

## BROOKE WHITING HOUSE OF ART

### BROOKE WHITING ARCHIVES

#### ANNE FRANCES WHITING COLLECTION

##### Record Group 3 of the Whiting Archives

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The personal papers of Anne Frances Whiting exist in various forms such as notes, correspondence, short stories, newspaper articles, and invoices. The collection begins in 1913, then skips to 1922 and to 1923, followed by 1925, 1927, 1929-1931, 1933-1936, 1938, 1940-1943, 1945, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1962-1980, before ending in 1981. The bulk of the collection is from 1934-1936 and 1962-1981.

Care was taken to retain the original order of the collection; it is divided into eight series and is arranged by type. The series are correspondence, literary works, printed materials, school papers, invoices, and miscellaneous materials.

A considerable portion of the papers of Anne Whiting consists of school notes and related materials from the Allegany County Academy, Bryn Mawr School, and Bryn Mawr College. These records are arranged chronologically and are housed in the Butler's Pantry, Shelf 1, and the Library Closet. Her Webster Composition from the fifth grade is the first piece, dating to 1923. Class notes represented include, but are not limited to, England to 1485, First Year History, Medieval Civilization, Europe Since 1870, and Continental History. Her college essays also comprise this section; examples are *Education in the Seventeenth Century*, *German Social Democracy*, and *The Puritans Under Elizabeth*.

Another strength of the collection are the United States Naval Reserve papers. During 1942 and 1943, Ms. Whiting finished a two-month course of training at Midshipmen's School, in Northampton, Massachusetts and was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Naval Reserve and later promoted to Lieutenant. Her Midshipmen Naval School notebook is preserved in its entirety.

A significant portion of her records are invoices relating to her antique collection. The invoices are divided into various purchases and Chinese porcelains and are arranged chronologically. The first purchase receipt dates to 1953, with the others spanning the 1960s, the 1970s, and the early 1980s. The antiques thus purchased are housed in the Brooke Whiting House of Art. Her Chinese porcelain and Middle Eastern rug collection are permanently displayed.

Another important aspect of the collection involves correspondence which Anne received during World War II from her brother, F. Brooke Whiting II, who volunteered with the American Field Service and drove an ambulance in Africa and Italy, and her boyfriend Philip Van Horn Weems, Jr., a Captain of the United States Marine Corp and son of U.S. Naval Captain P. V. H. Weems,

the twentieth-century navigation pioneer and genius. Philip Jr. was killed during the war while stationed in the South Pacific.

There are several short stories by Anne in the literary works series such as *The Enchanted Princess*, *A Ton of Wad*, and *There's This Fellow in My Office* which she submitted to *Mademoiselle*. She also authored plays: *The Plague* and *Girl Murdered*. Poetry was also composed by Anne like *The Lady of the Shee* and *Summer*. The weaknesses of this collection are the absence of papers corresponding to the later years of her life and several undated compositions. However, this collection provides insight into an otherwise limited history of Anne Whiting. Moreover, her personal papers include historically valuable documents regarding World War II and the United States Naval Reserve. The collection also reveals the educational training, literary imagination, and art appreciation of a progressive and career-oriented twentieth-century woman and of the daughter of a prominent family of Allegany County, Maryland.

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CMP