

Valerie Nieman Papers A&M 4542

Valerie Nieman Papers
circa 1975-2025 and undated



Title Statement

Valerie Nieman Papers A&M 4542

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4542

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit Date

circa 1975-2025 and undated

Language

English .

Extent

13.47 Linear Feet 9 record cartons, 15 in. each; 4 document cases, 5 in. each; 2 flat storage boxes, 3 in. each; 1 framed item, 0.5 in.; 1 oversized folder, 0.1 in.

Extent

4.52 Gigabytes 1,570 files, primarily Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, and Apple iWork documents

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Valerie Nieman, 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Preferred Citation

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Scope and Contents

Papers of novelist and poet Valerie Nieman, a graduate of West Virginia University's journalism department. She has written books and poetry, mostly on Appalachia and themes set around Appalachian life, including *To the Bones* and *In the Lonely Backwater*. Nieman has won several awards, fellowships, and grants, including being a 2013-2014 North Carolina Arts Council poetry fellow, as well as earning a West Virginia Commission on the Arts creative writing grant.

This collection includes draft manuscripts of fiction, non-fiction, short stories, and poetry. Also includes books; photographs; correspondence with fellow writers, publishers, and colleagues; as well as artifacts collected by Nieman. This collection contains a mixture of both personal and professional material. The collection also includes audiovisual and born-digital material, described below. Highlights of this collection include a Steno notebook filled with a continuous list of Nieman's accepted and not accepted works from 1975-2015 in Box 11, and personal correspondence with fellow writers Tom Andrews and Jeff Mann (box 1). Other highlights consist of correspondence with poets Timothy Russell and Kevin Rippin, whose critiques and comments through the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, can be seen on drafts of Nieman's early poetry and helped to pave the way for later works. Timothy Russell commented on drafts of her earlier works, while Kevin Rippin's comments appear on drafts from the 1990s onward. Letters, critiques, and comments from mentor and poet Fred Chappell can be found as well throughout the collection.

Digital materials include 12 3.5 inch floppy disks and one USB drive. The floppy disks consist of draft manuscripts of books and poetry from 1996-2004 as well as professional writing and projects from that time period. The USB drive contains draft files and promotional materials for *In the Lonely Backwater*, *Leopard Lady: A Life in Verse*, *Fidelities*, *Hotel Worthy*, *Survivors*, *To the Bones*, assorted poems and short stories, and unpublished works. Also included are limited quantities of correspondence with Fred Chapell.

The addendum of 2025 May 23 includes assorted drafts of Nieman's work, correspondence with other authors, event planners, and others, and other material, as well as publications mentioning Nieman's latest novel, *Upon the Corner of the Moon*, programs from events, and more.

Please note, this collection is minimally processed.

Keywords

Poets, American -- 20th century

Poetry.

