

Louise Louis Whitbread Collection
Finding Aid



Archives and Special Collections

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 92-13

Size: 0.4522 cu. ft.

Provenance:

Restrictions: None.

Location: Range Section Shelf

Archivist: Prof. Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

Assistant: Ms. Christina Rodriguez

Date:

HISTORICAL NOTE

Louise Louis was born in Manhattan, New York on May 31, 1905. She attended Hunter College where she received a B.A. in History in 1928.

After graduating from Hunter College, Louis began teaching in a school in New York City. But it wasn't until the latter half of her life when her poems started being featured in newspapers and journals. Utilizing her poems that were published in newspapers and journals, Louis compiled her first book of poems, "This Is for You," which was published in 1947.

Louis married twice; the product of her first marriage was daughter Joan. In 1953, already involved in her second marriage to husband George, Louis left New York City for Westwood, New Jersey, with her husband and daughter. Shortly after moving to Westwood, Louis' daughter succumbed to cancer. Louis used her tragic life experiences as inspiration for her poems.

Louis' career continued to grow and in 1960 she was honored at the Poetry Society of America alongside other major poets. She founded Pen-Art Publishers in 1963 and her column, "Under the Lamplight," was featured weekly in the *Westwood News*. Louis recited her works at colleges, training schools for teachers, clubs, and even did a solo performance at the Academy of Music in New York. Furthermore, she made several appearances on radio. In 1968, she received the Woman of Achievement Award from the East Bergen Business and Professional Women's Club. Louis also joined a few organizations such as, the Poetry Society of America, the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW), and became an honorary lifetime member of the NY Poetry Forum. As a major figure in the Poetry Society of America, Louis endowed \$200 (to which \$50 was added under the Will of Ruth M. Bourne) under her Final Will and Testament to the student (grades 9-12) who writes the best unpublished poem. This annual prize is called the Louise Louis / Emily F. Bourne Student Award.

During the 1960s and 1970s she continued writing and publishing books for which she won many awards. Her works were published in Australia, England, France, Holland, India, Italy and Taiwan. In her last years, her focus shifted from writing to editing and publishing anthologies for the NY Poetry Forum. On Friday, November 29, 1991, Louise Louis Whitbread passed away.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Louise Louis Whitbread Collection primarily consists of her publications. Louis was known for her poetry and children's books, some of which are included in this collection. There is also a biographical sketch on Louis written by Patrick Poor a few days after Louis' death. Poor, however, wrote that Louise Louis graduated from Hunter College in 1929 with a B.A. in English, but the Hunter College Yearbook records show that she actually graduated from Hunter College in 1928 with a B.A. in History. Also included in this collection are a newspaper article on Louis being honored, correspondence, and Louis' Final Will and Testament.

SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LIST

Series I – Biographical Sketch, 1991

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Biographical Sketch by Patrick Poor, 1991

Series II- Correspondence, 1963

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	2	Correspondence from niece, February 15, 1963 Correspondence to colleagues, July, 16, 1963 Correspondence to niece, July 27, 1963

Series III- Publications, 1947-1990

Arrangement note

Arranged into three subseries: (1) Publications by Louis; (2) Unpublished; (3) Published by others

Subseries I- Publications by Louis

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	3	Book of Poems, <i>This Is for You</i> , 1947
1	4	“The Wonderful Becoming,” 1963 “Under the Lamplight,” 1963
1	5	Children’s Book, <i>Honey Bee Cousin</i> , 1978
1	6	Catalogue of Works, 1963-1979
1	7	Book of Poems, <i>Postlude</i> , 1984 Reviews of <i>Postlude</i> and contest paper
1	8	“Eye-Walk,” 1990

Subseries II- Unpublished

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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1 9 Draft of a poem, "The Isolation Booth or 'The Hum-of-Summer,'" n.d.

Subseries III- Publications by Others

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	10	"Lovely Poems for the Very Married" by Lois Wyse, 1966

Series IV- Newspaper Article

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	11	Article in <i>Bergen Evening News</i> , "Poet to Receive Citation Society Fete in N.Y.," 1960

Series IV- Miscellaneous

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	12	Postcard Various clippings of quotes and proverbs

Series IV- Final Will and Testament

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	13	Last Will and Testament, January 1991 In Memoriam book, November 1991 Letter to beneficiary, February 1992