

The New Criterion

Features

October 2000

The Marianne Mynah: the myth of Marianne Moore

by [William Jay Smith](#)

On October 3, 1947, Marianne Moore wrote to her brother about a dinner party she had attended the night before, given by Margaret Mitchell, the literary editor of *The Nation*:

I was overwhelmed—crabmeat in alligator pears, each a half broiled chicken, delicate peas, salad, & real pears & cheese. I was put by Stephen Spender who is quite a treat; he knew Yeats, knows Mr. Auden & T. S. Eliot well, and then afterward Louise Bogan came in & others. She has reviewed me *twice* you know very boldly & ardently... . Then I came home quite late—11:15 & found a telegram from Barbara Howes & William Smith—he's a poet & Rhodes Scholar—they are being married today, before he goes to Oxford—& invite me to a small party at 8:30 & I b'lieve I'll go.

She did indeed go to that wedding party, ...

William Jay Smith is the author of *The Girl in Glass: Love Poems* (Brooks & Co.) and *The Spectra Hoax* (Story Line Press).

[more from this author](#)

This article originally appeared in *The New Criterion*, Volume 19 October 2000, on page 22

Copyright © 2012 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/The-Marianne-Mynah--the-myth-of-Marianne-Moore-2329>