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William F. Claire collection on Mark Van Doren 12767756

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Description is written in: English.

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
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New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Claire, William F
Title:	William F. Claire Collection on Mark Van Doren
ID:	12767756
ID:	MS#1848
Date [inclusive]:	1940-2023
Physical Description:	2 linear feet 4 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William F. Claire Collection on Mark Van Doren; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

William F. Claire was born in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1935. Claire graduated from Deerfield Academy in 1954 and received his bachelor's degree in 1958 from Columbia University. He studied at Georgetown University before joining the military. Claire also worked for the Pentagon, as well as in various public and private jobs in Washington DC early in his career. A notable writer and poet in his own right, Claire founded the literary magazine "Voyages" in 1967. Since its inception "Voyages" has won a number of awards including a National Endowment for the Arts award. Claire's work has been published in "The American Scholar," "Antioch Review," "New York Times," "Smithsonian Magazine," "The Poetry Pilot" of the Academy of American Poets, as well as numerous other major publications. His poems have also been recorded for the Library of Congress archives. Honors include winning a Rockefeller Foundation Grant for residency in Belagio, Italy and he is a Yaddo and MacDowell scholar. Claire currently lives in both Lewes, Delaware and Naples, Florida, and is the owner of an antiquarian art and book business. Biographical information from The Quotations page on William Claire.

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Summary

Much of this material came from submissions to the literary magazine "Voyages" and includes correspondence between Claire and Mark and Dorothy Van Doren. There are also works by Robert Lax, Allen Tate, John Taglibue relating to Mark Van Doren.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in six series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2017-08-01 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2017.2018.M011: Source of acquisition--Second Life Books. Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--7/21/2017.

Processing Information

Papers processed, ptl 07/31/2017.

Accrual

Accruals are not expected

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related RBML Collections:

[Mark Van Doren Papers](#)

Related RBML Collections:

[Robert Lax Papers](#)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Magazines (periodicals)
- Photographs
- Poems
- Poets
- Voyages: A National Literary Magazine
- Booth, Philip, 1925-2007
- Bullock, Marie, 1911-1986
- Griffin, John Howard, 1920-1980
- Lax, Robert
- Tagliabue, John, 1923-2006
- Van Doren, Dorothy, 1896-1993
- Van Doren, Mark, 1894-1972

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Booth, Philip to William Claire (1 ALS, 1 page), 4 February 1980	box 1	folder 1

Scope and Contents

Booth is responding to Claire's sending him the Mark Van Doren tribute issue. (Voyages: Vol. V numbers I-IV, 1973). Booth notes that he did not know of the issue when it came out. Booth was born in 1925 in Hanover, New Hampshire. He attended Dartmouth College, where he studied with Robert Frost; he received his B.A. in 1947. He subsequently received an M.A. from Columbia University. Booth was an instructor and professor of English and of creative writing at Dartmouth College, Bowdoin College, Wellesley College, and at Syracuse University. He was one of the founders of the Creative Writing program at Syracuse. Booth's poetry was published in many

periodicals including "The New Yorker", "The Atlantic Monthly", "The American Poetry Review", "Poetry", and "Denver Quarterly". He published 10 poetry collections and one book about writing poetry and received numerous awards for his work

Budd, Louis J. to William Claire, 9 June 1982	box 3	folder 1
Bullock, Marie to William Claire (1 TLS), 1 November 1977	box 1	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
(with clipping)		
Bullock, Marie to William Claire, 24 May-19 December 1977	box 3	folder 2
<u>Physical Description:</u> 3 letters		
Burton, Pat to William Claire, 29 July 1975	box 3	folder 3
Claire, William to Marie Bullock, 8 December 1977	box 3	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
(With Biographical sketch of William Claire and Mark Van Doren)		
Claire, William to Jene Lyon, 18 April 1977	box 3	folder 5
Coleman, Harry to William Claire, 16 July 1977	box 3	folder 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 postcards		
Darkey, William to William Claire, 23 November 1976	box 3	folder 7
Editor, New England Quarterly to William Claire, 1 February 1973	box 3	folder 8
Grabowski, Bernard F. to William Claire, 27 October 1965	box 3	folder 9
Heckscher, August to Mark Van Doren, 14 June 1972	box 3	folder 10
Hendrick, George to William Claire, 26 August 1981	box 3	folder 11
Hovde, Carl F. to William Claire, 18 July 1976	box 3	folder 12
Inez, Colette To William Claire, 1973	box 3	folder 13
Scope and Contents		
(Written on the cover of "Yes: A Magazine of Poetry")		
Jellema, Rod to William Claire, 23 February 1973	box 3	folder 14
Jevtro?, Bill to William Claire, 21 September 1974	box 3	folder 15
Johnston, Richard J. H. to William Claire, 10 July 1964	box 3	folder 16
Joseph, Nannie to William Claire , 5 February & 18 June 1973	box 3	folder 17-18

Kahn, Sholom J. to William Claire, 24 May 1973	box 3	folder 19
Lester, Laurie to William Claire, 5 July 1984	box 3	folder 20
Lyon, Jene to William Claire, 5 January 1977-15 January 1978	box 3	folder 21-23
Lyon, Jene to Richard D. Weigle, 26 May 1977	box 3	folder 24
Malloy, Nancy to William Claire, 23 November 2015 & 27 July 2017	box 3	folder 25-26
May, F. B. to William Claire <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 postcards	box 3	folder 27
Ray to William Claire, 16 December & 1 January 1977 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 letters	box 3	folder 28
Rowe, Harry P. to William Claire, 13 October 1964	box 3	folder 29
Samuel, Edith to William Claire, 31 August 1967	box 3	folder 30
Smith, William to William Claire	box 3	folder 31
Van Doren, Charles to William Claire, 13 September 1976	box 3	folder 32
Van Doren, Dorothy to William Claire, 24 September 1974-18 April 1978 Scope and Contents (1 ALS; 2TLS; 2 postcard)	box 1	folder 3
Van Doren, Dorothy to Helen and William Claire, 6 February 1973-24 July 29180 <u>Physical Description</u> : 7 letters	box 3	folder 33
Van Doren, Mark to Brombach, 6 August 1972 Scope and Contents (With "How Praise A World" music)	box 3	folder 39-40
Van Doren, John to William Claire (1 TLS), 29 June 1978 Scope and Contents (With a copy of Poetry Pilot, April, 1978 by The Academy of American Poetry)	box 1	folder 4
Van Doren, John to William Claire (1 TLS), 21 November 1978 Scope and Contents (Concerning the Mark Van Doren issue of Voyages)	box 1	folder 5
Van Doren, John to William Claire, 10 September 1976-31 October 1977	box 3	folder 34-36

Physical Description: 3 letters

Van Doren, Mark to William Claire (1 postcard), 4 June 1966	box 1	folder 6
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire (1 ALS), 17 August 1967	box 1	folder 7
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire (1 postcard), 26 December 1967	box 1	folder 8
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire (1 postcard), 1 February 1968	box 1	folder 9
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire, 2 May 1968	box 1	folder 10
Scope and Contents		
(Autograph note on a printed notice on "the consumption of brooms" by the US Tariff Commission)		
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire (1 TLS), 17 October 1972	box 1	folder 11
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire, 14 May & 8 August 1970	box 3	folder 37-38
Van Doren, Mark to William Claire, 1 June 1961-16 September 1972	box 3	folder 41
Scope and Contents		
(Photocopies)		
Van Doren, Mark to Gladys Ewing Combes (wife of Abbott Combes) of Sheffield, MA (1 ALS), 19 August 1940	box 1	folder 12
Van Doren, Mark to Gladys Ewing Combes (wife of Abbott Combes) of Sheffield, MA (1 postcard), 12 March 1953	box 1	folder 12
Vinson, James to William Claire, 27 June 1977	box 3	folder 42
Wagner, Charles A. to William Claire, 31 March & 13 April 1973	box 3	folder 43-44
Wang, Arthur W. to William Claire, 16 February 1965	box 3	folder 45
Wensberg, Erik to William Claire, 16 January 1975	box 3	folder 46
Zamuda, Bob to William Claire, 4 March-17 July 1976	box 3	folder 47-49
Envelopes (3)	box 3	folder 50

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Series II: Manuscripts

Title/Description	Instances	
Booth, Phillip. "These Men"; (for M. V. D)	box 1	folder 17

Scope and Contents

(Autograph Manuscript Signed. (1999). 21 lines in the author's holograph on a single 8-1/2 x 11 in. sheet. A fine copy. This poem, to Mark Van Doren was supposed to have been published in the "Voyages" Mark Van Doren issue but arrived too late to be included. Not sure if it has been published)

Brubeck, David Warren (Dave), Jazz pianist and composer. box 1 folder 21
MS: "How Praise A World"

Scope and Contents

(Two pages on quarto musical composition paper, text and music written in pencil. (ca 1973). Not signed.

This puts to music the first stanza of the poem by Mark Van Doren. The first page of this was reprinted in the 1973 Mark Van Doren tribute issue of the magazine "Voyages" . The piece was performed by Brubeck at the memorial service for Mark Van Doren in New York City)

Lax, Robert. "for Mark"; Autograph Manuscript (unsigned), box 1 folder 18
ca. 1973

Scope and Contents

(17 lines in holograph on a PAX magazine stationary.

A poem that was probably written for the Mark Van Doren issue of "Voyages" but did appear there. Unpublished? A convert to Roman Catholicism, the American poet Robert Lax (1915-2000), was a friend of the Trappist monk and author Thomas Merton. A student of Mark Van Doren, he and Thomas Merton were also influenced by their friend Ad Reinhardt. In his later years Robert Lax chose to live as a hermit on the island of Patmos in Greece where, in a quest for simplicity, he became a leading figure in literary minimalism)

Lax, Robert. "Mark the teacher" box 1 folder 19

Scope and Contents

(Typed Manuscript (unsigned).17 lines (Page 3 only, edges of sheet chipped))

Lax, Robert. "Why be Cause ..." box 1 folder 20

Scope and Contents

(Autograph Manuscript (unsigned). (ca 1973). 15 lines in holograph on this paper. This poem that was written for the Mark Van Doren issue of

"Voyages" (Issue 14/15, 1973) and appeared on page 48)

Tagliabue, John "Continuing a Spiritual Habit" box 1 folder 23

Scope and Contents

(Typed poem: 13 lines (December 14, 1972-thinking of my great teacher Mark Van Doren))

Tate, Allen. TMS, Mark Was My Friend: 1924-1972 box 1 folder 22

Scope and Contents

(1 page with holograph title, some ink corrections in the text. [ca 1973]. 19 lines, with 3 ink corrections.

Accompanied by a holograph note, in full: "3/22/73 | Dear Bill | Here's the review, with | a brief introduction | There will be many | pages about Mark in the | book I am writing. | yrs. | A. T." These were directed to editor and poet William Claire whose magazine "Voyages" published a tribute issue to Mark Van Doren in 1973. The Manuscript here listed was printed on page 23 of the special issue and was followed by a reprinting of Tate's review of "Very Much At Ease in Formal Attire" Van Doren's collected poems. The two pieces are here offered together

John Orley Allen Tate (November 19, 1899 -- February 9, 1979) was an American poet, essayist, social commentator, and Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 1943 to 1944. He began attending Vanderbilt University in 1918 where he met fellow poet Robert Penn Warren. Warren and Tate were invited to join a group of young Southern poets under the leadership of John Crowe Ransom; the group were known as the Fugitive Poets and later as the Southern Agrarians. Tate contributed to the group's magazine *The Fugitive* and to the agrarian manifesto *I'll Take My Stand* published in 1930 and this was followed in 1938 by *Who Owns America?* Tate also joined Ransom to teach at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Some of his notable students there included the poets Robert Lowell and Randall Jarrell. Lowell's early poetry was particularly influenced by Tate's formalist brand of Modernism)

Introduction by William Claire to *The Other Harmony, Selected essays of Mark Van Doren (1924-1972)* box 1 folder 13

Scope and Contents

(TMS, with holograph corrections and additions, 18 pages (photocopy))

Introduction by William Claire to <i>The Other Harmony, Selected essays of Mark Van Doren (1924-1972)</i>	box 1	folder 14
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Scope and Contents

(TMS, with holograph corrections and additions, 25 pages (photocopy))

Introduction by William Claire to <i>The Other Harmony, Selected essays of Mark Van Doren (1924-1972)</i>	box 1	folder 15
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Scope and Contents

(Typed manuscript, with holograph notes on the cover by Dorothy Van Doren and Charlie Van Doren, 15 pages)

"An Evening of Voyages in Memory of Mark Van Doren" [Washington, DC: Folger Library, 19 March 1973]	box 1	folder 16
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Scope and Contents

(TMs mock-up, with corrections throughout, 23 pages (With accompanying annotated envelope))

Poems by Mark Van Doren:

Humanity Unlimited, 12 sonnets by Mark Van Doren. Williamsburgh: College of William and Mary, 1950	box 1	folder 24
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"Meekness After Wrath" a poem in The Nation, July 15, 1931. Signed by Van Doren	box 1	folder 25
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"The Pressure" a poem in The Nation, December 9, 1931. Signed by Van Doren	box 1	folder 26
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"The Bystanders" a poem in The Nation, November 4, 1931 signed by Van Doren, November 4, 1931	box 1	folder 27
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"The First Poem", signed by Mark Van Doren	box 4	folder 4
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Claire, William "Biographical sketch of Mark Van Doren" (2 paged, with ms. corrections)	box 4	folder 1
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Kroll, Ernest "A Letter from Mark Van Doren"	box 4	folder 2
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The Jewish Theological Seminary of America "The Eternal Light: Maurice Samuel - Mark Van Doren", 2 December 1962	box 4	folder 3
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Scope and Contents

(Script for radio. Telecast Chapter T-101 NBC network)

Claire, William "The Poetry of Mark Van Doren" for St. James Press, Ltd. (Mss, with corrections)	box 4	folder 5
Vinson, James "Writers of the English Language" (T.ms.)	box 4	folder 6
Memorandum of Agreement between Greenwood Press, Inc. and William Claire, 22 December 1978	box 4	folder 7
'Mark Van Doren on "If" and "Rumors" (both to Carl Van Doren), 16 June 1918	box 4	folder 8
Claire, William "Introduction" and "A Note on Mark Van Doren"	box 4	folder 9
Note on photographs packed for Folger Library, Winter 1973	box 4	folder 10
Claire, William note on some letters of Thomas Merton and Robert Lax	box 4	folder 11
Claire, William "Grant-in-aid application statement for a collection of Mark Van Doren essays"	box 4	folder 12

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Series III: Memorials

Title/Description	Instances	
Thomas Mann Commemoration, held under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, Swarthmore College in Goodhart Hall, Bryn Mawr College, October 5th, 1956. (includes: "Joseph and his brothers, a comedy in four parts" by Mark Van Doren)	box 1	folder 28
Obituary and "farewell" to Van Doren in <i>The Lakeville Journal</i> , 14 December 1972	box 1	folder 29
<i>How Praise A World That Nay Not Last</i> : Mark Van Doren.	box 1	folder 30

Scope and Contents

(A speech delivered at the 275th anniversary of St. John's College Santa Fe New Mexico-August 8, 1971. Preface by Richard D. Weigle, Introduction by William F. Claire. [Santa Fe: NM] The Lightning Tress, Jene Lyon publisher, 1977)

An Evening of Voyages in Memory of Mark Van Doren . [Washington, DC: Folger Library, 19 March, 1973. Broadside, 8-1/2 x 11 in.	box 1	folder 31
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Scope and Contents

(Printed in black on light grey still paper. This reprints the poem "O World" by Van Doren and "from A Letter to Mark Van Doren" by poet and editor of Voyages William Claire.) (Accompanied by an annotated folder)

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Series IV: Broadsides

Title/Description	Instances	
Van Doren, Mark. "Morning Worship" and "Song" by Peter Lewis; PAX number 3. NY, 1957	box 1	folder 32
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(First Edition. Broadside, (11-1/2 x 16-3/4 in) printed in red on thin paper, folded into quarters, paper browned, tears to the folds) Two copies_</p>		
The Folger Poetry Series: An Evening of Voyages in memory of Mark Van Doren (3 copies), 19 March 1973	box 4	folder 13

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Seris V: Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Photograph of Mark and Dorothy Van Doren with Bill Claire, Cornwall Hollow, CT, 1971	box 1	
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(Photo by Helen Bidwell (looks like computer printing) (With an autograph note from William Claire to Russell)</p>		
Van Doren. (1970). 8 x 10 in., black and white image of Van Doren sitting holding a book in his lap.	box 1	
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(An excellent clear image, taken at the home of Jame Laughlin when Griffin was interviewing Van Doren. One of the other images, taken at the same time was published in Twelve Photographic Portraits (Greensboro, NC: Unicorn Press, 1973)</p> <p>(John Howard Griffin (June 16, 1920 -- September 9, 1980) was an American journalist and author, He is best known for darkening his skin and journeying</p>		

through Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia to experience segregation in the Deep South in 1959. He wrote about this experience in his 1961 book *Black Like Me.*, 1920, 1961)

Mark Van Doren with Eric Goldman and Catherine Drinker Bowen at the White House 1st Festival of the Arts	box 4	folder 14
Photograph of Mark Van Doren in France (taken by Robert Lax), 1955	box 4	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
(Inscribed by Mark Van Doren to William F. Claire, 1/8/1971)		
Photograph of Mark Van Doren seated, laughing with hands behind his head	box 4	folder 16
Snapshots (12) taken at the Mark Van Doren Memorial	box 4	folder 17

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Series VI: Printed

Title/Description	Instances	
Van Doren, Mark. <i>Edwin Arlington Robinson</i> . NY: Literary Guild, 1927	box 2	
Scope and Contents		
(First Edition. Small 8vo, pp. 93. Frontis portrait. Cover little soiled, little nicked at the top of the spine, o/w VG. The author's copy, inscribed by Robinson on the end paper: "Mark's Copy Given by Edwin Arlington Robinson May 1927")		
<i>Voyages: A National Literary Magazine</i> . Washington, DC, 1967-1973	box 2	
Mark Van Doren <i>Boy With Sword and Other Stories</i> (paperback), 1975	box 4	folder 18
<i>To Have and To Hold: Courtship, Wedding, and Marriage in a Collection of Beautiful Verse</i> , 1967	box 4	folder 19
Scope and Contents		
(Mark Van Doren's poem "My Love Comes Walking" on page 34)		
William Claire <i>Mark Van Doren on Robinson Jeffers</i> , 2017	box 4	folder 20
Mark Van Doren <i>How Praise A World That May Not Last: A speech delivered at the 275th anniversary of St. John's College</i> , 1971	box 4	folder 21

Press clipping re. Mark and Carl Van Doren, 8 November 1987	box 4	folder 22
Book review by Don Harrell of <i>The Essays of Mark Van Doren (1924-1972)</i> , October 1980	box 4	folder 23
William A. Darkey "In Memory of Mark Van Doren" (remarks), 13 December 1972	box 4	folder 24
<i>The Simenon Festival '87</i> , 1987	box 4	folder 25
Academy of American Poets <i>Poetry Pilot</i> , April 1978	box 4	folder 26
<i>Authors Guild Bulletin</i> (photocopy), September 1986	box 4	folder 27
State of Connecticut "Cornwall" monument inscription and Mark Van Doren/Dorothy Graffe grave stone	box 4	folder 28
The Heartbeat of Cape Henlopen Park," pamphlet with poem by William Claire, and letter of thanks from Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, 2014-2023	box 4	folder 29

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