INTRODUCTION

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers, 1952, are centered around the correspondence of Frances Durrett (1906-1977), an educator of Nashville, Tennessee, to several noted authors and poets of the 1920s. The papers are a gift from Mrs. Albert Bowen of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Frances Bowen Durrett Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers, containing 59 items, cover the year 1952. The collection consists primarily of correspondence and notes concerning Dr. Durrett’s (1906-1977) dissertation research on the New Orleans literary publication, The Double Dealer. The publication was established in New Orleans in January of 1921. The editors of the magazine were Julius Weiss Friend, Albert Goldstein, and John McClure. It included as its subject matter the issues of the day – political, social, religious, and aesthetic. During its existence, there were published a total of 43 issues grouped in eight volumes. The magazine suspended publication in May of 1926.

Included in the collection is correspondence with and brief biographical notes for such literary figures as Thornton Wilder, Robert Graves, Robert Penn Warren, Mark Van Doren, and Howard Mumford Jones.

Subjects discussed in the correspondence include the role of the “little” magazines in American literature, information concerning the quality of The Double Dealer, and reasons for the demise of the “little” magazine movement after World War II.

Included in the collection are two brief biographical sketches of Ezra Pound (1885-1972) and John Crowe Ransom (1888-1965).

The Frances Bowen Durrett Papers provide valuable primary information on an important literary movement of the 1920s.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Frances Bowen Durrett

1906                   May 15 – Born in Soochow, China, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John
Bowen, medical missionaries

1926                   Received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University,
Nashville, Tennessee

1926-1956              Taught in the Metropolitan Public Schools, Nashville, Tennessee

1954                   Completed her dissertation, *The Double Dealer*

1956                   Received a PhD from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

1957-1971              Taught at Aquinas Junior College and the University of Tennessee,
Nashville

1977                   April 17 – Died at her home in Nashville, Tennessee

Source: The Nashville *Tennessean*, April 18, 1977
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