

Grace A. Rafaj Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2015

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2008085430>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms015035>

Prepared by Pang H. Xiong

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2015

Collection Summary

Title: Grace A. Rafaj Papers

Span Dates: 1928-2008

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1950-1994)

ID No.: MSS85430

Creator: Rafaj, Grace A., 1927-2008

Extent: 4,300 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Extent: 861 digital files (237.93MB)

Language: Collection material in English with some Spanish

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2008085430>

Summary: Foreign service officer. Correspondence, postcards, awards, memoranda, passports, photographs, clippings, digital files, and other printed matter relating primarily to Rafaj's career as a foreign service officer.

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

Rafaj family--Correspondence.

Rafaj family.

Rafaj, Grace A., 1927-2008.

Organizations

United States. Department of State--Officials and employees.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Cambodia.

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Places

Cambodia--History--Civil War, 1970-1975.

Phnom Penh (Cambodia)--History.

Occupations

Foreign service officers.

Provenance

The papers of Grace A. Rafaj, foreign service officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Joan Rafaj Olson in 2008. Subsequent additions were given from 2009 to 2012.

Transfers

Some photographs and two albums have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Grace A. Rafaj Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Grace A. Rafaj is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Grace A. Rafaj 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.

Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the papers of Grace A. Rafaj Papers. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or digital ID, Grace A. Rafaj Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1927, Apr. 20	Born, Peckville, Pa.
1946	Graduated, Keystone Junior College, Factoryville, Pa.
1949	Joined Department of State
1950-1952	Posted in Beirut, Lebanon
1952-1953	Posted in London, England
1953-1955	Posted in Moscow, Russia
1955-1957	Posted in New Delhi, India
1957-1958	Posted in Ottawa, Canada
1958	Resigned from foreign service, Department of State
1960	Rejoined foreign service, Department of State
1960-1961	Posted in Bogota, Colombia
1961-1962	Posted in Freetown, Sierra Leone
1963-1964	Posted in Brussels, Belgium
1964-1966	Posted in Managua, Nicaragua
1966-1968	Posted in Port-au-Prince, Haiti
1968	Posted in Rome, Italy
1969-1971	Posted in Kabul, Afghanistan
1971	Posted in Manila, Philippines
1971-1973	Posted in Tegucigalpa, Honduras
1974-1975	Posted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
1975	Evacuated from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and set up administrative office in Thailand Recipient, Meritorious Honor Award, Department of State
1976-1978	Posted in Kinshasa, Congo (Democratic Republic)
1978-1981	Posted in Seoul, South Korea
1981	Retired from the foreign service, Department of State

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Grace A. Rafaj (1927-2008) span the years 1928-2008, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1950-1994. Most of the collection consists of correspondence from Rafaj to her family while she was a foreign service officer from 1949 to 1981. Also included are postcards, awards, memoranda, passports, photographs, clippings, digital files, and other printed matter primarily related to Rafaj's career. The papers are in English but include some clippings in Spanish. The collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

Rafaj's letters are mostly typewritten with carbon copies and include handwritten notes. Correspondents include her parents, Paul and Susan Rafaj; her sisters, Ruth Rafaj Goodwin, Susan M. Rafaj, Ellen Rafaj Vrudny, and Joan Rafaj Olson; and her brother, Paul M. Rafaj. The letters have details about work, friends, colleagues, housing, food, transportation, personal trips, and general observations of people and cultures. A few of the letters include attachments such as photographs and clippings.

The correspondence, memoranda, clippings, and other printed matter from 1974 to 1975 document the wartime atmosphere in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. On April 3, 1975, Rafaj and her colleagues were evacuated, and the clippings describe how the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, captured Phnom Penh, Cambodia on April 17, 1975. For her work in helping to evacuate employees, she was given the Meritorious Honor Award in 1975.

The digital files primarily consist of images of Rafaj's correspondence. However, not all correspondence is digitized. Also included are photographs, an outline for a possible television series, and an obituary. The images were created by Duane Olson, brother-in-law to Rafaj, in 2008 and are in .jpg format. There is also a list of Rafaj's posts in Microsoft Word format.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Address book and contact information, 2004, undated
BOX 1	Awards and honors, 1975-1982, undated
BOX 1	Afghanistan, 1969, undated
BOX 1	Cambodia, 1972-1980 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Congo (Democratic Republic), 1980, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1949-1952 (3 folders)
BOX 2	1953-1973 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1974-1980, 1986, 1994-2007, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	Honduras, 1971-1974
BOX 3	Korea, 1979-1980
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1956, 1984-1986, undated
BOX 4	Outline for proposed television series on the foreign service, 1961-1963, 1980
BOX 4	Passports and health certificates, 1964-1997
BOX 4	Postcards, 1964-1997
BOX 4	Department of State
BOX 4	Personnel file, 1974-1986
BOX 4	Printed matter, 1961, 1968-1975, 1981, 1992
BOX 4	Travel file, 1974, 1981-1994, undated
DF	Digital files Digital ID: mss85430_105_001 Correspondence, 1949-1980, 1986, 2005 List of postings, 2008 Obituary, 2008 Photographs, 1928-1938, 1948-1962, 1971, 2007-2008 Script, circa 1980