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### Haughawout, Margaret Elizabeth (1874-1964) Papers, 1901-1985

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#11 Haughawout, Margaret Elizabeth (1874-1964) Papers, 1901-1985  
1.3 linear feet

## **INTRODUCTION**

The correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, publications, clippings, and photographs of an English teacher and author. Includes family history and papers relating to several memorial events and publications that celebrated the life and work of Haughawout.

## **DONOR INFORMATION**

Most of the materials in the Margaret Haughawout Papers were donated to Pittsburg State University by the Haughawout family in 1968-1969 and 1983. Other materials came from Haughawout's friends and her former students, including the following: Gene DeGruson in 1968; Mary Jugg Molek in 1974 and 1975; Theodore Sperry in 1977; and Ray Heady in 1982 and 1987. No date is known for other donations coming from John Reinecke, Frances McKenna, and Helen Kelso Carney.

## **BIOLOGICAL SKETCH**

Born in Fairmont, Nebraska, on September 21, 1874, Margaret Elizabeth Haughawout started her academic career by receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska, in 1900 and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska in 1903. From 1903 to 1906 she was an Instructor of English at Hastings College and a Professor of English at Alma College, Alma, Michigan, from 1906 to 1911. From 1911 to 1919 she was Dean of Women at Knox School for Girls in Tarrytown, New York. In 1919 she was elected the County Superintendent of Schools for Filmore County, Nebraska, serving until 1923. She came to the Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, now Pittsburg State University, in 1923 as an Associate Professor of English. She retired from that position in 1934 but returned to the classroom as an instructor of English from 1945 to 1951. Margaret Haughawout died on December 28, 1964.

Ms. Haughawout, in addition to her teaching, also published numerous poems, short stories, and professional articles under her own name and pseudonyms. In 1929 a collection of her poems was published under the title Sheep's Clothing. Most of the creative writing activity of Pittsburg centered around Haughawout. In addition to regular classes, she inaugurated the "Monday Nighters", a group of students who met regularly with her in her home, usually on Monday nights, for the purpose of reading their manuscripts. The group had no official name, no organization, no dues, officers, or insignia. Yet students vied for invitations to become part of the group and from them came works published in the Saturday Review of Literature, Braithwaite's Anthologies of Magazine Verse, and numerous poetry journals, magazines, and newspapers. In 1930 Ms. Haughawout edited and published Pittsburg College Verse, 1924-1930, a collection of the best work of her creative writing classes and the "Monday Nighters".

Although Ms. Haugawout gave every attention to her students, this did not require all of her time. Saving money for trips to Europe, she was able to keep up with the absolute latest in continental literature, which she shared with her classes. Long an individualist, in 1930 her fiery spirit led her to buy a man's suit, tie and all, which she wore to classes, parties, and other functions. This act was not a mere test of peer response, but also empirical research for an article she intended to write on men's clothing. She concluded that it was comfortable, economical, and practical. The reverberations of a lady wearing pants, however, went all the way to the college

President's office, where Ms. Haughawout eventually stood to explain herself. Later she had her picture for the 1931 yearbook taken in the suit.

Following a sabbatical leave in 1933, Ms. Haughawout returned to find that her job was no longer available. This she had anticipated and was prepared to accept. It was all part of what she labeled the "Great Plan," which was to become as nearly self-sufficient as possible. Until 1945, when she returned to teaching during the teacher shortage, Haughawout lived entirely on her publications, gardening, and the meager dividends of a few earlier investments. After her second retirement, she remained popular with her students and succeeding generations of writers on the campus. Her diaries recount that she daily received from three to thirteen visitors.

Helen Kelso Carney in the introduction to her book, *Soyan Francais*, states of Ms. Haughawout, "I used to wish that I had the gift for teaching that my freshman English teacher enjoyed. She expected us not only to listen to her lectures, but also to think with her about the meaning behind the words. If my mind wandered for a second from her train of thought, I floundered off course for the rest of the class period and she knew it. I envied the way she controlled and inspired her classes and wished that I had been given a compelling personality like hers. Later I knew her as a colleague and found out that she owed her ability to hold students' attention less to personal magnetism than to careful planning and a continuing war against distractions."

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the materials in the Margaret E. Haughawout Papers relate to her professional and personal life as a teacher and writer following her 1923 appointment to the English Department faculty at Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg, now Pittsburg State University. The papers are arranged in six series: **Correspondence, Publications and Manuscripts, Clippings, Photographs, Diaries, and Miscellaneous**. Additional materials, noted below, have been catalogued as part of the Haughawout Library in Special Collections.

The **Correspondence** series dates from 1901 to 1964, with the bulk of the letters dated from 1926-1963. This series is arranged chronologically. It consists, almost exclusively, of letters written by Haughawout to family members, students, and colleagues. There are a few letters to Haughawout from publishers, family members, and former students. Most of the letters from 1901 to 1910, and the letters written after 1959, are from Haughawout to her sister, Emma Haughawout Smith. These letters contain family news, information about schools and travels, and accounts of gardening, housework, and social activities. Many of the letters from the 1920s are from Haughawout to John Reinecke. These letters pertain to Reinecke's poetry, events on the Pittsburg campus, news about the "Monday Nighters" and other common acquaintances, and what literature Haughawout read. Haughawout's letters continue these common themes and topics with Ray Heady in the early 1930s; Mary Jugg Molek from the mid-1930s through the mid-1950s; Gene DeGruson from the mid-1950s to early 1960s; and with Frances McKenna during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

See also Special Collections-Haughawout [816.52 H292w] Kuhel, Pat and Frank Kuhel, eds., "With Love, Margaret: The Correspondence of Margaret E. Haughawout". 2 volumes. (Pittsburg, KS, 1985).

The **Publications and Manuscripts** series consists of poems, short stories, articles, and reviews written by Margaret E. Haughawout. Included are manuscript copies of published and unpublished works and a few copies of publications containing her work. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by title.

See also Special Collections-Haughawout [811.52 H292s] Haughawout, Margaret, Sheep's Clothing (Pittsburg, KS, 1929); Haughawout, Margaret, ed. Pittsburg College Verse, 1924-1930 (Pittsburg, KS, 1930); Kuhel, Pat and Frank Kuhel, eds., "No Prissy Saint, No Vamp: The Works of Margaret E. Haughawout". 2 volumes. (Pittsburg, KS, 1984).

The **Clippings** series consists of newspaper clippings from 1925, 1930-1932, 1950, and 1964-1965. Included are articles about Haughawout, reviews of her books Sheep's Clothing and Pittsburg College Verse, 1924-1930, and her obituaries.

See also Special Collections-Haughawout [818.52 H292s] "Scrapbook of Clippings, Class Notes, Manuscript Poems, etc., 1930-1931".

The **Photographs** series includes portrait images of Margaret E. Haughawout, several photographs of her at home in Pittsburg, and several images of Haughawout with friends and in group settings. Also included are several undated photographs, a photograph of Emma Haughawout Smith as a child, and prints of the Margaret Haughawout portrait painted by Charles Cagle.

The **Diaries** series consists of a typed, annotated, transcription of Haughawout's diary kept in 1928 and her diary kept in 1958 and 1959. More than a daily record of activities, these diaries include poetry, her thoughts and insights, information about the books she read, and information about her travels and social activities.

See also Special Collections-Haughawout [818.52 H292Bh]. Four diaries containing holograph entries, poetry, and clippings. The entries date from 1928, 1929, 1931-1939, 1951, 1954, and 1957-1959.

The **Miscellaneous** series contains a few documents kept by Margaret E. Haughawout - a certificate of membership in Sigma Tau Delta, 1926; printed cards containing the signatures of Haughawout and the members of the "Monday Nighters" in 1930; and a movie flyer from the Cozy Theatre in Pittsburg advertising Claudette Colbert in "She Married Her Boss". The flyer includes a photograph of Colbert. The bulk of this series consists of correspondence, clippings, programs, scripts, photographs, and other materials relating to several publications and programs honoring Haughawout after her death and relating to the dedication of the Haughawout Room in Porter Library on the campus of Pittsburg State University. Also included are biographical and autobiographical notes about Margaret Haughawout and a Haughawout family history.

## FOLDER LIST

### Correspondence Series

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f. 50	At the Sign of the White Cock (18 pp.)
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f. 52	Community Club Dinner Talk [poem] (1 p.)
f. 53	<u>Crome Yellow</u> [review] (2 pp.)
f. 54	Creative Writing - Poetry, <u>Techne</u> (6 pp.)
f. 55	Enter Rebanis (16 pp.)
f. 56	For Tomorrow We Die (10 pp.)
f. 57	The Fork in the Road [Earlier title of And It Came to Pass] (19 pp.)
f. 58	The Fork in the Road (21 pp.)
f. 59	Generations of Men (4 pp.)
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f. 62	If I Were Rich (3 pp.)

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- f. 96 Writer's Cramp (13 pp.)
- f. 97 A Writer's Supplement to Pittsburg College Verse, 1924-1930 (54 pp.)
- f. 98 You Know, Palms (1 p.)
- f. 99 Transcriptions of poems written by Margaret E. Haughawout - The Book-Keepers Poem; The Boys; House to Hedge; Irrefutable; The Ivory Box; Love-New Model; Professor; Relict; Two Dressy Ladies; Two Lovers; A Vein of Racing Blood (11 pp.)

**Clippings Series**

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- f. 123 "No Prissy Saint, No Vamp: A Monday Night with Margaret E. Haughawout", August 1984. Readings from the unpublished writings of Haughawout at Lincoln Center, Pittsburg, Kansas. Includes programs and posters
- f. 124 "With Love, Margaret: The Correspondence of Margaret E. Haughawout", August 1985. Readings from the unpublished correspondence of Haughawout at Memorial Auditorium, Pittsburg, Kansas. Includes programs and posters.
- f. 125 Biographical notes and autobiographical excerpts from the correspondence of Margaret Haughawout, compiled and transcribed by Gene DeGruson.
- f. 126 "A Story About the Haughawouts of Nebraska", by Dale W. Smith, August 1985

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