

Irene McKinney, Poet, Papers A&M 3873

Irene McKinney, Poet, Papers
circa 1950-2011



Title Statement

Irene McKinney, Poet, Papers A&M 3873

Author: Staff of the West Virginia & Regional History Center

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 3873

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2323

Unit Date

circa 1950-2011

Language

English .

Creator

McKinney, Irene

source

McKinney, Joseph D.

Extent

31.83 Linear Feet 31 ft. 10 in. (25 records cartons, 15 in. each); (1 document case, 5 in.); (1 flat storage box, 1.5 in.); (1 oversized folder, 0.5 in.)

Extent

12.68 Gigabytes 218 files, formats include .doc, .wav, .iso, .cue, .jpg, .log, .psd, .log, .mp4, .docx

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

No special access restriction applies.

Researchers may access born digital materials by requesting to view the materials in person by appointment or remotely by contacting the West Virginia & Regional History Center reference department.

Some audiovisual materials (box 25) must be digitized for research access. Researchers must contact the West Virginia & Regional History Center reference department in advance.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Deposit from McKinney, Joseph D., 2012 October 18

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Irene McKinney, Poet, Papers, A&M 3873, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Poet Irene McKinney (April 20, 1939 – February 4, 2012) grew up on a farm in Belington, Barbour County, West Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1968, her master's from West Virginia University in 1970, and her Ph.D. from the University of Utah in 1980. McKinney published several collections of poetry, including *The Girl with the Stone in Her Lap* (1976); *Six O'Clock Mine Report* (1989), which was chosen for the Pitt Poetry Series; and *Vivid Companion* (2004). *Unthinkable: Selected Poems 1976–2004* was published in 2009. McKinney's work is also included in the anthology *Listen Here: Women Writing in Appalachia* (2003), edited by Sandra L. Ballard and Patricia L. Hudson. Her lyrical poetry is steeped in the rural Appalachian landscape and frequently explores the connections between people and place.

McKinney co-founded the literary journal *Trellis* with Maggie Anderson and served as an editor for *Quarterly West*. She also edited the anthology *Backcountry: Contemporary Writing in West Virginia* (2002).

Her honors included fellowships, grants, and residencies from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, the MacDowell Colony, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, the Utah Arts Council, and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. She won the Cincinnati Review Annual Poetry Prize, and her work has been featured on *Verse Daily* and Garrison Keillor's National Public Radio program *The*

Writer's Almanac. In 1994 she was appointed poet laureate of West Virginia.

Though a professor emerita, she taught creative writing part-time at West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1991 until her death.

Adapted from the following articles:

"Irene McKinney." Poetry Foundation. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/irene-mckinney>

Slack, James. "Irene McKinney." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 08 February 2024. Web. <https://www.wvencyclopedia.org/entries/1600>.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the professional papers of West Virginia Poet Laureate Irene McKinney. Notable materials include early drafts of published works; submission materials for various grants, fellowships, publications and contests; and writing exercises from her teaching career.

The collection also features a number of works authored by peers with personal inscriptions to McKinney, including Jayne Anne Phillips, Maggie Anderson, and Aaron Smith.

The materials appear in a variety of formats, including papers, photographs and digital media.

Please note that this collection includes coarse and sexually explicit language.

Organization:

The collection is organized into six series.

Series 1. Correspondence, Photos and Press Clippings, 1950s-2011 (boxes 8-12 and 25): Cards and letters from other writers, professors and publishers, news clippings, book reviews and photographs. Includes a scrapbook assembled by McKinney of personally significant letters and reviews. Box 2, folders 1-4 contain journals dating from 1991-1998. Box 4 folder 5; 7; and 8-9 contain journals from 1995-1998. Box 10 and Box 11 contain journals from 1996-2011.

Series 2. Publications and Drafts by McKinney, 1950s-2000s (boxes 13-19): Early drafts and final publications of McKinney's work. Several drafts include handwritten notes by fellow poets, most often Maggie Anderson.

Series 3. Teaching Materials and Professional Development, 1960s-2000s (box 20): Materials relating to McKinney's teaching career and career advancement, such as class assignments and exams, submissions for professional fellowship and grant opportunities, faculty notices of appointment, and programs from writing workshops and festivals.

Series 4. Publications and Drafts by Peers, 1960s-2000s (boxes 21-24): Early drafts, sometimes including McKinney's feedback, and final publications, often signed, of McKinney's colleagues and peers. Citation list of separated publications available upon request.

Series 5. Audiovisual and Digital Media (box 25 and digital objects): Video and audio interviews with McKinney, filmed poetry competitions and digital drafts of McKinney's writing.

Series 6. Miscellaneous (boxes 1-7 and 25): Much of the material in boxes 1-7 could likely fit within the above series. Box 25 includes miscellaneous items such as artwork, receipts and a folder of personal papers. Box 27 and oversize folder 1 include miscellaneous posters.

Keywords

Poets laureate -- West Virginia

Women poets, American -- 20th century

McKinney, Joseph D.

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Arrangement

Please note that due to a change in the Center's processing protocol, this collection's materials feature two distinct arrangement styles. The first seven boxes of the collection are organized into folders, but not physically sorted into series, while the remaining boxes are organized by series.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Correspondence, Photos and Press Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231990

Unit Date 1950s-2011

Scope and Contents

This series includes cards and letters from other writers, professors and publishers; news clippings; book reviews; and photographs. It also features a scrapbook assembled by McKinney of personally significant letters and reviews.

Correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231991

Unit Date 1950s-2000s

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Mixed Materials 25 (Box)

Notes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231992

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Photos and Press Clippings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231993

Unit Date 1950s-2000s

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Series 2. Publications and Drafts by McKinney

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231994

Unit Date 1950s-2000s

Scope and Contents

This series contains early drafts and final publications of McKinney's work. Several drafts include handwritten notes by fellow poets, most often Maggie Anderson.

Drafts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231995

Unit Date 1950s-2000s

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Mixed Materials 15 (Box)

Published Works

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231996

Unit Date 1970s-2000s

Mixed Materials 16 (Box)

Mixed Materials 17 (Box)

Mixed Materials 18 (Box)

Mixed Materials 19 (Box)

Series 3. Teaching Materials and Professional Development

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231997

Unit Date 1960s-2000s

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials relating to McKinney's teaching and career advancement, such as class assignments and exams, submissions for professional fellowship and grant opportunities, faculty notices of appointment, and programs from writing workshops and festivals.

Teaching Materials and Professional Development

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231998

Unit Date 1960s-2000s

Mixed Materials 20 (Box)

Series 4. Publications and Drafts by Peers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/231999

Unit Date 1960s-2000s

Scope and Contents

This series contains early drafts, sometimes including McKinney's feedback, and final publications, often signed, of McKinney's colleagues and peers. Citation list of separated publications available upon request.

Drafts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/232000

Unit Date 1960s-2000s

Mixed Materials 21 (Box)

Published Works

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/232001

Unit Date 1960s-2000s

Mixed Materials 22 (Box)

Mixed Materials 23 (Box)

Mixed Materials 24 (Box)

Series 5. Audiovisual and Digital Media

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/232002

Unit Date undated

Conditions Governing Access

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Scope and Contents

This series contains video and audio interviews with McKinney, audio essays, digital images, filmed poetry competitions and digital drafts of McKinney's writing.

AV Media**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/232003**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials** 25 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 26 (Box)**Series 6. Miscellaneous****Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/232004**Unit Date** 1950s-2011**Scope and Contents**

Much of the material in boxes 1-7 could likely fit within the above series. Box 25 includes miscellaneous items such as artwork, receipts and a folder of personal papers. Box 27 and oversize folder 1 include miscellaneous posters.

Miscellaneous**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/232005**Unit Date** 1950s-2011**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)**Mixed Materials** 25 (Box)**Mixed Materials** Oversize 1 (Folder)**Mixed Materials** 27 (Box)