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FROM ULYSSES TO HORIZON PRESS

Feminism, LGBTQ+ History & 20th-Century Modernist Literature

Margaret Anderson (1886–1973) Three-Volume Autobiography

The Publisher's Own Copies of the Modernist Autobiography Trilogy, Enhanced by Virgil Thomson's Chelsea Hotel Correspondence

ARTISTIC & HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: THE PUBLISHER'S OWN SET.

This complete 1970 Horizon Press edition of Margaret Anderson's autobiographical trilogy comes from the estate of her publisher Ben Raeburn. Issued near the end of Anderson's life, the three volumes brought together the memoirs of the founder of *The Little Review*, the magazine that provided a platform for Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, and James Joyce and famously serialized *Ulysses*.

Preserved in its original publisher's slipcase, Raeburn's set retains contemporary material he kept with the books, including a *New York Times Book Review* treatment of the trilogy and Margaret Anderson's 1973 *New York Times* obituary.

VIRGIL THOMSON RESPONDS TO THE HORIZON EDITIONS.

The inclusion of an original, single-page typed letter signed by American composer Virgil Thomson (1896–1989)—sent from his quarters at the Chelsea Hotel on October 31, 1983—completes a historical circle.

Thomson writes directly to Raeburn to praise the Horizon Press volumes, explaining that copies of Anderson's original editions had disappeared from his library over the years, probably after being lent. He welcomes the Horizon editions as "happy replacements and additions," providing a remarkable contemporary link between Anderson's modernist circle and Raeburn's later republication of her work.

ANDERSON'S MODERNIST LEGACY.

As founder of *The Little Review*, Anderson occupied a central position in American literary modernism. Her memoirs document the world surrounding the magazine, the *Ulysses* obscenity trial, expatriate life in Paris, and her close personal and professional relationships with Jane Heap and Georgette Leblanc. The trilogy is an important primary source for the study of American modernism, feminist and LGBTQ+ history, and twentieth-century literary culture.

MATERIAL & BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

THE COMPLETE HORIZON PRESS TRILOGY.

A complete three-volume set of Margaret Anderson's autobiographical trilogy—*My Thirty Years'*

War, *The Fiery Fountains*, and *The Strange Necessity*—published by Horizon Press in 1970 and preserved in the original publisher’s slipcase.

The volumes are bound in quarter cloth over yellow, red, and blue boards with gilt-lettered spines and are illustrated with historic photographs, including work by Berenice Abbott and Man Ray.

Accompanying the set are Virgil Thomson’s original 1983 typed and signed letter to Raeburn, a four-page *New York Times Book Review* treatment of the trilogy, and Margaret Anderson’s 1973 *New York Times* obituary, preserved by Raeburn with the first volume.

INSTITUTIONAL & RESEARCH VALUE

For special collections and research libraries, the grouping brings together Anderson’s autobiographical record of modernism, Raeburn’s role in republishing her work, and Virgil Thomson’s later response to the Horizon editions. The accompanying review and obituary further document the contemporary reception of Anderson and her legacy, giving the collection particular relevance to research in modernism, publishing history, feminist history, and LGBTQ+ studies.

SPECIFICATIONS & CONDITION REPORT

- **Author:** Margaret C. Anderson
- **Titles:** *My Thirty Years’ War*; *The Fiery Fountains*; *The Strange Necessity*
- **Publisher:** Horizon Press, New York
- **Date:** 1970; associated Virgil Thomson letter dated October 31, 1983
- **Dimensions:** Approximately 9.5 inches tall
- **Subjects:** Modernist Literature | Feminist History | LGBTQ+ History | Publishing History | Associated Correspondence

CONDITION

THE BOOKS: FINE.

The volumes are exceptionally crisp, tight, and unread. The dust jackets show expected, uniform spine darkening typical of this paper stock but remain intact and are now protected in archival Mylar sleeves. Volume I shows faint, localized offsetting on pages 20–21 caused by the long-term placement of the newspaper obituary, which has been removed and placed in a separate protective sleeve.

THE SLIPCASE: NEAR FINE.

Solid and clean, without structural splits; showing only minimal shelf wear and minor rubbing to the outer edges of the pictorial title label.

THE LETTER: FINE.

Cleanly folded along its original mailing crease, without tears or significant age-toning, and bearing Virgil Thomson’s bold ink signature.

METADATA & REGISTRY

Subject Categories: 20th-Century American Literature, Modernism, Feminist History, Lesbian and LGBTQ+ Studies, Publishing Archives, Associated Correspondence.

Keywords: Margaret Anderson, *The Little Review*, Modernism, James Joyce, *Ulysses*, Feminism, LGBTQ+ History, Ben Raeburn, Horizon Press, Berenice Abbott, Jane Heap, Georgette Leblanc, Virgil Thomson, Chelsea Hotel, Literary Memoir.

VIRGIL THOMSON

222 WEST 23rd STREET
NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

31 October 1983

Dear Mr. Raeburn,

I am ever so happy to have your fine volumes of Margaret Anderson's prose. I did not know of their existence in editions published by Horizon Press. I once owned several of these in their original editions, but they seem to be among those of my books which, probably once lent, did not find their way back to my shelves. So these are happy replacements and additions.

My thanks and compliments to you, and best wishes for the continued success of your publishing ventures.

Very sincerely,

Virgil Thomson

Virgil Thomson

Ben Raeburn, Publisher
Horizon Press
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011

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TRANSCRIPTION

VIRGIL THOMSON
222 WEST 23rd STREET
NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

31 October 1983

Dear Mr. Raeburn,

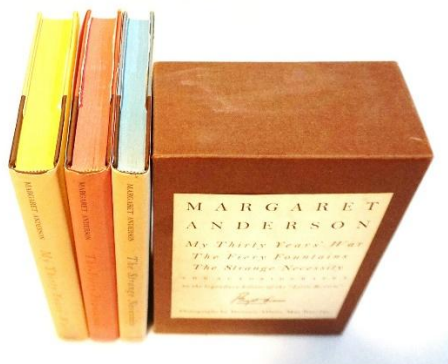
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My thanks and compliments to you, and best wishes for the continued success of your publishing ventures.

Very sincerely, [Signed in ink] Virgil Thomson

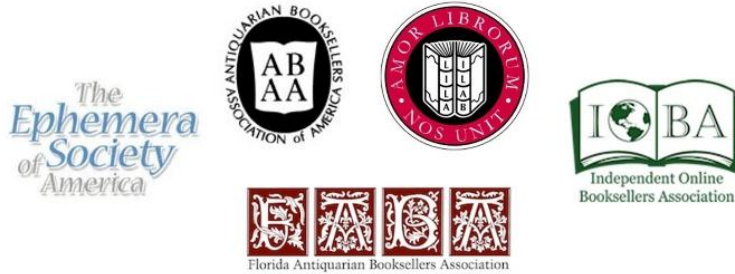
Virgil Thomson

Ben Raeburn, Publisher
Horizon Press
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011



Offered for \$525

Institutional Terms: Purchase orders, deferred billing, and customary institutional invoicing arrangements are welcome. Material may be shipped on approval to established institutional clients.



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