

Guide to the Champe Carter Winston Papers BC20.21

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	Winston, Champe Carter
Creator:	Winston, John
Creator:	Higginbotham, Lavinia
Title:	Champe Carter Winston Papers
ID:	BC20.21
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/2/resources/256
Date [inclusive]:	1932-09-1936-05
Physical Description:	.83 Linear Feet 192 letters; two document boxes
Physical Location:	This collection is located in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Champe Carter Winston Letters consist of 192 letters exchanged between Champe Carter Winston and her friends and family members during the four years she attended Barnard College from 1932-1936. The letters document Champe Carter Winston's familial and social life and sketch a picture of what daily life was like for a relatively privileged Barnard student during the 1930s in New York City. The collection yields insight into the ways that young women represented their college activities to outsiders and how they engaged with and made sense of their lives that were connected to multiple geographies and temporalities.

Preferred Citation

Champe Carter Winston Letters Collection, September 1932-May 1936; Box and Folder; Barnard College Archives, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

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Biography

Champe Carter Winston (1915-1991) was born in Richmond, Virginia. She attended Barnard College from 1932-1936. She came from a white, educated, middle class family who supported her throughout her studies. While the collection does not deal with any specific historical event, the backdrop of the Great Depression, the New Deal, and America's turbulent economic and social situation are depicted in subtle ways. This collection encapsulates the subject and experience of a relatively privileged yet tenuously positioned young woman and Barnard student at a crucial historical moment. Other subjects that appear in this collection are Champe's family members, most notably her father ,John G. Winston, and her aunt, "Dee" (Lavinia Higginbotham), These subjects add framing and context to the overall sketch of Champe's familial and social life, and thus her economic life, though they were separated geographically at the points of creation of the collection.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

The Champe Carter Winston Letters are a collection of 192 letters exchanged between Champe Carter and her relatives and friends during her four years at Barnard. Penned on a weekly basis, letters sent and received by Champe Carter describe her daily life and experiences in New York City. The bulk of the letters were exchanges between her father, aunt, and brother and focused on various aspects of her social life and academic work. A common thread within these missives is the issue of money; Champe Carter relied on her father to send tuition and allowance funds to Barnard. Her aunt also gifted her money to support outings and travel expenses. Select letters have attachments such as clippings displaying local news. Letters to Champe Carter usually describe the goings on of her hometown as well as general updates on her family's well being and commentary on her life at college. Together, the letters vividly depict Champe Carter's private life and social and familial connections before a historical backdrop of Barnard's campus and city life during the 1930s.

This collection might be helpful for researchers interested in Barnard student life over time, particularly with regard to economic and social life. The collection could also be studied as a collection of textual objects. The letters are well preserved and appear to be mostly complete in terms of keeping written communication in context. Therefore, it could be an excellent candidate for close reading and analysis. Possible disciplinary approaches include history, literature, psychology, art, or object studies.

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Collection Arrangement

The arrangement of the collection is chronological.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

3009 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

archives@barnard.edu

URL: <http://archives.barnard.edu/>

Access

This collection has no restrictions. This collection is located on-site.

Accruals

Additions are not expected.

Aquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Barnard Archives and Special Collections in 2010 by Champe Carter Winston's daughter, Barbara Evans Newman.

Processing History

Sometime around 2016, a Barnard archivist performed rehousing and physical arrangement interventions that stabilized the collection and supplied box and folder level information for the 192 letters that Newman delivered to Barnard. There is no clear record of the original order that the collection had when Carter Winston created the records, but the accession record states that the letters were delivered in chronological order and in good condition at the time of donation. Minor preservation interventions included removing letters from their original envelopes and attaching the pages with an archival paperclip. The processing was completed by Lia Warner in 2022, for the NYU class Advanced Archival Description, as part of her Masters coursework in partnership with NYU's Archives and Public History program

and Barnard. The finding aid was workshopped amongst other students of the Masters program and reflects their collective engagement with theories and practices of archival description. Warner's contribution was purely intellectual and did not entail making any changes to the collection's present physical arrangement.

Finding aid adheres to rules prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Barnard College -- Alumni and alumnae
- Correspondence
- Upper West Side (New York, N.Y.)
- Letters
- Letters--Women authors
- Students -- Social life and customs
- Women college students
- Women, White
- Richmond (Va.)
- New York (N.Y.)