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### **“Might It Be I?”: Marianne Moore, Feminism, and Baseball**

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“MIGHT IT BE I?”:  
MARIANNE MOORE, FEMINISM, AND BASEBALL  
*Julie Merrell*

*Mentor: Melanie Micir*

Despite the poet Marianne Moore’s origins in the modernist circles of New York in the 20s and 30s, she became increasingly famous towards the end of her career, appearing in popular magazines like *Vogue* and *Harper’s Magazine* and shows like *The Today Show*. As Moore became a national celebrity, her public persona was increasingly linked with her interest in baseball. Yet, despite the recent revival in Moore scholarship, her interest in baseball, as both an aspect of her public persona and her poetry, is largely overlooked and unquestioned. Instead, it serves as a shorthand for painting Moore as an eccentric, elderly spinster. This thesis corrects this critical neglect by engaging with both Moore’s public appearances and baseball writing in conversation with her larger trajectory as a critically-acclaimed poet. Moore’s work on baseball not only challenges gendered expectations, but also adds complexity to understandings of Moore as an inaccessible, highbrow writer with no room for non-intellectual engagement with her work. Moore’s baseball writing—most notably the poems “Hometown Piece for Messrs. Alston and Reese” and “Baseball and Writing”—should not be understood as distinct from the rest of her oeuvre, but gives us a new lens for examining the poet. This thesis draws out the treatment of race and diversity, the inherent feminist impulse, the nationalist implications, and, above all, the enjoyment of the sport central to Moore’s baseball writing.