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Elizabeth Blake papers 10721276

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	7
Collection Inventory	7
Elizabeth Blake Papers	7

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Blake, Elizabeth
Title:	Elizabeth Blake Papers
ID:	10721276
ID:	UA#0198
Date [inclusive]:	1940-2010
Date [bulk]:	1940-1976
Physical Description:	1.50 linear feet 3 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A collection of personal papers of Elizabeth (Betty) Blake, who was very active in both the Columbia and broader Manhattan communities, consisting primarily of correspondence, meeting agendas, minutes, and Columbia University memorabilia.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Elizabeth Blake Papers; Box and Folder (if known); University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake was raised in early 1900s New England. She enjoyed a comfortable childhood in New York until her father's death in 1906, at which time the family relocated to New Hampshire for a short while, finally settling in Jamaica Plain in Massachusetts where Elizabeth, better known as Betty, finished her schooling. After finishing high school Betty dreamed of college, but due to poor health enrolled instead at the Knox School, a finishing school in New York. It was there that she discovered her passion for the

arts. She continued on to study with the Art Students' League and several private tutors, finally settling down in a small cabin back in Silver Beach.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

In the spring of 1925 Betty Stanton chanced to meet one William Harold Blake, when a high school English teacher who had taught them both (ten years apart) invited the pair to see her off on a trip to England. The couple found they had much in common with their family histories though they were rather opposite in temperament. None the less, Betty and Billy Blake were married on March 26, 1927. Once married, Betty felt obligated to forgo directing portrait classes and her professional portrait painting, but Billy's position as Head of the English Department for the Horace Mann School for Boys gave her ample opportunities to be involved in organizations at Columbia University, as well as in their surrounding community. Betty was a member of many organizations including the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, the National Association of Women Artists, the Columbia University Women's Faculty Club, and the Columbia Committee for Community Service.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

In 1929 Betty became pregnant with the couple's only child Elizabeth Stanton Blake, better known as Bettina. Through the Depression era Betty and Billy continued to be very active on campus while raising Bettina. At Columbia, Betty was dedicated to the Women's Faculty Club, war relief efforts, art on campus, the Columbia University Committee for Community Service, and with many other campus groups and activities. In the broader community she helped with outreach to less fortunate children by her active participation with the Manhattanville Community Centers which gave these children a safe place outside of school, and enriched their studies. Even after Billy's retirement in 1952 and his death in 1965 Betty remained very involved on campus and in the community until the mid-1970s when her age made volunteering too difficult. Elizabeth Blake died in 1981.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The bulk of the collection consists of the correspondence of Elizabeth (Betty) Blake as well as records of the groups (e.g., meeting minutes, membership lists, event invitations, and financial records) with which she was involved. These include the Women's Faculty Club, Phi Delta Gamma, and the Manhattanville Community Centers. There are also miscellaneous newspaper clippings and two sheets of Columbia University commemorative postage stamps as well as a few small booklets about Columbia University, its 1954 Bicentennial celebrations, and lectures given at the University.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Although this small collection is arranged in just one series it naturally divides into several distinct categories of materials. Files of materials relate to Blake's activities at Columbia University, the Women's Faculty Club, and her involvement with the Manhattanville Community Center. Files are arranged roughly alphabetically along these topics. Background biographical information provided with the donation is filed at the start of the collection and miscellaneous correspondence and items are found in the last box.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Access note change. Collection now stored offsite. (JR) 2014-03-25 2019-05-20 2022-02-11

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located offsite. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Elizabeth (Bettina) Blake. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--2009.

Processing Information

Papers processed, Linda Arthur (SEAS 2014), under the direction of Jocelyn Wilk 01/2014.

Processing Information

Finding Aid written by Linda Arthur, January 2014.

Processing Information

Machine readable finding aid encoded in EAD by PTL 2014.

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Historical Subject Files, 1870s-2012. [Bulk Dates: 1968-1972], UA#0002

Related Materials

Morningside Area Alliance records, 1947-1992, UA#0076

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Chemical engineering
- Manhattanville (New York, N.Y.)
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Commemorative postage stamps
- Correspondence
- Printed Ephemera
- Blake, Elizabeth
- Eisenhower, Dwight D (Dwight David), 1890-1969
- Eisenhower, Mamie Doud, 1896-1979
- Finch, James Kip, 1883-1967
- Gellhorn, Walter, 1906-1995
- Columbia University
- Columbia University -- Anniversaries, etc.
- Columbia University Bicentennial Committee
- Columbia University -- Centennial celebrations, etc.
- Columbia University -- Faculty
- Phi delta gamma. Zeta chapter (Columbia University)
- Columbia University. Women's Faculty Club

Collection Inventory

Elizabeth Blake Papers	
Title/Description	Instances
"My Family History" by Amy Abbot, 1985-1989	box 1

Background Information, 2009-2010	box 1
British War Relief Concert Series, 1941-1943	box 1
Columbia University	box 1
Columbia University Club -- Art Exhibitions, 1957-1967	box 1
Bicentennial, 1953-1964	box 1
Committee for Community Service -- Gift Shop, 1953-1976	box 1
Miscellaneous, 1940-1971	box 1
Manhattanville Community Centers	box 1
Benefits, 1949-1962	box 1
Council of Cooperating Groups, 1962-1965	box 1
Letters, 1954-1968	box 1
The Women's Faculty Club	box 2
Women's Faculty Club, 1945-1968	box 2
Admissions Committee, 1954-1968	box 2
Nominating Committee, 1956-1965	box 2
Committees, 1946-1968	box 2
Phi Delta Gamma, Zeta Chapter, 1942-1949	
Phi Delta Gamma, 1942-1979	box 2
George T. Renner: "The Airplane Creates a New World Geography",, 1942	box 2
Cards by Kip Finch, James, Professor of Engineering, 1953-1966	box 3
Correspondence	box 3
Dwight D. and Mamie Eisenhower, 1948-1978	box 3
Walter and Kitty Gellhorn, 1972-1976	box 3
Miscellaneous, 1949-1976	box 3
Columbia University Stamps, nd, 1954	box 3
Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1971	box 3
"To Friends at Christmas: A Garland of Holiday Greetings in Verse, 1927-2009",, 2009	box 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)