

CAPE ANN Museum

Library & Archives

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KITTY PARSONS AND RICHARD RECCHIA COLLECTION

Creator:	Kitty Parsons and Richard Recchia; various
Dates:	1907-1970s
Quantity:	5 linear feet (10 manuscript containers)
Acquisition:	Accession #: 2473 ; Donated by: Frederick C. Hoffman
Identification:	A59 ; Archive Collection #59
Citation:	[Document Title]. The Kitty Parsons and Richard Recchia Collection, [Box #, Folder #, Item #], Cape Ann Museum Library & Archives, Gloucester, MA.
Copyright:	Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Librarian/Archivist.
Language:	English
Finding Aid:	Processed by Peter J. Brown, 2009. Updated by Karla Kaneb, June 2020.

Biographical Note

Kitty Parsons (nee: Mary Catherine Parsons) was born in Stratford Conn. Aug. 19, 1889 and raised in New York City where her family had lived for generations. She graduated from the Cathedral School of St. Mary in Garden City, New York and later studied at Pratt Institute, American Academy of Dramatic Art, Teacher's College of Columbia Univ. and Boston Univ.

Her family moved to Boston shortly before WWI. Kitty spent the war years giving humorous monologues at army camps and naval bases in New England while working with the YMCA and American Red Cross. In one year, she gave nearly 200 performances. Following the death of her father, Kitty and her mother bought a summer place in Rockport that soon became a

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permanent residence. It was here that she met Richard Recchia, a widower with two young children. They were married June 30th 1927 and received as a wedding gift from her mother, the house at 6 Summer St.

For six decades, Kitty was a prolific writer of poems and historical articles. She was published in the Saturday Evening Post, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, Boston Evening Transcript, Saturday Review, Wall Street Journal, Rotarian, London Times, Boston Globe, Boston Herald and many anthologies.

Her professional career included membership in numerous poetry societies as well as being Chairman of the Maine Writers Conference from 1965-68. She also found time to write and have the following books published: *Do You Know Them?* 1922; *Stories of People Worthwhile*, 1924; *Buccaneer Ballads*, 1944; *Gloucester Sea Ballads*, 1946; *As The Wind Blows*, 1951; *Ancestral Timber*, 1957; *People and People*, 1961; *Down To Earth*, 1964; *Up and Down and Round About*, 1967; and *Your Husband and Mine*, 1970.

After her marriage to Richard Recchia, she started painting to amuse her little stepdaughter. She eventually had many exhibits in Boston and New York but primarily with the Rockport Art Association.

Kitty Parsons died, age 86, July 16, 1976.

Richard Recchia was born in Quincy on Nov. 20, 1885. His father, Francesco Recchia, a native of Verona, Italy, was a sculptor and an early influence on his son. After studying at the Boston Fine Arts Museum, Richard traveled to Italy and Paris for further study. He was the recipient of many awards and the founder of the Boston Society of Sculptors.

His bas-relief "Architecture" is carved on the façade of the Boston Fine Arts Museum and his works are represented in the J.B. Speed Museum in Louisville, KY.; the Buffalo Museum of Arts and Sciences; the Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina; the Red Cross Museum, Nashua, N.H.; the Boston State House; the Somerville Public Library; the George Davenport School in Malden; and Harvard, Brown and Purdue universities and a bronze bust of A. Piat Andrew at the Cape Ann Historical Museum.

He is best known for his larger than life equestrian statue of General John Stark in Manchester, N.H.; the Baby and Frog Fountain at Brookgreen Gardens and his "Mother Goose" in the Rockport Mass. public library.

Richard Recchia, age 98, died on Aug. 18, 1983.

Acquisition Note

Gift of Frederick C. Hoffman, Bank of New England – North Shore, 154 Main St., Gloucester, MA 01930. From the estate of Richard H. Recchia.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Parsons/Recchia papers cover the full career of Kitty Parsons and, following their marriage in 1927, the subsequent career of Richard Recchia. Each occupied a separate place in the artistic spectrum, Kitty as a writer and painter, Richard as a nationally known sculptor. Letters, awards, rejections, poems, essays, manuscripts and speeches all give a comprehensive understanding of two Rockport artists. Contents include letters, poems, articles, manuscripts, awards, and newspaper clippings.

Series Description

- I Personal correspondence
 - II Career accomplishments
-

Container List

Box #1

Series I & II

- Folder 1: Recchia letters to and from son (Richard Edmund Recchia)
Letters from Recchia mother
- Folder 2: Recchia correspondence with Anthony diBond, Thomas C. Cole
- Folder 3: Correspondence 1964 Syracuse, Ohio.
Recchia collection.
Professional correspondence
- Folder 4: Recchia correspondence with son – mother – diBond.
Professional letters re: models for medallions
- Folder 5: Kitty Parsons; awards
- Folder 6: Recchia awards.
Newspaper clippings – articles by Kitty Parsons
- Folder 7: Small brown notebook (1914).
Clippings of a talented speaker at an early age
Columbia Teachers College 1915; stories for children
Clipping: WWI entertainment for YMCA
Book Review: “Do You Know Them”
- Folder 8: 1970’s clippings – General John Stark by R. Recchia
Misc. humor articles by Kitty Parsons

Misc. clippings
Folder 9: Parsons certificates, awards

Box #2

Series I and II

Folder 1: Misc. clippings; short poems
Folder 2: Correspondence: rejections and acceptances
Folder 3: Correspondence: rejections and acceptances
Folder 4: Correspondence: rejections and acceptances
Folder 5: Correspondence: rejections and acceptances
Folder 6: Awards, professional correspondence
Personal correspondence
Folder 7: Clippings – articles

Box #3

Series I and II

Folder 1: Clippings: reviews, older articles, essays
Folder 2: Correspondence - awards
Articles and photos – trip to Martinique
Folder 3: Misc. pamphlets – Maine writers conference
Magazine article: “ A letter To Emily Dickinson from Emily Bronte.”
Script June 5, 1937
Obituary

Box #4

Series I and II

Large notebook (20's-30's) Historical articles for juveniles
Folder 1: Misc. – photos
Folder 2: Misc. photos of Parson's art work
Folder 3: Sketches by Parsons
Sketches by Recchia
Folder 4: Parsons's report cards 1907/08
Letters from step-son
Misc. acceptances
Folder 5: Professional letters and contracts
Folder 6: Misc. letters/correspondence
Folder 7: Misc. correspondence 1920's-1950's
Folder 8: Photos – Recchia – art works

Box #5

Series II

Manuscript: “3000 miles by water” With the Boy from The Isle of Jersey
Manuscript: “Another Spring” Poems 1971

Manuscript: "The Long Voyage" by Susan Ladd
Manuscript: "The Alphabet Circus" The Circus in
Manuscript: "The Adventures of Two Little Parakeets"
Manuscript: "Him the Hop Toad"
Notebook: Articles by Parsons for Teens. 1920's
Notebook: Misc. children's poems
Notebook: "White Gulls" a book of verse

Box #6

Series II

Two copper plates
Notebook: "Down to Earth" misc. poems
Diary: Trip to Martinique
Photos – Trip to Martinique
Small scribble book
Notebook – pasted articles/poems 1970's
Notebook – pasted articles/poems 1970's
Notebook – Misc. research notes for articles
Prize poems 1966 Penn. Poetry Society
Pamphlet: The Women 1964
Prize poems 1972 Penn. Poetry Society

Box #6

Series II cont.

Pamphlet: Sounds of Maine 1970
Pamphlet: State of Maine 1972 Writers Conf.
Magazine: DAR 1956

Box #7

Series II

Genealogy Notebook – Parsons
(2) Manuscript "The Young Poet" A One Act Play for older children
Manuscript "The Gold Fish Who Wanted To See the World"
(2) Manuscript "Johanna's Husband" One act play for television
Manuscript "Double Duty" A one act play
Manuscript "Late, Late, So Late: one act play
Manuscript "Butter Cup the Walking-Doll"
Manuscript "The Ultimate Reward" one act play in verse
Misc.: Professional Listings – writers conference
Manuscript: "Beyond the " collected poems
Manuscript "Peter and the Big Black Bear"
Manuscript "It Pays to Travel" A three act play
Manuscript "Out of the Fog" one act play for television

Manuscript “Rainy Day Rhymes”
Manuscript “The Gold Fish Who Wanted to Roam”
(3) Manuscript “The Train Leaves at Five” one act play
Manuscript “The Elves and the Shoemaker” one act play
Manuscript “All Passes” one act play

Box #8

Series II

Manuscript “Terry The Turtle”
Manuscript “Floating Through the Caribbean”
Manuscript “Out of the Fog” one act play
Manuscript “All Passes” one act play
Manuscript “Martha’s Husband” one act play
Manuscript “Abigail Adams in France” a radio play
Manuscript “Ring Around Her Finger” three act play
Manuscript “Johanna’s Husband” one act
Manuscript “All passes”
Manuscript “The Young Poet”
Manuscript “A Visit From Mr. Blue Jay”
Folder 1: First Draft “It Pays To Travel”
Folder 2: Misc. Collection of Articles
Folder 3: Manuscript “Trip To Martinique”
Folder 4: Poems/Notes Manuscripts
Folder 5: Misc. Poems/Notes Manuscripts
Folder 6: Essays/Notes/Poems

Box #9

Series II

Folder 1: Misc. Poems/Articles/Notes
Folder 2: Misc.
Folder 3: Misc.
Folder 4: Misc.
Folder 5: Misc.

Box #10

Series II

Folder 1: Poems/Stories/Notes
Folder 2: Poems
Folder 3: Poems
Folder 4: Poems