

Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald
Letters, 1918, 1920-1922, 1927-1940, 2003, n.d.

RG 84

Brock University Archives

Creator: Ethelwyn Wetherald

Extent: 0.0635m textual records (1 half box)

Abstract: This archives contains letters written by Agnes Wetherald, clippings about her life and publications.

Materials: Typed and handwritten correspondence, clippings, and publications.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Jen Goul

Last updated: March, 2006

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Preferred Citation: RG 84 Ethelwyn Wetherald Letters, 1918, 1920-1922, 1927-1940, 2003, n.d. Brock University Archives, Brock University.

Acquisition Info.: This collection was acquired by Lynne Prunskus, University Archivist, in 2004 from Mr. John Rush of John Rush Books, Hamilton Ontario.

Biography:

Unto my friends I give my thoughts,
Unto my God my soul.
Unto my foe I leave my love-
These are of life the whole.

Nay, there is something – a trifle – left
Who shall receive this dower?
See, Earth Mother, a handful of dust –

Turn it into a flower.

An accomplished poet, writer and journalist, Ethelwyn Wetherald's works were present in all Ontario readers for school children. Among her most notable works are; *The Indigo Bird*, *The Red-Winged Blackbird*, and *The Pasture Field*. The above poem *Legacies* is one of her most famous works and appears on her gravestone.

Wetherald was born in 1857 as the sixth child out of an eventual eleven. Although born in Rockwood, Ontario, she spent most of her life in Fenwick (Pelham Township), Ontario, where she died in 1940. Wetherald used her surroundings as her inspiration and focused on nature. She has been coined a nature poet and journalist.

Wetherald received her education at both the Friends boarding school in Union Springs, N.Y. and at Pickering College in Pickering, Ontario. After her schooling she wrote numerous articles for the Toronto Globe under the pen name Bel Thistelwaite, derived from her Grandmother's name. These articles led to a position as Women's editor of the Globe and later she was part of the Advertiser's editorial staff in London, Ontario.

Wetherald continued writing after she was finished with the papers and published six volumes of poetry between 1895 and 1931. Her work was not only known amongst school children, but also attracted the attention of Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada in 1907 and Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada in 1911.

In 1921 she published a book entitled *Tree Top Morning*, which she dedicated to her daughter Dorothy Rungeling who also became an author. Recently Rungeling published *Life and works of Ethelwyn Wetherald 1857-1940 : with a selection of her poems and articles* about her mother.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains materials related to correspondence between Ethelwyn Wetherald and her publisher Frank Page. The majority of the correspondence is between the period of 1920-1939. Some clippings about Ethelwyn and some of her poems published in newspapers are also included in the collection. *The Canadian Bookman*, November 1929 is included and contains a "Who's who in Canadian Literature" article on Wetherald. The book *The Flying Housewife* was published by Wetherald's daughter in 2003, Dorothy W. Rungeling, and is included in the publications folder.

Organization: The records were arranged into two series:

Series I, Correspondence, 1918, 1920-1921, 1927-1939, n.d.
 Series II, Publications, 1921-1922, 1929, 1937, 1940, 2003, n.d.

Inventory:	Series I. Correspondence, 1918, 1920-1921, 1927-1939, n.d.
1.1-1.4	Correspondence, 1918, 1920-1921, 1927-1939, n.d.; includes letters written by Wetherald.
	Series II. Publications, 1921-1922, 1929, 1937, 1940, 2003, n.d.
1.5	Clippings, 1921-1922, 1937, 1940, n.d.
1.6	<i>The Canadian Bookman</i> , 1929
1.6	<i>The Flying Housewife</i> , 2003

Added Entries:

600 Page, Frank
 600 Rungeling, Dorothy W.
 600 Wetherald, Ethelwyn

Subject Access:

650 Niagara (Ont. : Regional municipality) -- Biography
 650 Pelham (Ont.) -- Biography
 650 Women -- Ontario -- St. Catharines -- History

Related Materials:

Bell, Lily and Bray, Kathleen. *Women of Action St. Catharines and Area 1876-1976* (St. Catharines: 1976).
 Spcl FC 3155.45 W6 W65

Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District. *Lives and Legacies: A Tribute to the Women of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet*. (Welland: 2000).
 Spcl FC 3164.25 A1 L58 2000

Rungeling, Dorothy W. *Life and works of Ethelwyn Wetherald 1857-1940: with a selection of her poems and articles*. [Ridgeville, Ont.] : D. Rungeling, c2004.
 SPCL PS 8495 E79 Z85 2004