Selected Correspondence of Margaret Randall, 1977-1999: Finding Aid

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<tr>
<td><strong>Call number:</strong> C0861</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Repository:</strong> Princeton University Library. Special Collections. Manuscripts Division One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 2.5 linear feet 6 archival boxes</td>
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<td><strong>Language(s) of Material:</strong> English Spanish or Castilian</td>
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<td><strong>Abstract:</strong> The Selected Correspondence of Margaret Randall consists of letters exchanged between the American Marxist, poet, editor, author Margaret Randall, and many Latin American poets, writers, journalists, editors, and friends. Also included are subject files, articles, and printed matter relating to Cuba and Nicaragua. Randall was born in New York, but spent most of her adult life in Latin America. In 1961 she moved from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Mexico, then to Cuba in 1969, and from there to Nicaragua in 1980, returning to Albuquerque in 1984.</td>
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<td><strong>Location:</strong> This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.</td>
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Margaret Randall is a feminist poet, writer, photographer, and social activist.

She was born in New York City on December 6, 1936. She emigrated to Mexico in 1961 and married Mexican poet Sergio Mondragón. In 1962, Randall and Mondragón co-founded El Corno Emplumado (The Plumed Horn), a bilingual literary journal that translated and published mainly avant-garde and "Beat Generation" works by authors from Mexico, other parts of Latin America, and the United States. The journal published works by Ernesto Cardenal, Claudio Bertonio, Alan Trachtenberg, Anselm Hollo, Homero Aridjis, Cecilia Vicuna, Nicanor Parra, Gonzalo Rojas, Enrique Lihn, Jorge Teillier, Waldo Rojas, Alejandra Pizarnik, Raquel Jodorowsky, and featured artwork from David Alfaro Siqueiros, Leonora Carrington, Juan Soriano, Rini Templeton, and Elaine de Kooning. El Corno Emplumado also published approximately 20 books of poetry. Issue #28 was released in October 1968 in the midst of the Tlatelolco Massacre, a violent military attack against university students that left hundreds dead. The editorial's defense of the student protests resulted in the loss of subsidized government funding and the journal was forced to close after the publication of issue #31 in 1969.


In 1984, she attempted to immigrate back to the United States, but was met with deportation when the government invoked the 1952 McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act. Under the act, the government claimed Randall's opinions and ideology expressed in several of her books were "against the good order and happiness of the United States." Randall's struggle to reinstate her citizenship became a five year battle. She won a Board of Immigration Appeals case in 1989 ordering the INS to grant her adjustment of status to permanent residence. In 1990 she was awarded the Lillian Hellman and Dashiell Hammett grant for writers victimized by political repression; and in 2004 she was the first recipient of PEN New Mexico’s Dorothy Doyle Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing and Human Rights Activism.

From 1984 through 1994 she taught at a number of universities including Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, the University of New Mexico, Macalester College, and the University of Delaware. She continues to publish poetry and writes extensively on the subjects of feminism, the Cuban Revolution, and the Sandinista Revolution. Among her publications include Walking to the Edge: Essays of Resistance (1991), Gathering Rage (1992), Something's Wrong with the Cornfields (2011), Che on My Mind (2013), Haydée Santamaría, Cuban Revolutionary (2015), and Exporting Revolution: Cuba's Global Solidarity (2017), among others.

She married artist Barbara Byers in 2013, and currently lives in Albuquerque.
Consists of correspondence (1977-1999) that reflects a wide selection of Latin American, primarily Cuban, poets, writers, journalists, editors, and friends. The correspondents include Ruth Behar, Antonio Castro, Robert Cohen, Alex Fleites, Francisco Garzón Céspedes, Dan Georgakas, Marian McDonald, Sergio Mondragón, Michele Najlis, Victor Núñez Rodríguez, Arnaldo Orfila Reynal, Mirta Yáñez, and Daisy Zamora. Their letters discuss literary topics, gay and lesbian issues, and other social and political issues of the times. Some letters include poems, articles, photographs, and clippings. Also included are subject files, articles, and printed matter relating to Cuba and Nicaragua. This collection offers insight into the social and political issues of contemporary Latin America.

A few of the 42 correspondents are Ruth Behar, Antonio Castro, Robert Cohen, Alex Fleites, Francisco Garzón Céspedes, Dan Georgakas, Marian McDonald, Sergio Mondragón, Michele Najlis, Victor Rodríguez Núñez, Arnaldo Orfila Reynal, Mirta Yáñez, and Daisy Zamora. Also included are Randall's subject files (1977-1999) on Cuba and Nicaragua, containing miscellaneous correspondence, articles, and printed matter.

**Arrangement**

The collection has been arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject, and then chronologically within each folder. Miscellaneous correspondence is arranged alphabetically in a group folder by country name, and then chronologically. A list of correspondents by nationality is located after the box and folder inventory.

**Access and Use**

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff through the Ask Us! form. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

**Acquisition and Appraisal**

Provenance and Acquisition

Purchased from the author in 1999.

Appraisal

No appraisal information is available.
Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Selected Correspondence of Margaret Randall, Box and Folder Number; Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· Authors, Latin American -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Cuban literature -- 20th century.
· Editors -- Latin America -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Gays' writings, Latin American -- 20th century.
· Sexual orientation -- Cuba -- 20th century.
· Journalists, Latin American -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Lesbians' writings, Latin American -- 20th century.
· Latin American poetry -- 20th century.
· Poets, American -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Poets, Cuban -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Poets, Latin American -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Poets, Mexican -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Poets, Nicaraguan -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Poets, Uruguayan -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Publishers and publishing -- Mexico -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Cuba -- Politics and government -- 1990-
· Cuba -- Social conditions -- 1959-
· Latin America -- Intellectual life -- 20th century.
· Nicaragua -- Social conditions -- 1979-
· Latin American literature
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<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agosín, Marjorie (1955- ) [Chilean], 1993-1995</td>
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<td>Size: 19 letters</td>
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<td>Arenal, Electa [Mexican-American], 1978-1993</td>
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<td>Size: 16 letters</td>
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<td>Behar, Ruth (1956- ) [Cuban-American], 1995-1997</td>
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<td>Size: 7 letters</td>
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<td>Behar, Ruth: &quot;The Vulnerable Observer,&quot; TMs, 1996</td>
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<td>Behar, Ruth: &quot;Woman to Woman,&quot; TMs, 1996</td>
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<td>Size: 18 letters</td>
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<td>Castro, Antonio [Colombian], 1979-1990</td>
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<td>Castro, Antonio, 1991-1999</td>
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<td>Cohen, Robert [American], 1978-1998</td>
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<td>Size: 56 letters</td>
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<td>Cuba: Correspondence (Miscellaneous), 1977-1981</td>
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<td>Cuba: Correspondence (Miscellaneous), 1982-1998</td>
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<td>Editorial Nueva [Nicaragua], 1981-1984</td>
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<td>Elman, Richard (1934- ) [American], 1983</td>
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Feijoo, Samuel (1914- ) [Cuban], 1978-1979

Fernández Retamar, Roberto (1930- ) [Cuban], 1992-1995

Fleites, Alex [Cuban], 1981-1996

Galeano, Eduardo (1940- ) [Uruguyan], 1981-1992

Garzón Céspedes, Francisco (1947- ) [Cuban], 1981-1998

Georgakas, Dan (1938- ) [American], 1978-1985

Georgakas, Dan (Smyrna Press), 1986-1999

Gravina, María [Uruguyan], 1986-1998

Gutiérrez, Judith [Ecuadorian], 1981-1983

Martín, Juan Luis [Cuban], 1978-1997

McDonald, Marian [Puerto Rican?], 1978-1984

McDonald, Marian, 1985-1989

McDonald, Marian, 1990-1999

Meyer, Eugenia [Mexican], 1978-1983

Miselem, Nora [Honduran], 1997

Mondragón, Sergio (1935- ) [Mexican], 1977-1996
Morejón, Nancy (1944- ) [Cuban], 1983
Size: 1 letter
Box: 3 Folder: 8

Murillo, Rosario (1951- ) [Nicaraguan], 1982-1983
Size: 22 letters
Box: 3 Folder: 9

Najlis, Michele (1946- ) [Nicaraguan], 1984-1999
Size: 36 letters
Box: 3 Folder: 10

Nava, Thelma (1931- ) [Mexican], 1978-1991
Size: 12 letters
Box: 3 Folder: 11

Nicaragua: Correspondence (Miscellaneous), 1980-1989
Size: 100 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 1

Nicaragua: Correspondence (Miscellaneous), 1990-1999
Size: 55 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 2

Nicaragua: Articles by Margaret Randall, 1979-1991
Size: 4 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 3

Nicaragua: Articles (Miscellaneous), 1981-1996
Size: 30 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 4

Nicaragua: Printed Matter, 1980s-1990s
Box: 4 Folder: 5

Ochoa, Mayda (1945- ) [Cuban], 1986
Size: 3 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 6

Orillo, Winston [Peruvian], 1978
Size: 1 letter
Box: 4 Folder: 7

Orfila Reynal, Arnaldo [see Siglo XXI], dates not examined

Pasmanick, Philip [American], 1982-1987
Size: 23 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 8

Pasmanick, Philip, 1988-1998
Size: 18 letters
Box: 4 Folder: 9

Peña, Angel [Cuban], 1978-1983
Size: 17 letters
Box: 5 Folder: 1

Rodríguez Núñez, Victor (1955- ) [Cuban], 1987-1995
Size: 27 letters
Box: 5 Folder: 2

Rodríguez Núñez, Victor, 1996
Box: 5 Folder: 3
Rodríguez Núñez, Victor, 1997-1999

Salado, Minerva (1944- ) [Cuban], 1996-1997

Sánchez Ochoa, Magaly (1940- ) [Cuban], 1979-1996

Santos Moray, Mercedes (1944- ) [Cuban], 1995

Santos Moray, Mercedes: "El Monte de Venus," TMs, 1996

Siglo XXI, Veintiuno Editores [Mexico], dates not examined

Orfila Reynal, Arnaldo [Mexican], 1978-1988

Viezzer, Moema [Brazilian], 1979-1983


Wald, Karen, 1996-1998

Winegardner, Jill (1953- ) [American], 1995-1996 June

Winegardner, Jill, 1996 July-December

Winegardner, Jill, 1997-1999

Yáñez, Mirta (1947- ) [Cuban], 1991-1997

Zamora, Bladimir (1952- ) [Cuban], 1978-1983

Zamora, Daisy (1950- ) [Nicaraguan], 1985-1990

Zamora, Daisy, 1991-1995