Inventory of the Marjorie Mosser Ellis Collection  
(Collection #30)

The Brick Store Museum  
Kennebunk, Maine

Compiled by J. Butler, Manuscript Curator  
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Physical Description:  
This important study collection of 191 books from the personal library of Marjorie Mosser Ellis of Kennebunkport is made up mostly of the novels and non-fiction books of Kennebunkport writer Kenneth Roberts. Ellis was the niece by marriage of Roberts as well as his personal secretary during his most productive years. The collection includes various and special editions of Roberts’s books, most inscribed by him to her. It includes also paperback editions, foreign editions, and anthologies that include Roberts’s work. There are also a few magazine articles, pamphlets, etc., about Roberts.

Clippings about the different books and other papers that were in the books have been removed to folders in Box #1. Each bears the same accession number as the book from which it was removed, for easy retracing.

The collection also includes Mrs. Ellis’s personal copies of books by Booth Tarkington, another Kennebunkport writer, many of them inscribed by Tarkington or Roberts. Also, her personal copies of the novels of Ben Ames Williams, a Maine writer, and A. Hamilton Gibbs, both personal friends of the Roberts household. These are also inscribed to Marjorie. The collection also includes Mrs. Ellis’s personal copies of novels of John P. Marquand, most with author inscriptions.

Kenneth Roberts’s leather-bound personal copies of the novels of Ben Ames Williams are also in this collection. Each is inscribed to Roberts and his wife Anna, and has Roberts’s bookplate in the front covers.
The bulk of the collection is stored in the top, locked cupboard in the Manuscript Curator’s office although some of Roberts’s novels are in the Reference Library downstairs (see listing for specific shelf locations). The Tarkington novels are on the Maine Authors/Histories shelf in the Manuscript Collection archives.

The boxed material is on the shelf in the Manuscript Archives with other collections.

The collection’s accession number is #82.51.1-201.

Box and Folder Breakdown:

Box 1:  The folders in this box hold clippings, papers, etc. that were removed from the books in the collection. Each item bears the same number as the book from which it was removed.

Folder 1: Items relating to Kenneth Roberts personally.
Folder 2: Items relating to the novel Arundel.
Folder 3: Items relating to the novel Boon Island.
Folder 4: Items relating to The Battle of Cowpens.
Folder 5: Items relating to Henry Gross and His Dowsing Rod.
Folder 6: Items relating to I Wanted to Write.
Folder 7: Items relating to Lydia Bailey.
Folder 8: Items relating to The Seventh Sense. Also auction notice and clippings. Dr. Horace C. Levinson estate, Rt. 35, Kennebunk, July 9-10, 1969.
Folder 9: Items relating to Trending into Maine, including two packages of Wyeth paintings prints: Yankee, August 1969, article about Kennebunk Couturier Julia Hay; Barridoff Galleries flyer for April 4, 1981 auction of Winslow Homer painting.
Folder 10: Items relating to Water Unlimited.
Folder 11: Items relating to foreign editions of Kenneth Roberts novels.
Folder 12: Items of a miscellaneous nature removed from various books.
Folder 13: Items relating to Ben Ames Williams’s books.
Folder 14: Items relating to Booth Tarkington.
Folder 15: Miscellaneous items.

Pamphlet Box 1:


82.51.195.2  Same as above.


**List of Books:**

The following are stored alphabetically by title with Collection #67 (Marjorie Mosser Ellis shelf)


affection and a horrible object lesson on the evils of carelessness, Kenneth Roberts, September 15th, 1938. Inside front cover in author’s handwriting list of “Changes for succeeding editions.”


82.51.16  Copy No. 7 as above.


82.51.30  *Lydia Bailey*, by Kenneth Roberts, Garden City, New York, Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1947. First edition. With page 811 of working manuscript pasted in. Also 15 page of working manuscript inserted in leather holder inside front cover (these removed to folder, see list Box 1). Leather Bound volume. Inscription: For Poor Marjorie Mosser, who typed more than two million words in the writing of this book, and endured the cantankerous oddities of its anguished author – with appreciation and love, Kenneth Roberts. Also, “Private for M. Mosser, Kenneth Roberts.”


82.51.33 *March to Quebec*: Journals of the members of Arnold’s Expedition, compiled and annotated by Kenneth Roberts during the writing of *Arundel*, Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Doran & Company, 1945.


82.51.41.2 *Oliver Wiswell*, Volume II of above set.


The following are stored alphabetically by title with Collection #67 (Marjorie Mosser Ellis shelf). These are paperback editions.


82.51.63  *Boon Island*. Second copy of above. Inscribed: Marjorie Ellis, Received September 14, 1967.


82.51.70  *I Wanted to Write*, by Kenneth Roberts, Camden, Maine, Down East, 1977.


The following are stored alphabetically by title with Coll. 67 (MARJORIE MOSSER ELLIS shelf). These are foreign editions.

**ARUNDEL:**


**BOON ISLAND:**


**CAPTAIN CAUTION:**


**THE LIVELY LADY:**


**LYDIA BAILEY:**


**NORTHWEST PASSAGE:**


82.51.93-94 *[Northwest Passage]*, Kenneth Roberts, Cairo, Egypt, Renaissance, 1957?. Paperback. Two copies.


82.51.96 *De Weg Noordwest*: Majoor Rogers, Volume I, Kenneth Roberts, ‘S Gravenhage, Nederlandse Boekenclub, no date. Hardcover.

82.51.97 *De Web Noordwest*: Gouvernear Rogers, Volume II, ‘S Gravenhage, Nederlandse Boekenclub, no date. Hardcover.


82.51.100-101  Duplicate set above.

82.51.102  


**OLIVER WISWELL:**


82.51.115  Same as above except paperback.

The following are stored with Collection #67. Miscellaneous, including early Kenneth Roberts books when he was signing himself Kenneth L. Roberts.


These copies of Booth Tarkington novels and non-fiction were Marjorie Mosser's personal copies and are inscribed to her by the author in many cases. They are stored on the Marjorie Mosser Ellis shelf, with Collection #67.


82.51.177 *Little Orvie*, 1934.


82.51.188 *Kate Fennigate*, 1943.


This collection of books by Philip and A. Hamilton Gibbs, a personal friend of the Kenneth Roberts household, is stored with Collection #67 on Marjorie Mosser Ellis Shelf.


82.51.128 *Labels*, by A. Hamilton Gibbs, 1926.


82.51.130 *Soundings*, A. Hamilton Gibbs, 1926.

82.51.131 *Gun Fodder*, A. Hamilton Gibbs, 1927.


82.51.135 *One Touch of France*, A. Hamilton Gibbs, 1953.
This collection of books by John P. Marquand is with one exception inscribed to Marjorie Mosser by the author and in some cases by Kenneth Roberts also. They are stored with Collection #67.

82.51.136  The Late George Apley, by John P. Marquand, Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1938. Inscribed: for Marjorie Mosser, July 12, 1938. A reminder of the painful evening when she sat up to hear that Northwest Passage had won the Pulitzer Prize, and learned instead that this book had received it. Kenneth Roberts. “How the Critics Voted,” from Saturday Review pasted in.


82.51.140  Same as above. Inscribed by author.


82.51.142  H. M. Pulham, Esquire, by John P. Marquand, 1941.

This collection of Ben Ames Williams novels belonged to Kenneth Roberts (except for one copy of Fraternity Village). Each book is leather bound, contains an inscription from the author to Roberts and sometimes Anna Roberts, and has a Kenneth Roberts bookplate pasted in. In most cases the dust jacket of the book has been bound or pasted into the leather bound volume. Stored with Collection #67 on the reference library shelf.

82.51.143  The Strange Woman, 1941

82.51.144  Time of Peace, 1942

82.51.145  Leave Her to Heaven, 1944

82.51.146  It’s a Free Country, 1945

82.51.147  House Divided, Volume I, 1947

82.51.148  House Divided, Volume II, 1947

82.51.149  Fraternity Village, 1949. Inscription to Marjorie Mosser.

82.51.150  Fraternity Village, 1949

82.51.151  Owen Glen, 1950

82.51.152  The Unconquered, 1953
These copies of Benn Ames Williams novels, and his wife’s autobiography, are inscribed to Marjorie Mosser by the authors. They are with #67 on the Marjorie Mosser Ellis Shelf.

82.51.153  *Come Spring*, 1940
82.51.154  *The Strange Woman*, 1941
82.51.155  *Time of Peace*, 1942
82.51.156  *House Divided*, Volume I, 1947
82.51.157  *House Divided*, Volume II, 1947
82.51.158  *Fraternity Village*, 1949
82.51.159  *Owen Glen*, 1950
82.51.160  *The Unconquered*, 1953

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