Larsson, Raymond Ellsworth, 1901-

Raymond Ellsworth Larsson letters, poems, and manuscripts
1940-1953
(bulk dates 1940-1941)

Abstract: American Catholic poet Raymond Larsson's letters to his friend James Gallagher include handwritten copies and a galley proof of his poems.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F867
Creator: Larsson, Raymond Ellsworth, 1901-
Title: Raymond Ellsworth Larsson letters, poems, and manuscripts
Inclusive Dates: 1940-1953
Bulk Dates: (bulk dates 1940-1941)
Extent: 10 items (19 p.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F867, Raymond Ellsworth Larsson letters, poems, and manuscripts, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Box 60, F867: Shelved in SPEC MSS 0099 manuscript boxes
Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/
Source: Purchase, December 2009.
Processing: Processed and encoded by Anita Wellner, July 2010.
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Biographical Note

Raymond Edward Francis "Ellery" Larsson was an American Catholic poet whose work was best known in the 1920s and 1930s. His poetry appeared in a 1927 issue of Transition magazine, along with the work of James Joyce, Kay Boyle, Gertrude Stein, Hart Crane, André Gide, and Archibald MacLeish. James Gallagher of Scranton, PA was a friend of Larsson's who also wrote poetry.

Sources:

Wisconsin; a guide to the Badger state, compiled by workers of the Writers’ Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Wisconsin, New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce [c1941].

Information derived from the collection.
Scope and Content Note

American Catholic poet Raymond Larsson's letters to his friend James Gallagher include handwritten copies and a galley proof of his poems. This small collection of letters reflect the friendship between Larsson and Gallagher, as well as Larsson's encouragement of Gallagher as a poet. Of the eleven pieces of correspondence, only two letters and one postcard have text other than poetry. The other items are poems, usually inscribed, sent by the poet to his friend.

In the 1941 letter, Larsson mentioned a recent move to 22nd Street in New York, discussed the publication of his book by Devin-Adair Company, and responded to the possibility of Gallagher being drafted. Larsson's 1953 letter encouraged Gallagher's poetry writing, asked of his whereabouts, and mentioned his own current writing, including experimenting with Japanese forms. The two Japanese forms were illustrated by the enclosed poem. In this letter he also mentioned that the libraries at the University of Notre Dame and Princeton were collecting his work and encouraged Gallagher to donate any of Larsson's work to these institutions.

Most of what Larsson sent to Gallagher were recently written poems, nine in all. Several of poems were composed to mark Christian Holy Days or seasons, including two each for Christmas Epiphany.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Larsson, Raymond Ellsworth, 1901- --Correspondence.

Gallagher, James--Correspondence.

Topical Terms

American poetry--20th century--Sources.

American poetry—Catholic authors--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Galley proofs.

Poems.

Occupation

Poets.

Personal Contributors

Gallagher, James, correspondent.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.
Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Letter Before Departure, poem, 1940 September 24 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (2 p.)

A two-page handwritten poem with the inscription: "Raymond E. F. Larsson copied for James Gallagher, Esq., The Feast of Our Lady of Ransom 1940."

Weep and Prepare, galley proof, 1940 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (1 p.)

The one sheet of galley proof includes the poems, "Letter Before Departure" and "And Day Awake Me," and bears autograph pencil corrections, printer’s notations, and an inscription to James Gallagher signed by Larsson.

A Christ-Mass Poem for Mister James Gallagher from Raymond E. F. Larsson, poem, 1940 December 19 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (4 p.)

A handmade and typed booklet with a four-page poem written by Larsson, dated 1940 and signed, with an envelope postmarked "Dec 19 1940" from Staten Island, New York. Includes a typed note: "Not to be opened please before the eve of Christ-Mass a gentle warning to you."

Last Days: First Rain : : : A Little Etude for the New Year sent to James Gallagher, poem, 1941 January 2 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (2 p.)

A typed copy of Larsson's poem, "Last Days: First Rain," with a title page. The poem is initialed by the author. An envelope with the item is postmarked January 2, 1941, Staten Island, NY.

Lines for Epiphany, poem, 1941 January 6 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (1 p.)

A typed postcard bearing the poem, "Lines for Epiphany," which is dated and initialed by the author.

A Penny Poem for Epiphany 1941, poem, 1941 January 7 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (1 p.)

A typed postcard bearing the poem, "Lines for Epiphany," which is dated and initialed by the author.

Typed postcard signed, 1941 May 13 [Box 60 F867]
1 item (1 p.)
Typed and initialed postcard with a brief message, postmarked May 13, 1941.

Typed letter signed, 1941 May 21 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (1 p.)
Typed letter with autograph initials dated "St. Timothy’s 1941" (May 21), in which Larsson mentioned a recent move to 22nd Street in New York, the publication of his book by Devin-Adair Company, and the possibility of Gallagher being drafted.

Autograph letter signed, 1953 December 12 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (4 p.)
In his letter Larsson encouraged Gallagher's poetry writing, asked of his whereabouts, mentioned his own current writing, including experimenting with Japanese forms, which is illustrated by the enclosed poems. He also mentioned that the libraries at the University of Notre Dame and Princeton were collecting his work. In addition to the text of the letter, Larsson includes an single-page of poetry titled "The Ancient Philosophers," with two handwritten poems in Japanese forms "Tanka" and "Hokku." Also includes an envelope.

A Poem Tranquil as the Snow, poem, 1953 December 16 [Box 60 F867]

1 item (2 p.)