Mary Gray Cobey Papers


Volume: 0.5 linear feet

Processed: 2017, Virginia W. Blake

Provenance: Donated by Julia Anne Cobey Gluck, 2005

Citation Form: Mary Gray Cobey Papers, Wesleyan College Archives, Wesleyan College

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Biographical/Historical Sketch:
Mary Gray Munroe Cobey (1912-2005) was born in Quincy, Florida. She received her Bachelor of History in 1934 from Wesleyan College. She, along with her two sisters have given generously to Wesleyan by establishing the Munroe scholarship and also donating to the Munroe Science Center which opened in 2007. She was married to William W. Cobey and they had six children, nineteen grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Mary Gray greeted Madame Chiang Kai-shek (May-ling Soong ‘16) in 1958 during the celebrity’s visit to the United States. “In that fleeting moment, I told her, and I am sure that I speak for all Wesleyan alumnae, how proud we are that she and her sisters are alumnae of Wesleyan,” Mary Gray wrote in a letter to Wesleyan shortly after the event. Years later, in April 1978, when Mary Gray visited China with a Washington group, she contacted Madame Sun Yat-sen (Ching-ling Soong ‘09). “We became pen pals, and we exchanged letters until she died in 1981,” Mary Gray said.

Information from:
Wesleyan Alumnae Magazine (Fall 1997).

Scope and Content:
The Mary Gray Cobey papers include 0.5 cubic feet of material. The materials include correspondence between Mary Cobey and Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat Sen). The collection is arranged chronologically.

Related Collections:
Soong Sisters Collection

Collection Inventory:

Box 1
Folder 1: 1978, April 11, Letter to Cobey from Secretariat
Folder 2: 1978, May 5, Two letters from Cobey to Soong Ching Ling
Folder 3: 1978, May 12, Letter from Cobey to Frances
Folder 4: 1978, July 8, Letter to Cobey from Soong Ching Ling
Folder 5: 1978, July 18, Note from Cobey to Frances
Folder 6: 1978, August 31, Fabric Envelope
Folder 7: 1979, May 24, Letter to Cobey from Soong Ching Ling
Folder 8: 1979, December, Note from Soong Ching Ling to Cobey
Folder 9: 1979, December, Gift membership to Smithsonian Magazine
Folder 10: 1979, Lanvin Portfolio (scarf)*
Folder 11: 1980, January, 3 photographs, Soong Ching Ling, Jeanette, & Yolanda
Folder 12: 1980, April 27, Letter from Soong Ching Ling to Cobey
Folder 13: 1980, June 15 & 29, Thank you letters from Wesleyan for gifts
Folder 14: 1980, August 1, Wedding invitation of Yolanda Yong-qing Sui
Folder 15: 1980, August 28, Letter and photographs to Cobey from Soong Ching Ling from Yolanda’s wedding
Folder 16: 1980, December, Commemorative Stamp - Exhibition of the People's Republic of China
Folder 17: 1981, May 28, Death announcement of Soong Ching Ling
Folder 18: 1981, China Pictorial Magazine
Folder 19: 1978-1981, 20 copies of letters
Folder 20: 1978-1981, 15 pages of typed correspondence
Folder 21: 1978-1981, Correspondence between Cobey and Soong Ching Ling, spiral book
Folder 23: n.d., Envelope to Cobey from China