

MARJORIE WASHBURN BARBARI PAPERS

Mss. 3386

Inventory

Compiled by
Nick Skaggs

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2019

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SUMMARY

Size	5.25 linear ft.
Geographic Locations	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1926-2002
Bulk Dates	1966-1996
Languages	English
Summary	Writer of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, printed materials, magnetic tape reels, a journal, and poetry manuscripts. Other writings include manuscripts of aphorisms, reflections, short stories, novels, and a novelette.
Access Restrictions	None.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced.
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Citation	Marjorie Washburn Barbari Papers, Mss. 3386, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Locations	38:76-81

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Marjorie Washburn Barbari was a native of Clearwater, Florida and a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Before moving to Baton Rouge, she was admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Florida. She was married to Emile Barbari (1916-1999). She wrote poetry on themes taken from life, religion, and nature. Several of her poems were printed in various periodicals. In addition to her poetry and other creative writings, she also kept a daily journal, which she titled *To Be Poor*, from October 1979 to August 2002. She died on March 25, 2007.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, printed materials (chiefly newspaper clippings), poetry manuscripts, and magnetic tape recordings of poems read by Marjorie Washburn Barbari. There are also manuscripts for other writings, including aphorisms, reflections, short stories, novels, a novelette, and Barbari's daily journal titled *To Be Poor*.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1953, 1968-2002, undated

Series II. Writings, 1970-2002, undated

Series III. Printed and Photographic Materials, circa 1926-1928, 1941-1946, 1952-1992, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1953, 1968-2002, undated

Correspondence consists chiefly of letters written to Marjorie Washburn Barbari from her friends and family, especially her cousin Winona Foster. Some letters are from publishing companies responding to Barbari's writing submittals. Most letters pertain to family news and her writings. Of interest are several letters (February-August 1979) by Barbari describing her recording project and an ensuing disagreement she had with the State Library of Louisiana. Also of interest are letters from a Vietnamese immigrant named Le Van Nhan to Barbari, describing Nhan's life in California (December 1979-January 1982).

Series II. Writings, 1970-2002, undated

Writings consist chiefly of poetry manuscripts including Barbari's multi-volume *One Woman's Life* poetry collection and many collections of religious poetry. Also included with the poetry manuscripts are newspaper and periodical clippings of published versions of several of Barbari's poems and magnetic tape reels of Barbari reading poetry from *One Woman's Life*. Other manuscript writings include novels, a novelette, short stories, aphorisms, reflections, and a daily journal titled *To Be Poor* (October 1797-August 2002). In the journal's preface, Barbari mentions that she was twenty-two when she was first admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Florida and describes her time there.

Series III. Printed and Photographic Materials, circa 1926-1928, 1941-1946, 1952-1992, undated

Printed materials of interest include the book cover of Barbari's *From the Depths to the Heights*. Photographic materials include prints of Barbari and her husband Emile, their family members, and their homes in Baton Rouge.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

Baptists--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I.
Barbari, Emile, 1916-1999.	I.-III.
Barbari, Marjorie Washburn, 1924-2007.	I.-III.
Christian poetry, American--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I.-III.
Clippings (information artifacts)	III.
Immigrants--California.	I.
Letters (correspondence)	I.
Magnetic tapes.	II.
Manuscripts (documents)	II.
Photographs.	III.
Psychiatric hospital patients--Florida.	I.-III.
Vietnamese--California.	I.
Women authors, American--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I.-III.
Women poets, American--Louisiana--Baton Rouge.	I.-III.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>		
38:76-81	1	Series I. Correspondence, 1953, 1968-2002, undated			
		1-50	Correspondence, 1953, 1968-2002, undated		
	38:76-81		Series II. Writings, 1970-2002, undated		
			Poetry Manuscripts		
			51	Early poems, Feb. 1970, undated	
			2	1-20	<i>One Woman's Life</i> , undated
			7	--	Magnetic tape reels 1-18: <i>One Woman's Life</i> (read by Marjorie W. Barbari), recorded 1978
			2	21-26	Untitled collection, undated
				27-38	Single volume works, 1989-1995, undated
				39	Collected poems, Dec. 1977, undated
				40	Ballads, undated
				41-62	Religious poetry, 1990-circa 2001, undated
				63	Published poems (photocopies), circa 1989-1995, undated
				Novel and Other Manuscripts	
			3	1-5	<i>When All a Woman Has</i> (novel), undated
				6-9	<i>Where the Poor Live</i> (novel), undated
				10	<i>The Woman Who Didn't Mean to Kill Her Husband</i> (mystery novelette), undated
				11	Mystery and ghost stories, undated
				12-18	Aphorisms and reflections, 1986, undated
				19-27	Short stories and other creative writings, 1974, 1996-circa 2001, undated
				Journal	
4			28-44	Journal (<i>To Be Poor</i>), Oct. 1979-May 1982, undated	
			1-32	Journal (<i>To Be Poor</i>), May 1982-Feb. 1988	
	5	1-34	Journal (<i>To Be Poor</i>), Feb. 1988-Aug. 2002		
6	Series III. Printed and Photographic Materials, circa 1926-1928, 1941-1946, 1952-1992, undated				
	1	Printed materials, circa 1970-1973, 1989-1991, undated			
	2-5	Photographic prints, circa 1926-1928, 1941-1946, circa 1959-1992, undated			