

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://lcn.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.)--Politics and government.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Katharine McCook Knox is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, genealogical notes, invitations, book, material relating to commissioning of <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> (submarine), and miscellany, 1907-1975, undated
BOX 2	Invitations, correspondence, printed matter, clippings, envelopes, and scrapbook regarding the United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission, 1878-1970, undated
BOX 3	Correspondence, printed matter, envelopes, copyright registration, news release, miscellany, and scrapbooks on personal topics and the Junior Army-Navy Guild Organizations, 1906-1973, undated
BOX 4	Clippings, correspondence, invitations, copies of letters, and notes, 1930-1971, undated
BOX 5	Photographs and clippings, 1945-1972, undated
BOX 6	Correspondence
BOX 6	1917-1959 (5 folders)
BOX 7	1960-1972, undated (5 folders)
BOX 8	Scrapbooks regarding the Lincoln stamp of the G. P. A. Healy portrait
BOX 8	Nos. 1-2, 1957-1965
BOX 9	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 " <i>Surprise Personalities in Georgetown, D.C.</i> ," 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
BOX OV 1	Certificates, programs, and miscellaneous, 1889-1969, undated