

Phillips / Mathée Collection
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2014085928>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014042>

Prepared by Karen Linn Femia

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Revised 2019 July

Collection Summary

Title: Phillips / Mathée Collection

Span Dates: 1900-2014

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1972)

ID No.: MSS85928

Creator: Mathée, Isabelle Phillips, 1897-1968

Creator: Mathée, William Helmuth, 1893-1976

Extent: 65 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2014085928>

Summary: Family of Carrie Fulton Phillips, paramour of Warren G. Harding. Photographs of Isabelle Phillips Mathée and her parents, Carrie Fulton Phillips and James Eaton Phillips, letters from Warren G. Harding to William Helmuth Mathée, correspondence, legal papers, an autograph book, and news clippings concerning the correspondence of Warren G. Harding with Carrie Fulton Phillips.

Online Content: The Phillips / Mathée Collection is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000024>.

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

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Correspondence.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--Relations with women.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923.

Mathée family.

Mathée, Isabelle Phillips, 1897-1968.

Mathée, William Helmuth, 1893-1976--Correspondence.

Phillips family.

Phillips, Carrie Fulton, 1873-1960--Correspondence.

Phillips, Carrie Fulton, 1873-1960.

Phillips, James Eaton, 1865-1960

Subjects

Legislators--United States--Paramours.

Legislators--United States--Relations with women.

Paramours--United States.

Presidents--United States--Paramours.

Presidents--United States--Relations with women.

Presidents--United States.

Titles

Phillips / Mathée Collection at the Library of Congress

Provenance

The Phillips / Mathée Collection was given to the Library of Congress by William Helmuth Mathée III, James Phillips Mathée, Ames Ross Mathée, and Ross Wolcott Mathée in 2014 and 2019.

Processing History

The Phillips / Mathée Collection was processed in 2014. The addition was processed and the finding aid revised in 2019.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the [Warren G. Harding-Carrie Fulton Phillips Correspondence](#) and the papers of [Warren G. Harding](#) .

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the Phillips / Mathée Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Phillips / Mathée Collection is 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.

Online Content

The Phillips / Mathée Collection is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000024>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Phillips / Mathée Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Isabelle Phillips Mathée (1897-1968) was the daughter of James Eaton Phillips and Carrie Fulton Phillips, the paramour of Warren G. Harding. Born in Marion, Ohio, she was educated in Germany from 1911-1914 and subsequently in a New York State boarding school during the First World War. On September 27, 1919, she married William Helmuth Mathée (1893-1976), who was born Helmuth Wilhelm Mathée in Aachen, Germany. He departed Germany on July 29, 1914, three days before that country's entry into the war, and arrived in the United States to study agriculture at Cornell University. After studying at Cornell, he was a student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1915-1916. In 1916 he became a farm superintendent in Florence, Wisconsin, where he worked during the war, followed by a banking position at Ladenburg Thalmann of New York in 1918. After his marriage to Isabelle, they resided with the Phillippses in Marion, Ohio. Their son was born in Ohio in 1920 and William became a naturalized United States citizen in 1921. The Mathées moved to Zurich, Switzerland, in 1922 where William held the position of commercial attaché and vice consul for several years. In 1927, he began a lengthy career with Johnson & Johnson in New Jersey, followed by other management positions at other companies in New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The Mathées opened an antique store in 1960 in Genoa City, Wisconsin. When the Warren G. Harding-Carrie Fulton Phillips correspondence became known to the public in 1964, the Mathées were drawn into newspaper stories and lengthy legal proceedings to determine rights, ownership, and disposition of the papers. After Isabelle passed away in 1968, it fell to William Mathée and their heirs to complete the legal work.

Scope and Content Note

The Phillips / Mathée Collection spans the years 1900-2014, however only one item dates after 1972. The collection is a companion to the Warren G. Harding-Carrie Fulton Phillips Correspondence, a collection also held by the Manuscript Division. The papers center on Isabelle Phillips Mathée, daughter of Carrie Fulton Phillips, the paramour of Warren G. Harding, and Isabelle's husband, William Helmuth Mathée. Included are photographs of Isabelle and her mother, Carrie, letters from President Harding to William Helmuth Mathée, and correspondence, legal papers, and news clippings concerning the discovery in 1964 of the correspondence of Harding with Carrie Phillips and the subsequent legal proceedings. The final folder contains a statement from the four grandsons of Isabelle and William Mathée conveying their thoughts about these papers and the Warren G. Harding-Carrie Fulton Phillips Correspondence. The 2019 addition contains Isabelle's autograph book, signed by both her mother and Warren Harding, and three family photographs, including two with James Eaton Phillips.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material with an addition.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Harding, Warren G., letters to William Helmuth Mathée, 1920-1922 Digital content available
BOX 1	Legal agreement between Isabelle Mathée and George T. Harding, 1965 Digital content available
BOX 1	Legal correspondence, 1964-1971 Digital content available
BOX 1	News clippings, 1923, 1964-1972, undated Digital content available
BOX 1	Photographs, 1913, 1921-1922, undated Digital content available
BOX 1	Mathée family statement, 2014 Digital content available
BOX 1	Addition
BOX 1	Autograph album, 1909
BOX 1	Photographs, circa 1900-1905, undated