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[Review of] The Manuscripts of Flannery O'Connor at Georgia College

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[Review of] **The Manuscripts of Flannery O'Connor at Georgia College**

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Flannery O'Connor

1151. Driggers, Stephen G., and Robert J. Dunn, with Sarah Gordon. **The Manuscripts of Flannery O'Connor at Georgia College.** Athens, Ga., University of Georgia Press, 1989. 213p. index. \$35.00. Z6616.025D75. 813'.54. LC 88-4778. ISBN 0-8203-1058-1.

When Flannery O'Connor's papers were donated to Georgia College in 1970, Dunn began organizing them and creating a catalog to provide access to them. The catalog has been available in manuscript form to on-site users of the collection, but it has not been published and made available to off-site scholars. Driggers has incorporated additions to the collection and rearranged some of the material in the process of producing this work. The collection, although incomplete because O'Connor threw away many of her earlier manuscripts, describes the available versions of her works, versions that include "dozens of variants of single episodes" (p. x). Each entry gives the file and folder number for each discrete piece in the collection and describes in detail the nature of that piece, the specific nature of any emendations, and its relationship to the published work. The works are arranged in roughly chronological order by publication date of the final version so that there are separate chapters for her high school and college writing, thesis stories, *Wise Blood* (over half of the collection is made up of *Wise Blood* material), *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*, *The Violent Bear It Away*, *Everything That Rises Must Converge*, and the uncompleted work *Why Do the Heathen Rage?* Overall, 905 folders in 207 separate files are described. Because Driggers has altered Dunn's original organization, the work provides (in an "index") a cross-listing of the Dunn arrangement with the current catalog arrangement. What is missing is a true analytical index, one that would lead users to specific descriptions of the characters and characteristics of each fragment.

Given the prolific use of multiple drafts in O'Connor's writing, this descriptive catalog is an invaluable resource for users of the collection and students and scholars of O'Connor's works. The

detailed annotations provide a piece-by-piece view of the revision process of one of our most talented writers. —ROBERT AKEN