Katharine McCook Knox Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82023796

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013100

Prepared by C. Percy Powell
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Collection Summary
Title: Katharine McCook Knox Papers
Span Dates: 1802-1975
ID No.: MSS23796
Creator: Knox, Katharine McCook
Extent: 2,400 items
Extent: 15 containers plus 1 oversize
Extent: 5.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82023796
Summary: Art historian. Correspondence, an index to correspondence, genealogical notes, research material on artists and art collections, clippings, printed matter, and other papers.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Healy, G. P. A. (George Peter Alexander), 1813-1894.
Knox, Katharine McCook.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--On postage stamps.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Portraits.
McCook family.
Sharples family.
Sharps family.

Organizations
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )

Subjects
Art museums.
Art--Private collections.
Art.
Artists.
Portrait painters.
Portrait painting--United States.

Places
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations
Art historians.

Provenance
The papers of Katharine McCook Knox, art historian, were the gift and deposit of Knox, 1962-1975.
Processing History

The Katharine McCook Knox Papers were housed and inventoried in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the McCook Family Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Katharine McCook Knox is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Katharine McCook Knox are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Katharine McCook Knox, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Katharine McCook Knox, born 1890, in Washington, D.C., was the daughter of Anson George McCook, a Civil War general from Ohio and later a Republican congressman from New York. Raised in New York, she was married briefly to Hugh S. Knox, son of Philander Chase Knox, senator from Pennsylvania and secretary of state in the administration of William H. Taft. She wrote a history of the Frick Art Reference Library and also published other works on art, including The Sharples, Their Portraits of George Washington and His Contemporaries: A Diary and an Account of the Life and Work of James Sharples and His Family in England and America (1930). In the 1950s, Knox organized or served as consultant on exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and in 1966 was awarded the Corcoran’s Medal of Merit. Knox was vice chairman of the Washington D.C., Republican Central Committee and program chairman of the League of Republican Women of the District of Columbia. She was the author of Surprise Personalities in Georgetown, D.C. (1958), and influential as an art historian in the use of a portrait by G. P. A. Healy of Abraham Lincoln as a commemorative stamp during the Lincoln Sesquicentennial in 1959. She died in Washington, D.C., July 9, 1983.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Katharine McCook Knox (1890-1983) span the years 1802-1975 and consist of correspondence, an index to correspondence, genealogical notes, research material on artists and art collections, clippings, printed matter, and other papers. Main topics include Knox’s work on the Sharples, a family of British portraitists who did extensive work in the United States before the Revolutionary War; G. P. A. Healy, whose portrait of Abraham Lincoln, partly through her influence, was issued as a postage stamp honoring the president on the sesquicentennial of his birth; and the history of the “Fighting McCooks,” the family of Civil War soldiers from which she was descended. Other materials relate to Washington, D.C., social life and to Republican Party activities in which Knox was prominent locally.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, genealogical notes, invitations, book, material relating to commissioning of <em>Abraham Lincoln</em>(submarine), and miscellany, 1907-1975, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Invitations, correspondence, printed matter, clippings, envelopes, and scrapbook regarding the United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission, 1878-1970, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Correspondence, printed matter, envelopes, copyright registration, news release, miscellany, and scrapbooks on personal topics and the Junior Army-Navy Guild Organizations, 1906-1973, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Clippings, correspondence, invitations, copies of letters, and notes, 1930-1971, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Photographs and clippings, 1945-1972, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 6     | Correspondence  
1917-1959  
(5 folders)  
1960-1972, undated  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 7     | Scrapbooks regarding the Lincoln stamp of the G. P. A. Healy portrait  
Nos. 1-2, 1957-1965 |
| BOX 8     | Nos. 3-4, 1 1840, 1860, 1878, 1916, 1937, 1944-1945, 1953-1964, undated |
| BOX 9     | Correspondence with Marie and Jeanne de Mare, granddaughters of G. P. A. Healy, 1954-1962 |
| BOX 10    | Correspondence, publicity material, programs, lists, notes, photographs, and miscellany relating to the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1950-1963, undated |
| BOX 11    | Correspondence, programs, printed matter, and clippings relating to Republican national conventions, 1963-1965  
(5 folders or packets) |
| BOX 12    | Correspondence, clippings, notes, publicity material, photographs, and Galley proofs relating to booklet “Surprise Personalities in Georgetown, D.C.,” 1958-1961, undated  
(5 folders or packets) |
| BOX 12    | Printed matter, clippings, photographs, notes and lists relating to Sharples pastels, 1802, 1930-1932, 1955-1961, undated |
| BOX 13    | Scrapbook relating to Sharples Pastels, 1930-1939 |
| BOX 14-15 | Index of correspondence received by Knox. One card for each piece of correspondence recording name, date, and description of contents |
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize  
Certificates, programs, and miscellaneous, 1889-1969, undated |