

Title: Lizette Woodworth Reese Collection**Collection dates: 1848 -1930****Collection number: MS 2****Extent: 7 boxes, 8 linear feet, 18 Publications****Creators: Lizette Woodworth Reese, Lizette Woodworth Reese Memorial Association****Condition of access: Unrestricted, by appointment only****Language: English****Repository: Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections****Contact Information:**

Enoch Pratt Free Library

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Baltimore, MD 21201

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In 1936 Lizette Woodworth Reese's heirs deposited her papers at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The collection was later supplemented by donations of Reese's friends, her executor, Warren Wilmer (WW) Brown, and the Lizette Woodworth Reese Memorial Association. In November of 1960, however, Reese's heirs sold what they had donated to the University of Virginia. Reese's friends, WW Brown, and the Memorial Association materials remained and now constitute the Lizette Woodworth Reese Collection at the Pratt Library.

Biographical History:

Lizette Woodworth Reese was born on January 9, 1856 in Huntingdon (now Waverly), Maryland. Her father was a soldier in the Confederate army and her mother, born Gabler was a native of Germany. David and Louisa Reese had four daughters, of whom Lizette and Sophia were twins. Educated chiefly in private schools, at seventeen Lizette began her life as a teacher. For three years she taught small children in the parish school of St. John's Episcopal Church in Waverly. Then she was employed in Baltimore public schools, first in one of the English-German schools and then for four years in the high school for African American children. In 1901 she taught English at the Western High School for girls until her retirement in 1921. Reese died December 17, 1935 from complications of a kidney infection.

Although Reese wrote poetry prior to teaching, it was not until she began her career that she actively pursued getting her poems published. Her first published poem, "The Deserted House," was printed in the Baltimore literary periodical, *the Southern Magazine*, in June 1874. She kept on writing for various weekly and monthly publications and in 1887 issued her first book of verse, *A Branch of May*, a volume containing thirty-three poems. The little book was favorably received and brought her recognition beyond her own city. In 1891 its contents and additional poems made up a second book, *A Handful of Lavender*, and by 1896 she published her third book, *A Quiet Road*. For the next thirteen years, Reese wrote little. This period, however, produced her best-known poem, the sonnet "Tears." It was written in 1899 and published in Scribner's

Magazine for November of that year. In 1909 Thomas Bird Mosher, who had acquired the rights to Reese's earlier works and had issued them in limited editions, published a new book of poems entitled *A Wayside Lute*. In the following years she wrote other works such as *Spicewood* (1920), *Wild Cherry* (1923), *White April and Other Poems* (1930), *The York Road* (1931), and *Pastures and Other Poems* (1933).

Reese was an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa in 1925 and received the degree of doctor of literature from Goucher College in 1931. In 1931, she won the Mary L. Keats Memorial Prize for contributions to literature and she was named Poet Laureate of Maryland. She was a member of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore (honorary president 1922-1935) and the Women's Literary Club of Baltimore (chair of poetry section, 1890-1935).

Scope and Contents Note:

The Lizette Woodworth Reese Collection includes materials from 1892-1960, with the bulk of the materials from the 1930s. This collection offers a wide detail of Reese's life through her writings; writings of her family, friends, and executor; photographs; and personal items. The collection is broken up into five series: I. Lizette Woodworth Reese Manuscripts and Correspondence; II. Correspondence about LWR; III. Commemoration of Lizette Woodworth Reese; and IV. Lizette Woodworth Reese Ephemera.

Series Description:

I. Lizette Woodworth Reese Manuscripts and Correspondence, 1919-1935

Handwritten manuscripts of poems and correspondence between Reese and her friends. All items in this series are in Reese's own handwriting, though some of the poems only have her written signature. The series is broken into three subseries: 1. Poems; 2. Writings; and 3. Correspondence. The first two subseries are arranged alphabetically and subseries 3 is arranged chronologically.

II. Correspondence about Lizette Woodworth Reese, 1936-1960

This series is divided into two subseries: 1. Correspondence with Reese's executor, WW Brown, 1936-1943 and 2. Correspondence with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1936-1960. Brown's correspondence generally deals with literary rights and permission for Reese's works and ways to commemorate Reese. The correspondence generated by the library deals largely with the Lizette Woodworth Reese collection—its use and care. All materials are arranged chronologically, then alphabetically.

III. Commemoration of Lizette Woodworth Reese

The third series consists of speeches, obituaries, newspaper articles, literary magazines, and the commencement of an association to honor Reese. The materials are arranged chronologically. Includes a piece in the *Who's Who in America*, Volume 18, 1934-1935. The volume was donated by the Lizette Woodworth Reese Memorial Association.

IV. Lizette Woodworth Reese Ephemera

Items included in this series are photographs, a framed poem, Reese's pen and pen-stand, and a book dedicated to Reese, *Materna* by Harry Lyman Koopman.

V. Published Works, 1892- 1936

This series includes books donated to the collection by the Lizette Woodworth Reese Memorial Association and books signed by Reese. Many of the donated books have Reese's signature and sometimes even a little verse handwritten by her. Container list for this series indicates the number of copies and how many were signed. Materials arranged alphabetically by title.

Container List:

Series I: Lizette Woodworth Reese Manuscripts and Correspondence, 1881-1935

Subseries 1: Manuscripts

Box 1	Folder 1	Manuscript, "All in an April Wood"
	Folder 2	Manuscript, "The Cry"
	Folder 3	Manuscript, "Gorse"
	Folder 4	Manuscript, "The Looking Glass"
	Folder 5	Manuscript, "Old Age"
	Folder 6	Manuscript, "Peach Blossoms"
	Folder 7	Manuscript, "Scarcity"
	Folder 8	Manuscript, "Snow Fall"
	Folder 9	Manuscript, "Tears"
		(additional item of a handwritten copy by unknown)
	Folder 10	Manuscript, "Tragedy"
	Folder 11	Manuscript, "Two Sundays Now"
	Folder 12	Manuscript, "Winter"
	Folder 12-1	Manuscript, unpublished, untitled

Subseries 2: Writings

Folder 13	LWR Autographs
Folder 13-1	List of names in Reese's handwriting
Folder 14	Materials found in <i>Pastures</i>
Folder 15	Miscellaneous Writings- LWR

Subseries 3: Correspondence, 1919-1935

Folder 16	Correspondence with Hester [Dorsey Richardson], 1896
Folder 16	Correspondence with Mrs. Lawrence Turnball, 1919
Folder 16-1	Correspondence with Dr. Gould, 1915
Folder 17	Correspondence with Woodworth Literary Club, 1922
Folder 17-1	Correspondence with Carloyn Brown, 1922
Folder 18	Correspondence with WW Brown, 1925-1935
Folder 18-1	Correspondence with Mrs. Ober(?), 1926
Folder 18-2	Correspondence with Amy L. Steiner 1927
Folder 19	Correspondence with Paul Davis Bell, 1929-30
Folder 19-1	Correspondence with Fannie Hess, 1931-34
Folder 19-2	Correspondence with Walter Knipp, 1931
Folder 20	Correspondence with Grace Turnball, 1931-34
Folder 20-1	Correspondence with Mr. J.L. Wheeler, 1933 and 1935

Series II: Correspondence about Lizette Woodworth Reese, 1936-1960

Subseries 1: Correspondence with WW Brown, 1936-1943

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| Box 1 | Folder 21 | WW Brown with J.D. Clark, 1936 |
| | Folder 22 | WW Brown with Mrs. Croker, 1936 |
| | Folder 23 | WW Brown with George Derby, 1936 |
| | Folder 24 | WW Brown with EPFL, 1936-43 |
| | Folder 25 | WW Brown with Goucher College, 1936 |
| | Folder 26 | WW Brown with Johns Hopkins University, 1936 |
| | Folder 27 | WW Brown with LWR Foundation, 1936-37 |
| | Folder 28 | WW Brown with H.L. Mencken, 1936 |
| Box 2 | Folder 29 | WW Brown with New York Public Library, 1936 |
| | Folder 30 | WW Brown with Walter Sondheim, 1936 |
| | Folder 31 | WW Brown with C. Sutherland, 1936 |
| | Folder 32 | WW Brown's Request for Reese Memories, 1936 |

Subseries 1: Correspondence with WW Brown (con't)

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| Folder 33 | WW Brown with Alexander Newell Scott, 1937 |
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Subseries 2: Correspondence from Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1936-1960

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| Folder 34 | EPFL, January- May 1936 |
| Folder 35 | EPFL, June- December 1936 |
| Folder 36 | EPFL, 1937 |
| Folder 37 | EPFL, 1938 |
| Folder 38 | EPFL, 1939 |
| Folder 39 | EPFL, 1940 |
| Folder 40 | EPFL, 1943 |
| Folder 41 | EPFL, 1944 |
| Folder 42 | EPFL, 1947 |
| Folder 43 | EPFL, 1960 |

Series III: Commemoration of Lizette Woodworth Reese

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| Box 2 | Folder 44 | Photocopies of news clippings about LWR, 1935-1943 |
| | Folder 45 | Speeches about LWR, 1938-47 |
| | Folder 46 | LWR Memorial Association Donated Copies of <i>The Lyric</i> , 1923 and 1935 |
| | Folder 47 | LWR Memorial Association Materials, 1939-49 |
| | Folder 47-1 | Enoch Pratt Free Library Tribute Pamphlet-
Transcription of the ceremonies held for the unveiling of the LWR tablet on May 2, 1943. |

Series IV: Lizette Woodworth Reese Ephemera

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| Box 3 | Folders 48-55 | Photographs of LWR |
| | Folder 56 | Framed etching by Edwin Tunis (1928) #5 of 50 |
| Box 4 | Framed poem, "Apples Dropping" | |
| Box 5 | Reese's pen and pen-stand | |
| Box 6 | <i>An Index to the poems of Lizette Woodworth Reese</i>
<i>Compiled by Ruth Murray Klein 1943</i> | |

Box 7 LWR 1856 – 1935 Scrapbook, created by LWR Memorial Foundation

Series V: Published Works by Lizette Woodworth Reese

A Branch of May (1909)- 4 copies

A Handful of Lavender (1892 and 1915)- 3 copies

A Quiet Road (1896 and 1915)- 3 copies, 1 signed

A Victorian Village (1929)- 1 copy with a poem entitled “April” penned by Reese on one of the title pages

A Victorian Village (1939)- 3copies, 2 signed

A Wayside Suite (1919)- 4 copies, 2 signed

Contributions to Gardens, Houses, and People, 1930-1936

Little Henrietta (1927)- 5 copies, 2 signed

Pastures and Other Poems (1933)- 2 copies, 1 signed

Poems (1887)- 3 copies, signed

Singing Pathways (1929)- 1 copy, signed

Spicewood (1921)- 3 copies, 1 signed

The Old House in the Country (1936)- 2 copies (housed with Worleys)

The Selected Poems of Lizette Woodworth Reese (1926)- 1 copy

The York Road (1931)- 3 copies, 1 signed

White April (1930)- 2 copies, 1 signed

Wild Cherry (1923)- 5 copies, 2 autographed

Worleys (1936)- 2 copies

Processed by: Kristen Romano, March 2002, revised July 2009