

Margaret Wise Brown was not only one of the nation's most prolific writers of children's books [including Goodnight

Moon and The Runaway Bunny], she was a pioneer of a new form in that genre. She abandoned the strictly "fairy tale" approach

and embraced a more naturalist one. William Scott, one of her publishers, wrote in 1938: "The tremendous success of her

books is due to a rare quality: sure emotional insight into the realities of a young child's world bounded by the here and now"

Margaret

(Horn Book Magazine, June 1958). Her short but productive career ended with her untimely death in 1952.

"Tim," or "Brownie," as she was known at Hollins, published more than 150 books, a fantastic turnout for so short a

time, and left many unpublished works. Roberta Rausch, Brown's younger sister, and Amy Gary [granddaughter-in-law of

Fonnie Foy Strang '28] of Watermark Publishing Co., discovered seventy-two of the manuscripts in an old cedar chest in

Rausch's Vermont farm attic in 1991. These have been given to Hollins, along with numerous letters and papers, a total of 142

items. This invaluable collection enhances Hollins' continuing commitment to the study and development of children's literature.

