THE PAPERS OF LAURA BENET

Accession #91-014

Left to right:
Laura, Stephen Vincent, and William Rose Benet

Dates Inclusive: 1944-1976

Extent 3 boxes (1 oversized) / .75 cubic feet plus 1 oversized box

Creator Laura Benet (1884-1979)

Access/Use The collection is open for research.

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Materials can be accessed at the Brooklyn College Archives & Special Collections, Main floor, 2900 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210.

Languages English

Finding Aid Guide is available in-house and online.

Acquisition/Appraisal Papers were deposited in the library archive in the 1960(s).

Description Control Finding aid adheres to that in Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Preferred Citation Item, folder title, box number, Papers of Laura Benet, Brooklyn College Library Archive & Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library
Subject Headings  Benet, Laura, 1884-1979.
Benet, Laura -- Childhood and youth -- Juvenile literature.
Benet, William Rose, 1886-1950 -- Childhood and youth -- Juvenile literature.
Benet, Stephen Vincent, 1898-1943 -- Childhood and youth -- Juvenile literature.
Poets, English -- Biography -- Juvenile literature.
Poets, American.
Poets, American -- Biography -- Juvenile literature.
Poets, American -- 19th century -- Biography -- Juvenile literature.
Children's poetry -- History and criticism.
Children's literature -- Bio-bibliography.
Explorers -- Africa, Sub-Saharan -- Biography.
Explorers -- Great Britain -- Biography.
American literature -- New England -- History and criticism -- Juvenile literature.
Authors, American -- Homes and haunts -- New England -- Juvenile literature.
Authors, English -- Juvenile literature.
Humorists, American.
Manners and customs -- Fiction.
Biographical Note

Laura Benét (1884-1979), social worker, newspaper editor, poet, novelist and biographer, was born in Brooklyn, New York, on June 13, 1884 into an army family. She was the daughter of James Walker, a graduate of West Point and an army officer, and Frances Neill (Rose) Benet. Her two younger brothers became distinguished literary figures. William Rose Benet (1886-1950), a writer, poet and critic was the editor of the Saturday Review; Stephen Vincent Benet (1898-1943) won the Pulitzer Prize in 1929 for his John Brown’s Body and won another posthumously (in 1944) for an unfinished narrative poem. Laura graduated from the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, received her A.B. degree from Vassar College (1907) and Litt.D. (Doctor of Letters) from Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa. (1967).

Ms. Benet was a social worker at the Spring Street Settlement House (1913-1916), at the Children’s Aid Society (1917) and was an inspector for the Red Cross Sanitary Commission during World War I. Thereafter, Ms. Benet found employment at several New York newspapers; she was assistant book page editor at the New York Evening Post (1926-1928), assistant book page editor at the New York Evening Sun (1928-1929), and substitute review editor at the New York Times (1930). She occasionally submitted her verse and reviews to Literary Review. Ms. Benet’s first book of poetry, Noah’s Dove, was published in 1929. Although Ms. Benet wrote many children’s books and adult biographies, she always considered herself primarily a poet.

Laura Benet died on February 17, 1979. She was buried with her parents Arlington National Cemetery.
Selected Bibliography
(Most available in the Brooklyn College Library)

Poetry

Fiction

Biography
Enchanting Jenny Lind. New York: Dodd, Mead 1939.
Roxana Rampant. New York: Dodd, Mead 1940.
Young Edgar Allan Poe. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1941.

For children
Caleb’s Luck, New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1942.
Famous Poets for Young People. New York: Dodd, Mead 1964.

Other

MEMOIRS
Scope and Content Note

The Papers of Laura Benet is a small collection contained in one regular size, one small, and one oversized archival box. They consist of Ms. Benet’s personal diaries, several folders of correspondence, and the proof of her book *Famous American Humorists* (1959). There is also a copy of Ms. Benet’s memoir titled *When William Rose, Stephen Vincent and I were Young* (1976).

Sub-Group / Series Descriptions

**Sub-Group I: Personal Papers, 1944-1980**

**Series 1: Diaries, 1944-1955.** 5 folders. Chronological arrangement.

This series contains Laura Benet’s diaries that date from 1944 through 1955. Ms. Benet’s writes about the weather, her day-to-day appointments and activities which she describes in great detail, her opinions of books and plays, important news of the day, and the passing of friends and famous figures. Ms. Benet records, particularly in her early diaries, her royalty payments and daily expenses.

**Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1952.** 2 folders. Arrangement varies.

In the correspondence grouping, there are several letters to and from Ms. Marianne Moore, the famous American poet. There is also a folder that contains letters to and from Brooklyn College regarding Ms. Benet’s donating some items to the college.

**Sub-Group II: Publications, 1959-1976**


This series contains a folder with a copy of the proof of Ms. Benet’s *Famous American Humorists* (1959), the actual proof which is in an oversized box, and her memoir titled *When William Rose, Stephen Vincent and I were Young* (1976).
Container List

Box 1

Sub-Group I: Personal Papers, 1944-1980

Series 1: Diaries, 1944-1955

Folder 1 – Diary, 1944 & 1945
Folder 2 – Diary, 1946 & 1947
Folder 3 – Diary, 1948 & 1950
Folder 4 – Diary, 1952 & 1954
Folder 5 – Diary, 1955

Box 2

Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1980

Folder 1 – Benet from Moore, 1941 – 1952
Folder 2 – Brooklyn College

Sub-Group II: Publications, 1959-1976


Folder 3 – Proof of Famous American Humorists, 1959 PART 1

Folder 4 – Proof of Famous American Humorists, 1959 PART 2 (This is a copy. See oversized box 3 for the original.)

Folder 5 – 1 Book – When William Rose, Stephen Vincent and I were Young, 1976

Box 3

Folder 1– Original Proof of Famous American Humorists, 1959 PART 2

(2016)