

# Bridgewater State University

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**Mary Lavin Collection,  
1945 – 1995 (bulk 1978-1982)  
(MSS-018)**

*Finding Aid Compiled by  
Orson Kingsley*

Last Updated: June 18, 2015

**Volume:** .75 linear feet (2 document boxes)

**Acquisition:** All items in this manuscript group were donated to Bridgewater State University by Maureen Connelly in 2013.

**Access:** Access to this record group is unrestricted.

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### **Mary Lavin Biographical Sketch**

Mary Lavin was born in East Walpole, MA in 1912. At the age of ten she moved to Ireland with her mother, who was a native of Ireland. Lavin's literary career took off in the early 1940s with her first book, *Tales from Bective Bridge*. She wrote both short stories and novels. Much of her work dealt with feminist issues based on her experience and struggle from being a female writer in a male-dominated Catholic Ireland. She passed away in 1996.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection largely consists of personal correspondence and photographs of Mary Lavin, as well as published works of Lavin, some of which are signed. Lavin was a friend of Maureen Connelly, the donor of the collection, and the correspondence is between the two.

### **Box and Folder List**

#### **Box 1 Folder**

1. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Feb. 26, 1978
2. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Jan. 4, 1979
3. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Feb. 12, 1980
4. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, July 10, 1980
5. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Jan. 1, 1981
6. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Feb. 6, 1981
7. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Aug. 10, 1981
8. Letter-Mary Lavin to Maureen Connelly, Feb. 22, 1982
9. Envelopes with non-matching letters, 1978, undated
10. Etching of Mary Lavin by Charles L. Carroll, undated
11. Photographs-Lavin and family at her farm in Ireland, 1980

12. Photographs-Lavin and family at her farm in Ireland, 1980
13. Photographs-Lavin and a Boston State College Student, 1979
14. Eire Society of Boston program honoring Mary Lavin, 1974
15. News clippings and reviews involving Lavin, 1979-1980, 1995

## **Box 2**

### **Books**

- Irish University Review: A Journal of Irish Studies. Mary Lavin Special Issue*, signed, autumn 1979
- The Becker Wives*, signed, 1971
- Tales From Bective Bridge*, signed, 1978
- In the Middle of the Fields: and Other Stories*, 1965
- At Sallygap and Other Stories*, 1947
- The House in Clewe Street*, 1945, 1<sup>st</sup> edition