Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier Papers
A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection in the
Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2023086628

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms024002

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff
Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2024
Collection Summary
Title: Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1956-2012
Bulk Dates: 1994-2012
ID No.: MSS86628
Creator: Bonnivier, Carlene Sobrino
Extent: 350 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: 0.5 linear feet
Extent: 7 digital files (122.84 MB)
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2023086628
Summary: Filipino American author and playwright. Script, notes, notebooks, correspondence, and other material in physical format relating to plays and novels by Bonnivier focusing on Filipino American communities and culture. Material in digital format includes slideshows pertaining to the International Hotel in San Francisco, Calif.

Acquisition Information
The papers of Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier were given to the Library of Congress by Bonnivier in 2008.

Custodial History
The papers of Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier were part of the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection in the Library of Congress's Asian Division. In 2023, the collection was transferred from the Asian Division to the Manuscript Division.

Processing History
The papers of Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier were arranged and described by Pang H. Xiong and Stephanie Arbieto in 2013 while in the custody of the Asian Division. The finding aid was revised and encoded by Katherine S. Madison and Joanne Archer and born-digital media was processed by Pang Xiong in 2024 upon transfer to the Manuscript Division.

Digital files were received as part of the Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier Papers on an optical disk and assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files associated with each media. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.digital.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.
Technical Requirements

Digital files were created in a Windows operating system, version unknown. The content consists of audio files (.wav) and slideshows (.ppt).

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or digital ID number, Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier Papers, Asian American Pacific Islander Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier was born in 1940 in Los Angeles, California, two weeks after the death of her father, Gerhard Gustav Bonnivier, and four weeks after her mother, Marciana Cesaria Sobrino, was released from detainment at the Angel Island Immigration Station, San Francisco, California. Her parents met and married in the Philippines where her American father was stationed with the United States Cavalry. Bonnivier grew up in Los Angeles, in the Bunker Hill neighborhood known as Filipinotown.

At age seventeen, Bonnivier moved to Washington, D.C., and began working in the White House. Later, she worked in the United States Congress and the Office of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. In 1972, she graduated from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and joined the National Teacher Corps as a volunteer in Salinas, California. Afterwards, she joined the Peace Corps and taught in Malaysia while earning a master's degree in cross-cultural education from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Bonnivier continued her education at the University of Denver and studied cross-training theater at Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska.

Bonnivier spent most of her adult life living and teaching in Malaysia, Singapore, Germany, Japan, and Spain. Her experiences abroad heavily influenced her textbook Reading Attack Skills for Adults (1984) and her novel Autobiography of a Stranger (1993), which was published under the name Kalifa Sobrino Bonnivier.

In 1998, Bonnivier began teaching at Kadena High School in Okinawa, Japan. After returning to the United States, she continued teaching language arts and writing at the University of San Francisco, the University of California, Irvine, and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Starting in 2010, Bonnivier held writing workshops while collecting stories of those who lived in historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles. These stories contributed to her novel Seeking Thirst (2009) as well as the book Filipinotown: Voices from Los Angeles (2013). Based on this project, she created the readers’ theater Up Against the Wall. Bonnivier also wrote and produced the musical Warrior based on the 1977 evictions at the International Hotel in San Francisco.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier (1940- ) span the years 1956 -2012, with the bulk of the material dating from 1994 to 2012. The collection consists of research material about the International Hotel in San Francisco, Filipino culture, and the Philippines, as well as writings and correspondence.

Bonnivier compiled most of the research about the International Hotel while cowriting the play Get Set, Ready, Go with Remé A. Grefalda. This play was inspired by actual events at the International Hotel in San Francisco from 1968 to 1977. The collection includes a copy of the script and Bonnivier’s handwritten notes for the play. Digital files include slideshows documenting the effort to rebuild and the history of the International Hotel.

The rest of the collection consists of articles and chapters on the subjects of Filipino culture, Filipino communities in the United States, history of the Philippines, the province of Ifugao and the Ifugao people, the Filipino American diaspora, and peasant revolts as well as photocopied chapters from Luis Taruc's He Who Rides the Tiger. The Warrior file includes questionnaires about the musical. Also included is "President Obama and the Brotherhood: A Tribute to Aunt Rose and

Carlene Sobrino Bonnivier Papers
Pops Pierce" (2012), a piece created for Echo Park Library's Black History Month display as a homage to the struggles and successes of African Americans and dedicated to Pops Pierce for teaching her how to read.

**Arrangement of the Collection**

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

**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**

Bonnivier, Carlene Sobrino.
Bonnivier, Carlene Sobrino. Get set, ready, go.
Grefalda, Remé A. Get set, ready, go.

**Organizations**

Asian American Pacific Islander Collection (Library of Congress)
International Hotel (San Francisco, Calif.)

**Subjects**

Ethnic neighborhoods--United States.
Filipino Americans--California--San Francisco.
Filipino Americans--History.
Filipino Americans--Social life and customs.
Filipino Americans--United States.
Filipino Americans.
Filipino diaspora.
Ifugao (Philippine people)
Peasant uprisings--Philippines.

**Places**

Ifugao (Philippines)
Manilatown (San Francisco, Calif.)
Philippines--Civilization.
Philippines--History.
San Francisco (Calif.)--Social life and customs.

**Occupations**

Authors.
Filipino American authors.
Filipino American playwrights.
Playwrights.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
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