

Collection #
SC 2675

**THOMAS J. MORTON, JR.
PAPERS, 1951–1975 (BULK 1972–1975)**

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Processed by

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Manuscripts and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 8 folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1951–75;(bulk 1972–75)

PROVENANCE: Judy and Tom Morton, 421 East Jennings, Newburgh, IN, 47630.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Indiana Artists' Club Records (M 0330, BV 1888, OM 0124), Marie Goth correspondence.

Judd, Barbara, *Marie Goth: Painter of Portraits*, Nana's Books, Nashville, Indiana, 1996.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0336

NOTES: None

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

THOMAS MORTON, JR.

Thomas Morton, Jr., was a resident of Newburgh, Indiana. Morton and his family met Marie Goth in 1924, approximately one year after she moved to Nashville, Indiana. This friendship with Goth lasted up until the time of her death in 1975.

Due to their close friendship Goth painted several members of the Morton family, including Thomas, his wife Ruth, and their daughter, Susan. Another of her well-known paintings and one of the subjects of the one-man art show held in memory of Goth on 4 May 1975 was of Morton's prize-winning stallion, Majestic Ensign.

MARIE GOTH

Marie Goth was born in 1887 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Goth's mother, Jessie Meek and father, Charles A. Goth were both well known local musicians.

Goth was a naturally gifted artist. Her talent was noticed while she was a student at Manual High School in Indianapolis. Her art instructor, Otto Stark, encouraged her to go to New York City to study art and to develop her skills. She worked at Manual High School for three years as an assistant to Stark in order to finance her studies. Around 1908 Goth boarded a train with her father, who was very supportive of her artistic career, and left Indianapolis for New York City.

Goth spent ten years studying at the acclaimed Students Art League where she became the prize student of the artist, Frank Vincent Dumond. Under his instruction Goth developed her technique for painting faces and hands, which she considered the two most challenging aspects of a portrait. She cited Rembrandt as one of her largest influences for her painting technique due to his talent and ability to capture the humanity of the individuals featured in his masterpieces.

Goth returned to Indianapolis around 1918. However, she did not remain in Indianapolis for an extended amount of time. Her mother became an invalid and could no longer climb the stairs of their Indianapolis home, and the mother took up residence on the first floor of the house, leaving Goth without an area for her studio. In response Goth decided to move to the family's summer home in Nashville, Brown County, Indiana, in 1923, where she lived for over fifty years.

While there she became a well-known portrait and floral artist. One of her more popular series of portraits was of several other Brown County artists. One of the subjects of that series was her dearly loved friend, Veraldo J. Cariani, whom she referred to affectionately as "Cari." Goth painted many portraits of some famous individuals such as General Douglas MacArthur, James Whitcomb Riley, and John T. McCutcheon. Goth was the first woman to have a portrait of an Indiana governor, Governor Henry F. Schricker, hang in the Indiana State House.

On 9 January 1975 Marie Goth died of head injuries resulting from a fall down a flight of stairs at her home in Nashville, Indiana. It was discovered during her autopsy that Goth had been bitten by a poisonous Brown Recluse spider, which probably resulted in her disorientation and her fatal fall down the stairs.

She is remembered in the community in which she lived as one of the founders of the Brown County Art Guild and as a founder of the Brown County Art Gallery. Upon her death her estate was given to the Brown County Art Guild, but only under the condition that the guild would build a memorial room dedicated to Goth, Cariani, and Goth's sister and brother-in-law, Genevieve and Carl Graf, and maintain it for twenty years. If the group ceased to exist or could no longer maintain the memorial room then her estate was to go to the Brown County Art Gallery. Before Goth's death the two groups were rivals, but in death she brought the two groups together with the common goal of ensuring the survival of her artistic legacy.

Sources:

Judd, Barbara, *Marie Goth: Painter of Portraits*, Nana's Books, Nashville, Indiana, 1996.

Material found in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The majority of this collection contains correspondence between Marie Goth at her home in Nashville, Indiana, and Thomas J. Morton, Jr., at his home in Newburgh, Indiana, between the years 1972 and her death in 1975. Other items included in the collection are letters to Morton concerning the one-man art show conducted in memory of Marie Goth on 4 May 1975, obituary clippings for Goth, and a brochure detailing the history of the Marie Goth, Veraldo Cariani, Genevieve and Carl Graf memorial room at the Brown County Art Guild.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Thomas J. Morton, Jr. Papers

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
"Portraits and Flowers" by Henry Wood, <i>Indianapolis Star Magazine</i> , April 1, 1951	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence between Thomas J. Morton, Jr. and Marie Goth (23 October 1972–26 November 1972)	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence between Thomas J. Morton, Jr. and Marie Goth (January 1973–20 April 1973)	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence between Thomas J. Morton, Jr. and Marie Goth (29 June 1974–23 January 1975)	Box 1, Folder 4
Marie Goth Obituaries (January–April 1975)	Box 1, Folder 5

Correspondence concerning the Brown County Art Guild, Inc., one-man show of the late Marie Goth (29 January–9 May 1975)	Box 1, Folder 6
Brown County Art Guild, Inc., Spring Tea and One-man show of the late Marie Goth (4 May 1975)	Box 1, Folder 7
“The Brown County Art Guild, Inc. Presents the Memorial Room of Marie Goth, Veraldo J. Cariani, Genevieve and Carl Graf” (brochure)	Box 1, Folder 8

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2675).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.