1990

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

Robert A. Aken
University of Kentucky, robaken@uky.edu

Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_facpub
Part of the American Literature Commons, and the Collection Development and Management Commons

Repository Citation
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_facpub/217

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Kentucky Libraries at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Faculty and Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.
[Review of] The Manuscripts of Flannery O'Connor at Georgia College

Notes/Citation Information
Published in American Reference Books Annual, v. 21, p. 488-489.

[Review of] The Manuscripts of Flannery O'Connor at Georgia College by Robert A. Aken. Copyright (c) 1990 by ABC-CLIO, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission of ABC-CLIO, LLC, Santa Barbara, CA.

This review is available at UKnowledge: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_facpub/217

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 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
primary sources through
ished from 1940 through
phasis is on materials in
age introduction tracing
ography list Levertov's
to form of publication.
ical, or critical informa-
ers, and poems in an-
works used to identify
s 3 and 4.
entioned in annotations
ations in these chapters,
etov's books and poems
iminish the usefulness
has a penchant for citing
last chapter includes fif-
proofreading could have
ce not matching the title
eness. While the com-
other more substantial
re not included, nor are
standing Denise Leve-
and this volume of value
inadequate indexing of

manuscripts of Flannery
9. 213p. index. $35.00.
0, Dunn began organiz-
available in manuscript
ide available to off-site
ome of the material in
e O'Connor threw away
versions that include
older number for each
pecific nature of any
rated in roughly
parate chapters for her
ollection is made up of
, Everything That Rises
all, 905 folders in 207
nization, the work pro-
t catalog arrangement.
ific descriptions of the
criptive catalog is an in-
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