

Lily Peter letters

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Ouachita Baptist University Library
Title	Lily Peter letters
Date	1980-1989
Extent	0.33 Cubic feet (1 archive box)
Language	English
Language of Materials	English
Text [Box]	1

Preferred Citation

Lily Peter Letters. Riley-Hickingbotham Library Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical note

Lily Peter, Arkansas state poet laureate, was born on June 2, 1891, to William Oliver Peter and Florence Mobrey Peter in Phillips County, Arkansas. The eldest of ten children, she assumed the responsibility of their family farm when her father died in an accident in 1907. Peter graduated valedictorian from her high school in Ohio, Arkansas, and returned home to teach in small local schools. Though she struggled financially, she managed to make the farm successful and even bought a second plantation with her brother. After her brother passed away, she managed both plantations. Peter experimented in organic farming and was an active voice in conservation and environmental issues.

In addition to teaching and running the plantations, Peter studied English at Columbia and Vanderbilt universities and earned a master's degree from Vanderbilt. She also studied violin at Juilliard and became a supporter of the fine arts by donating money to build the Lily Peter Auditorium in Helena, Arkansas. Throughout her life, she wrote lyrical and historical poetry depicting the Arkansas Delta and was the state's Poet Laureate from 1971 to 1991. She died July 26, 1991.

Scope and Content

From 1980 to 1989, Ouachita Baptist University Professor of English Johnny Wink corresponded with Lily Peter, Poet Laureate of Arkansas. Those letters as well as newsclippings and poetry are found in this collection.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Ouachita Baptist University Library

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. Manuscripts may only be copied by special collections staff.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish. Any publication of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Requests for permission to publish should be addressed in writing to the Head of Special Collections, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3742, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the Riley-Hickingbotham Library Special Collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

1998

Collection Inventory

To Johnny Wink
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988