Annie Dillard, and the Hollins Group*, "Julia Randall Sawyer was an important model for the women of the Hollins Group, and for Annie Doak Dillard in particular because she was a 'woman who has committed her life to her art.'"

Under her maiden name of Julia Randall, she published eight collections of poetry from 1952 to 1992, and was included in *Contemporary Southern Poetry: An Anthology* in 1979. As a poet, she is most often associated with Baltimore, Maryland. She also wrote literary reviews regularly for the *Baltimore Evening Sun* and the *Hollins Critic*. In 1987 she received the Poet's Prize for *Moving in Memory* and in both 1966 and 1982 she received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. In 1980 she received the American Poetry Society's Percy Bysshe Shelley Award.

After her retirement in 1973 Randall moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Her post-teaching years are marked with efforts in environmental activism, especially pertaining to the Long Green Valley in Baltimore County. Some of the land she campaigned for has been protected by preservation ordinances. Much of her writing reflects these environmental themes.

Randall moved from her native Baltimore to North Bennington, Vermont in 1987 where she remained until her death. On May 22, 2005, Randall died from heart disease, at the age of 81.

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List of Books Published:

The Solstice Tree: Poems (Contemporary Poetry: Baltimore, 1952)
Mimic August: Poems (Contemporary Poetry: Baltimore, 1960)
4 Poems (Tinker Press: Hollins College, 1964)
The Puritan Carpenter (University of North Carolina Press, 1965)
Adam's Dream (Tinker Press: Hollins College, 1966)
The Farewells: Poems (Elpenor Books: Chicago, 1981)
Moving in Memory (Louisiana State University Press, 1987)
The Path to Fairview: New and Selected Poems (Louisiana State University Press, 1992)

Scope & Content

This collection reflects Julia Randall's active career, focused on teaching, writing, and mentorship. The correspondence, the largest series in this collection, reflects her wide circle of colleagues, friends, and acquaintances. The letters are full of scholarly debate, advice on manuscripts, as well as personal content from colleagues and former students.

Series List

Series I. Correspondence, 1945-2001

- Incoming
- Outgoing

Series II. Writings.

- Manuscripts (of published works)
- Periodical publications (articles & poetry)

Series III. Press

Series IV. Teaching Notes.

Series V. Readings and Lectures.

Series VI. Manuscripts from Other Writers.

Series VII. Personal Papers & Miscellaneous

- School work
- Other
- Sound recording

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Series Description & Arrangement

Series I: Correspondence (Incoming & Outgoing): This series has over 2,000 pieces of correspondence, from more than 100 different correspondents, and ranges from 1945-2001. Incoming letters form the bulk of the series and come from Hollins alumnae and faculty, faculty from other institutions, Randall's ex-husband, and many writers. Some of the letters include photographs, poems, articles, and artwork.

Over half of the series is from Hollins-related correspondents, with the bulk coming from Alumnae. Randall corresponded with alumnae from the class of 1962-1981, with the majority coming from 1964-1968.

Major correspondents include Jill Abbott (Hollins class of 1965), Rosalind Wilson (writer and Bennington College friend), Louis D. Rubin, Jr. (writer and Hollins Faculty), Fontaine Belford (Hollins class of 1962), and Curtis Bennett (Johns Hopkins faculty).

The amount of outgoing correspondence that came with this collection is small but there are also letters from Randall that were received as separate accessions and shelved separately: Jill Abbott, Sally Craig, Marion Hines Larsen, and Ann B. Hopkins (Class of 1965). With the individual accessions, the amount of outgoing correspondence is more than 175 letters.

Most letters are filed alphabetically by last name (for correspondents with 2 or more letters) and single letters are filed alphabetically in two file folders (A-M, N-Z) at the end of the incoming correspondence series.

Outgoing correspondence is a much smaller series and is in an A-Z arrangement within several files. A number of letter recipients are not clearly identified. Some letters appear to be drafts.

Series II: Writing—Manuscripts: This series consists of articles written from 1954 to 1987 including the *Baltimore Sun*, manuscripts of *Adam's Dream*, *The Farewells*, and *The Path to Fairview*, an unpublished mini opera, an unpublished novel, literary quizzes written for *Algonquin* (done at the suggestion of Louis D. Rubin Jr.), two songs whose lyrics were written by Randall, and notes on poetry, prose, and literature. Poetry and prose include both published and non-published pieces written from her childhood in the 1930s through the 1990s, along with an unpublished manuscript of children's verse and a classical education sequence based on her teachers at Bryn Mawr.

Series II: Writing--Periodical Publications: This series contains poems published in *Southern Poetry Review*, *Tennessee Poetry Journal*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Vanderbilt Poetry Review*, *Bennington College Silo*, *Poetry*, *The Hopkins Review*, Hollins publications including the *Hollins Critic*, and other Eastern and Midwestern literary journals.

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Series II: Press: This series includes critiques and reviews on all but two of her published works and on her poetry in general, announcements about prizes won, and a few non-literary articles.

Series IV: Readings and Lectures: Predominantly readings she gave at Hollins College, including a series of chapel talks, as well as poetry readings given at schools and universities over the Eastern seaboard, including Bennington, her alma mater.

Series V: Teaching Notes: This series includes syllabi, exams, paper topics, and notes for classes taught at Hollins as well as two classes taught at Goucher College and a lecture series at Roland Park School (Baltimore, MD).

Series VI: Manuscript from other Authors: This series contains papers and poems written by Julia's students at Hollins; papers and poems written by Hollins faculty members; papers, poems, and articles written by correspondents found in the this collection, including Kenneth Sawyer, poems written by non-correspondents, and poems written by Rosanne Coggeshall, Hollins Alumna and faculty member. The Coggeshall letters include communication between the Louisiana State Press and Randall, who provided Coggeshall assistance with her publications.

Series VII: Personal Papers & Miscellaneous: Items include schoolwork: papers, notes, and other assignments, predominantly literary, from Bryn Mawr, Bennington and Johns Hopkins. Examples of miscellaneous items are a report of the organization Historic Long Green Valley (Baltimore Country, Maryland), materials on Elliott Coleman, faculty member of Johns Hopkins University, and a sound recording.

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Box & Folder Lists for Series I. Correspondence

Incoming Correspondence (1949-2001)

Abbott, Jill (Makagon)
Abhau, Elliott "Nes"
Albrecht, Frank
Allen, John "Lex"
Arrowood, Clint
Ames, Alison
Aston, Dore
Barth, John
Beardslee, Alvord
Beckham, Nancy Head (Ferris)
Bede [dog]
Belford, Fontaine
Belitt, Ben
Bennet, Curtis
Bergschneider, Chelsea
Bethel, Denise
Bidwell, Molly A.
Boas, George
Bragh, Erin G.
Branham, Grace
Briggs, Curtisy
Brokway, Tom
Canby, Mary
Canfield, Virginia
Carr, Betsy (Brooks)
Case, Anne Merritt
Clampit, Amy
Cloonan, Bill
Coatsworth, Anna
Coe, Diana W.
Coggeshall, Rosanne "Rox"
Cole, Tom
Coleman, Elliot
Cooper, Phil
Cowley, Malcom
Craig, Sally
Dewart, Munay "Mac"
Doak, Annie (Dillard)
Dorsey, J. R.
Doughy, Sylvia
Drake, Mimi
Edmonson, Yvette
Einhorn, Arthur
Farmer, Mary K.
Fergusson, Francis
Foster, Thomas H.
Foster, Catherine "Kit" Osgood
Frazier, Allie
Frazier, Ruth
Fulton, Alice
Gallant, Leonard J.
Garrett, George
Garrigez, Jean
Gatch, Kathy
Gibson, Margaret
Gioia, Dana
Gresser, Seymour
Grieb, Kathy
Grier, Finlay
Guess, Frank
Gushee, Beatrice "Betty"
Hacker, Marilyn
Hershey, Kathy
Hill, Kathy
Hines, Marion
Holland, Sarah L.
Hooker, Michael K.
Hopkins, Ann
Hopkins, Lazelle S.
Jacobson, Josephine
Jones, Anne Goodwin
Jones, Judith Bailey
Kelly, Betty
Laidlaw, Anne
Lawson, Anna (Logan)
Leblon, Mary H.

Note: A detailed list identifying correspondents and extent of correspondence is available as a separate document. This document is made available on the digital commons.

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Limmer, Ruth
Kinzie, Mary
MacCaffrey, W. T., Mrs.
McMillan, Ann
Matthews, Dale
Merritt, Nancy
Miles, Joseph
Miller, Mary Owings
Minnich, Elizabeth
Molesworth, Charles
Moore, John and Betty
Murphey, Brian
Nemerov, Howard
Parker, Helen B.
Payne-Rosen, Elisabeth "Betsy"
Pelham, William (& Marilyn?)
Raine, Kathleen
Randall, Mrs. Richard H.
Reed, Lorie
Rizzardi, Alfredo
Roth, Shelia
Rothke, Ted
Rubin, Louis D., Jr.
Saberwal, Colonel A. S.
Sargent, Marion S.
Sawyer, Kenneth
Scheele, Roy
Scheukar, Joan
Sewanee Review

Shapiro, Karl
Settle, Mary Lee
Slavitt, David
Smith, William "Bill" Jay
Smith, Lee
Spears, Monroe K.
Spencer, Eleanor
Stevens, Elisabeth
Tate, Allen.
Taylor, Elizabeth "Ibby" (Greer)
Treadwell, Peggy
Truitt, Anne
Turgeon, Elizabeth "Liz"
Vance, Jane Gentry
Vinal, Harold
Wadsworth, Bill
Wheeler, John "Jake"
White, Ellington "Jean"
Wilaen, R.
Williams, Anne Bayard
Wilner, Eleanor
Wilson, Reuel K.
Wilson, Rosalind
Wino, R. B.
Wooten-Hawkins, Anne "Hawkes"
Wright, Nancy (Slain)
Zeldin, Jesse
Unknown (admirer)

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Outgoing Correspondence

- A-Z (some recipients unidentified)
- Abbott, Jill—*Shelved in a separate location (see Q-4a: Abbott)*
- Craig, Sally— *Shelved in a separate location (see Q-4a: Craig)*
- Hines, Marion (Larsen) — *Shelved in a separate location (see Q-4a: Hines)*
- Hopkins, Anne B. -- *Shelved in a separate location (see Mss.: Hopkins)*

Box List for Series II. Writings—Manuscripts.

Adam's Dream

Farewells (2 folders)

The Path to Fairview (3 folders)

Mixed Genre (5 folders) (1943-1995)

Music/Lyrics

Notes (4 folders) (1951-1980s?)

Opera (summer 1964)

Poetry

- 1930s-1941
- 1941-1945
- 1948
- 1948-1958
- 1952
- 1960
- 1961
- 1963
- 1963-1964
- 1964-1966
- 1966-1967
- 1967
- 1968
- 1968-1969
- 1969-1973
- 1962-1973 (Hollins, but undated)
- 1970s
- 1976
- 1978 (2 folders)

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- 1979-1982
- 1984
- 1986-1987
- 1988-1992
- Classical Education Sequence
- Children's Verse
- Rhymes
- Undated (3 folders)

Broadsides & Cards

Prose (3 folders) (1940-c. 1988)

Prose

- Novel
- Quizzes

Box List for Series II. Writings—Periodical Publications (Poetry & Articles)

Periodical Publications--Poetry

- 1942-1945
- 1949-1964
- 1965-1980
- 1981-1994 + undated

- 1942-1945
- 1949-1964
- 1965-1980
- 1981-1994 + undated

Periodical Publications—Articles

- 1954-1969
- 1976-1987 + undated

Box List for Series III. Press.

- Critiques and Reviews
 - *Adam's Dream* (1971)
 - *The Farewells* (1981-1983 + undated)
 - General (1968-1988 + undated)

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- *Mimic August* (undated)
- *Moving in Memory* (1987-1988)
- *The Path to Fairview* (1992-1994 + undated)
- The Puritan Carpenter (1965-1966 + undated)
- Misc. Literary (1958-1994 + undated)
- Prizes (1966-1994 + undated)
- Nonliterary (1959, 1983)

Box List for Series IV. Readings and Lectures.

- At Hollins
 - 1962-1970
 - 1971-1983 + undated
- Other Locations A-R (1956-1990)
- Other Locations S-Z and unknown (1959-1983 + undated)

Box List for Series V. Teaching Notes

- Pre-Hollins. 3 files (Johns Hopkins?, 1950-)
- Hollins
 - Eng 152: English Literature
 - Eng 251: The English Novel
 - Eng 252: The British Novel
 - Eng 286: Victorian Literature (2 folders)
 - Eng 305: Literary Criticism
 - Eng 326: Romantic Poetry (3 folders)
 - Eng 343/4: The Modern Novel
 - Eng 350: Love in the Western World
 - Eng 357: Modern Poetry
 - Humanities 103
 - Short Term
 - Eng 205—Goucher
 - Eng 276: 20th Century Poetry—Goucher
 - Milton—Roland Park School

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Box List for Series VI. Manuscripts of Other Authors

Note: Some of these manuscripts contain correspondence.

- Hollins-Related
 - Albrecht, Frank
 - Coggeshall, Rosanne (3 folders)
 - Cooper, Phil
 - Dillard, Annie Doak
 - Fontaine, Belford
 - Molesworth, Charles
 - Rubin, Louis D., Jr.
 - Misc. students & faculty

- Non-Hollins
 - Adams, Léonie
 - Curtis Bennett (2 folders)
 - Dewart, Murray “Mac”
 - Gioia, Dana
 - Kinze, Mary
 - Randall, Julia Hutton
 - Saintsbury, George
 - Stephenson, Sandy
 - Wilner, Eleanor

Box List for Series VII. Personal (1938-1995 + undated) & Miscellaneous.

Schoolwork

- High School
- Bennington, 1942-
- 1943-Aug. 1945
- 1945-1947
- 1948 + undated
- Review Notes for Orals, Spring 1950
- undated

Other

- Memorial Papers—Elliott Coleman (1980, 1985)
- Sound Recording. Bennington County Choral Society, singing music set with Randall’s poetry.

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