

FINDING AID FOR THE PAPERS OF
SR. GRETCHEN BOGAN, CSJ
IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF BOSTON
(BOSTON CSJ ARCHIVES)

Prepared by Katie McNally
Boston CSJ Archivist

Collection Processed by
Sr. Catherine Decker, CSJ
Sr. Elizabeth Joseph Toomey, CSJ

Boston
Sisters of Saint Joseph
2021



Photograph featured in *Reveals Today* magazine, 1999

Life of Sr. Gretchen Bogan, CSJ (1915-1999)

Ellen Gertrude Bogan was born on August 6th, 1915 in Boston, Massachusetts to Elizabeth O'Connor and Edward H. Bogan. She was baptized at St. Columbkille Church in Brighton. After graduating from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in 1933, she entered with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston. She took her final vows in 1939 in Framingham, taking the religious name Gretchen. Among her many ministry assignments, she taught Drama for three decades (save for one year of sabbatical) at Regis College in Weston. She is remembered within the Congregation as an accomplished poet and playwright as well as an inspirational teacher at both the university and high school levels. In addition to her formal ministry assignments, she volunteered in a community service capacity, using her talents as an artist and teacher for outreach ministries. She died on June 30, 1999 at Bethany Health Care in Framingham at the age of 83.

Timeline of Ministry Assignments of Sr. Gretchen Bogan:

1933	Entrance into the Congregation
1934	Reception into the Congregation
1936	First Vows
1938-1939	Secondary teacher at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Newton
1939	Final Vows
1940-1946	Speech teacher in Quincy, Everett and Jamaica Plain elementary schools
1946-1947	Elementary teacher at St. Matthew, Dorchester
1947-1948	Secondary teacher at St. Aidan, Brookline
1948-1963	Drama teacher at Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Brighton
1963-1966	Drama teacher at Fontbonne Academy, Milton
1966-1983	Drama teacher at Regis College, Weston
1983-1984	Sabbatical (Regis Convent)
1984-1989	Drama teacher at Regis College, Weston
1989-1997	In residence at Regis Convent, Weston
1997-1999	In residence at Bethany Convent, Framingham

Education Completed:

Mount Saint Joseph Academy, 1933 (High School)
Regis College, 1938 (Home Economics)
Mary Frances Rooney, 1940 (Speech/Theatre)
Regis College, 1948 (English)
Fordham University, 1951-1952
Catholic University, 1958 (Creative Drama)
Kentucky College (Black Studies)

List of Published Plays:

(This list may not be inclusive of all plays published by Sr. Gretchen. All are original.)

Genesis, 1958
The Finger on My Soul, 1953
In the Middle of Plenty, 1954
The Big Help, 1955
Two Only Children, 1959

Spring Comes to Cherry Street, 1950s
God My Adversary, 1960
Abraham and Judith, 1960s
The Immortal Oaf, 1961
The Rustle of Spring, 1962
Revision of Pilate's Daughter, 1970s
Century, 1975
We Rejoice That There Are Owls, 1980s
Analogies of Life, 1980s
Cain, 1998

Overview of the Collection

The Papers of Sr. Gretchen Bogan, CSJ Collection contains seven boxes, with eight series. The date of accession is uncertain but the collection was preliminarily processed as early as 2004. The collection was donated to the Boston CSJ Archives by Peggy Bogan, sister of Sr. Gretchen. In preparation for this finding aid, the collection went through a final processing in February of 2021 by Sr. Kay Decker, CSJ and Sr. Elizabeth Toomey, CSJ, volunteers in the Boston CSJ Archives. In many cases, the original name of the folder was kept; in others, it was given a new folder name.

Access and Use

Please contact the Congregation Archivist at archives@csjboston.org to reference or view the collection. Access to the collection must be approved by Congregation Leadership and the Congregation Archivist. For citations at the item-level, please reference the folder title and box number according to APA or Chicago Style standards.

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Sr. Gretchen Bogan, CSJ, Archives of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston (Boston CSJ Archives), Brighton MA.

Copyright:

All rights belong to the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston. Any use of this collection must be approved the Congregation Leadership and the Congregation Archivist.

Related Collections

Oral History of Sr. Gretchen Bogan, CSJ. U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph collection. Martha Smith, CSJ, Ph.D. Archives & Research Center, Avila University, Kansas City, MO.

Items within the Boston CSJ Archives outside of this collection:

- Personnel File for Bogan, Gretchen.
- Memoir (compilation of remembrances) for Bogan, Gretchen.
- Pilate re-scripted program booklet. Archives 2: 256. Past Perfect ID L363.

- Genesis program. Past Perfect ID L364.
- Copies of 1938 Yearbook (Scrapbook). Archives 2:258. Past Perfect ID L413.
- *Thou Dearest Stage of All*. Blue binder. Archives 2:252. Past Perfect ID L477.
- Pewter Vase Awarded to Sr. Gretchen Bogan. Past Perfect Ob ID 024.

Scope and Content

The collection spans the 1930s to 1990s, with the majority of the collection being from the 1950s-1970s. Estimated at five linear feet, the collection contains notes, edits and drafts of original plays (some of which were published and performed publicly), poems and other creative writings authored by Sr. Gretchen Bogan, CSJ. Interweaved into these files are correspondence, contracts, photographs, reviews and critiques. Materials in the collection relate to the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston, Regis College, Fontbonne Academy and Mount Saint Joseph Academy. The collection is divided into eight series:

Series I. Biographical & Personal Materials	Box 1
Series II. Play Scripts	Box 2, 3
Series III. Theatre Programs, Sheet Music & Lyrics	Box 3
Series IV. Poetry & Writings	Box 4
Series V. Miscellaneous	Box 4
Series VI. Scrapbook	Box 5
Series VII. Photographs	Box 6
Series VIII. Audio Tapes	Box 7

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1

Series I: Biographical & Personal Materials

Folders: Biography
 In Memoriam
 Catholic University Lifetime Achievement Award
Moi
Contact/Soundings Articles
 Correspondence: Gretchen to Mother and Peggy
 Letters to Sister Gretchen
 Letters from Sister Gretchen (not family)
 Letters, Sr. Gretchen to Peggy
 Talks & Articles
 Miscellaneous Prose
 Authors, Poets – Favorites of Sister Gretchen
 Ecology Interests
 Art of Communication
 Thoughts on Religious Life
 Essential for Thinking
 Scholarly Work for University Classes (1 of 2)
 Scholarly Work for University Classes (1 of 2)

Box 2

Series II: Play Scripts

Folders: *When Spring Comes to Cherry Street* (1 of 3)
When Spring Comes to Cherry Street (2 of 3)
When Spring Comes to Cherry Street (3 of 3)
Rustle of Spring (1 of 2)
Rustle of Spring (2 of 2)
Finger on My Soul
The One House
In the Middle of Plenty (1 of 2)
In the Middle of Plenty (2 of 2)
A Twist O' The Tongue
The Immortal Oaf (1 of 9): Map of the Immortal Oaf
The Immortal Oaf (2 of 9): Oaf - Introduction to
The Immortal Oaf (3 of 9)
The Immortal Oaf (4 of 9)
The Immortal Oaf (5 of 9)
The Immortal Oaf (6 of 9)
The Immortal Oaf (7 of 9): Sisters and 50 People from the Boston Theatre World
The Immortal Oaf (8 of 9): New Immortal Oaf
The Immortal Oaf (9 of 9): New Oaf Part II
Genesis (1 of 2): Published
Genesis (2 of 2): 1st Genesis without Adam, 2nd Genesis with Adam
A Little Girl Named Mary
Pilate (1 of 5)
Pilate (2 of 5)
Pilate (3 of 5)
Pilate (4 of 5)
Pilate (5 of 5): Notes
Mount – Miscellaneous (Mount Saint Joseph Academy)
Regis Miscellaneous
Regis: A Listing of Plays and Dates
Theatre on the Green
Close to the Wind
A Sighting
Golden Touch (1 of 2)
Golden Touch (2 of 2)
The Enchanted Shirt
Folk Journey
An Exposé (1 of 2)
An Exposé (2 of 2)
Beach Rites (1 of 2)
Beach Rites (2 of 2)
Worthy of the Whale (1 of 2)
Worthy of the Whale (1 of 2)

Box 3

Series II: Play Scripts (cont.)

Folders: Rubin's *Jordi*
Dido and Aeneas (1 of 2)
Dido and Aeneas (2 of 2)
Century (1 of 9)
Century (2 of 9)
Century (3 of 9)
Century (4 of 9)
Century (5 of 9)
Century (6 of 9)
Century (7 of 9)
Century (8 of 9)
Century (9 of 9)
We Rejoice That There Are Owls
Day of No Dissent: Hiroshima (1 of 2)
Day of No Dissent: Hiroshima (2 of 2)
Cadillac
Your If Is the Only Magician
A Search for Voices (Hiroshima, radio script)
Resurrexi
Landfall (1 of 9)
Landfall (2 of 9)
Landfall (3 of 9)
Landfall (4 of 9)
Landfall (5 of 9)
Landfall (6 of 9)
Landfall (7 of 9)
Landfall (8 of 9)
Landfall (9 of 9)
Women-Song
Earth
Exxon Exposed
La Belle Dame
Judith
Ruth and Naomi (World's Wedding Song)
Genesis (with Adam)
Samuel and David
Sarah and Abraham
The Enchanted Shirt
Everyman's Christmas /inside: Faustus, Edipus and Everyman
Eve Comes to Bethlehem
Befana
Little Girl Named Mary
Summons to Be Born
Christmas Poems; Miscellaneous Stories
The Long Journey
Voyage to the Moon

Box 4

Series III: Theatre Programs, Sheet Music & Lyrics

Folders: Mount Saint Joseph Academy: 1949-1963
Fontbonne Academy: 1956-1965
Regis College: 1966-1990
Newsclippings, Publicity
Sheet Music (1 of 4)
Sheet Music (2 of 4)
Sheet Music (3 of 4)
Sheet Music (4 of 4)
Lyrics for Music

Series IV: Poetry & Writings

Folders: [Folder names in italics denote a book of poems compiled by Sr. Gretchen.]
Important or Commemorative Poems
Miscellaneous Poems
Early Poems (1 of 2)
Early Poems (2 of 2)
10 Poems sent to Mass. Poetry Contest
10 Poems in separate folder
Computer poems
Evaluation of a few poems
One Day's Dusk (1 of 3)
One Day's Dusk (2 of 3)
One Day's Dusk (3 of 3)
Ask the Seagull (with Index)
Thou Dearest Stage of All
Completed Poems
Unmarked Poems (1 of 2)
Unmarked Poems (2 of 2)
God My Adversary (short story)

Series V: Miscellaneous

Folders: Judges' Comments on Plays
Children's Elocution Recitals and Programs Designed by Gretchen

Box 5

Series VI: Scrapbook

The Scrapbook series contains a homemade college yearbook (1938) filled with writings, poems, cartoon art and a few photographs, compiled by Sr. Gretchen and her friends, Srs. Williamina Cahill, Vianney Pearce, and Etheldrita Shay. These young women compiled their own yearbook because nuns enrolled at Regis College were not typically included in the student yearbook.

Items: Yearbook (homemade, 1938)

Box 6

Series VII. Photographs

The Photographs series was kept in its original order. Photographs originally in envelopes were kept in the original envelopes; photographs in folders were kept together and re-folded. The folders, unnamed, contain black-and-white photographs of theatre productions at Mount Saint Joseph Academy circa 1957-1968. Further processing may be done in an attempt to identify these photographs further.

Envelopes:

1. *The Swan*
2. *Rustle of Spring*
3. *First Lady*
4. *Far-off Hills*
5. *The Matchmaker*
6. *Middle of Plenty*

Folders:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Box 7:

Series VIII: Audio Tapes

Four open-reel recordings were moved to the Archive's audio collection.

Tapes:

Rustle of Spring
Genesis
Immortal Oaf – Part I
Immortal Oaf – Part II

Weeded Items

A vitals certificate was removed from the collection as all vital records in the Boston CSJ Archives are contained within confidential personnel files. Two A/V items were deemed irrelevant to the collection, as they appear to have no connection to Sr. Gretchen other than they were likely owned (but not created) by her: Bell Buoys, copyright 1973 by Psychic Tapestries, Brunswick Maine (1 cassette tape, 1 "Psychic tapestry" roll of film negatives). Additionally, original folders and binders which were empty were discarded.