Margueritte Kimball, 1906 -1995

Papers, ca. 1942-1994
2 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 1991-03

Acquisition: Items were given to the Archives in August 1996 by the executors of Ms. Kimball's estate, John Lorence and Richard Crowley.

Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted

Copyright: Copyright to this collection is held by the Cranbrook Educational Community

Preferred Citation: Margueritte Kimball Papers, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Photographs: Boxes 3-4 (scrapbooks), and in the Photograph Special File

Index: None

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Biography

Margueritte Eleanor Kimball was born 19 Oct 1906 in Clinton, Massachusetts, and was raised there and in Nashua, New Hampshire. After the 1926 death of her father, a railroad worker, the family moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts where Margueritte’s mother ran a dressmaking business. Margueritte graduated in 1926 from Bryant & Stratton Commercial College in Boston, and worked for several years as an accountant in Cambridge. After her mother remarried in 1940, she was freed from many responsibilities related to caring for her mother and family. This allowed Margueritte to pursue art school and she attended life drawing workshops at the Copley Society Studio in Boston.

Margueritte traveled to the Detroit area in 1941 to visit a relative, and while there visited Cranbrook for the first time. While standing under the peristyle of the newly constructed Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, she sensed “this place was meant for her.” She was introduced to Wallace Mitchell, head of the Painting Department, who examined a few of Margueritte's drawings, and eventually accepted her as a student to the Academy. She began attending classes in the Summer of 1942 and, at the same time began her career at the Academy, acting as its financial secretary for twenty-six years.

Known by many in the Cranbrook community, Margueritte became close with the students and faculty at the Academy, and documented her years at Cranbrook with hundreds of photographs and many folders of correspondence. Through the years she also remained in close contact with several of the Academy's graduates, collecting materials from their most recent endeavors and art exhibitions.

After her retirement in 1968, Margueritte returned to the Boston area, continued to dabble in work as an artist, and subsequently was featured in several exhibitions. She continued to keep in close contact with Cranbrook over the years and was always well aware of the happenings at the Art Academy. Although Margueritte never graduated from the Academy, she did receive an honorary degree from the school late in her life. Margueritte passed away 1 Sept 1995 at the age of 89.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection is divided into five series: The Correspondence series contains many letters to and from CAA students, alumni, and faculty members from 1941 until 1994. The folders in this series are arranged chronologically and then alphabetically according to each year. Original Artwork contains correspondence in the form of original drawings, sketches, etc., from Kimball's Cranbrook associates – many of these are in the form of Christmas cards. CAA Alumni Exhibition Catalogs is a collection of former students' exhibition catalogs, spanning the decades of the 1940s through the 1970s. Photographs are related mainly to the 1940s and 1950s. About half are located in her scrapbooks (left intact because of the unique identification adjacent to the photographs.
Many of the photos are actually prints taken by Cranbrook's photographer for many years, Harvey Croze, and therefore are not unique to our photographic holdings. The rest of the photographs in this collection can be found in the Photograph Special File (Envelopes 1-9). **3-D Materials** contains small artifacts and pieces of art created by fellow students and faculty of CAA. Each item is individually wrapped in tissue paper in Box 5.

**Related Collections**

- (1981-09) Records of the Cranbrook Academy of Art
- (1990-08) Saarinen Family Papers ("Story of Cranbrook" original manuscript by Eliel Saarinen donated by M. Kimball)
- (1990-09) Audio tape collection, tape 5.
- (1990-21) Wallace Mitchell Papers
- (1989-13) Carl Milles Papers
Box Number--Description

Box 1

PERSONAL
1. Applications, Certificates, 1942, 1964-1965

CORRESPONDENCE
2. Undated correspondence
3. 1941-1946
4. 1950-1955
5. 1956-1959
6. 1960-1962
7. 1963-1969
8. 1970-1979
10. 1986-1994
11. Carl and Olga Milles, 1937-1965
15. Disposition of Milles House contents, 1951-1963
16. Disposition of Milles House contents – Inventories, 1952

ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY CAA ALUMNI
17. Unsigned material
18. Unsigned--first name only

Box 2
1. A-B (CAA Alumni)
2. G-H
3. J-K
4. L-M
5. N-Q
6. R-Z
7. Unsigned sketches

CAA ALUMNI EXHIBITION CATALOGS
8. A-D
9. E-J
10. K-L
11. M-O

Box 3
1. P-R
2. "S"
3. "T"
4. U-Z

PHOTOGRAPHS
5. Scrapbook 1
6. Scrapbook 2

Box 4
1. Scrapbook 3
2. Scrapbook 4
3. Scrapbook 5

Envelopes, Photograph Special File (filed under 1991-03)
1. Carl Milles and work
2. CAA Exteriors
3. CAA Faculty and Staff
4. CAA Commencements
5. CAA Group Portraits
6. CAA Interiors
7. CAA Students, Activities
8. CAA Students, Activities
9. Visiting Architects

Box 5

3-D ITEMS (Box 5)
1. Metal double candlestick; 12"H, 8"W
2. Ceramic bowl, greenish in color, "Gustavesberg Kage 916" on bottom; 8.5"H, 2.25"W
3. Green ceramic vase, "Gustavsberg--Sweden" on bottom; 6"H, 1.75"W
4. Small green ceramic vase "Gustavsberg--Sweden" on bottom; 2"H, 3"W
5. Small green ceramic dish "G--S" on bottom; 1/2"H, 4"W
6. Small train engine mounted on wood; 3 3/4"Hx 1 1/2"W
7. Milles medallion with small stand, signed by Olga Milles; diameter =5 1/2"
8. Two (2) metal designed pieces in color tile
9. Wooden cross with metal Christ figure; 11 1/2"x5 3/4"
10. Wood cube 4"x4"x4" (for photos)
11. Small Cranbrook Academy of Art medallion--silver color, with stand; 2 1/4" diameter.
12. Small ceramic animal with long neck; 4 1/2"H
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