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Papers, 1894-1975. 2.00 linear ft.

Abstract

Martha D. Kollen was a prominent citizen of Holland during the first half of the 20th century. The papers in this collection include clippings about her activities, correspondence with friends and members of the family, diaries, an extensive collection of photographs, information about the musical career of her son John, and financial records of both Mr. and Mrs. Kollen.

Accession No: H88-0088.1.
Provenance: Martha D. Kollen
Donor: See Accession File
Photographs: 82 images (Box 1)
Processed by: Leon Witteveen, June 1994

Biography

Martha D. Kollen was born on April 21, 1867, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Diekema of Holland. She attended Longfellow School, Hope Preparatory School, and Columbia University. In 1894 she married George E. Kollen, who died in 1919. Her son, John Lloyd Kollen, became an accomplished pianist.

Her chief interests were in the fields of religion, education, drama, and travel. She traveled abroad extensively, including trips to Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, Cuba, Alaska, Canal Zone, and Mexico. Her many activities locally included membership on the Board of Education, the Century Club, Holland Women’s Club, Holland Garden Club, and the Women's Board of Domestic Missions of the Reformed Church in America. She also donated the land for the development of Kollen Park.

She received an honorary degree from Hope College in 1949, and died in April, 1960, at the home of her son in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Scope and Content

The Martha D. Kollen papers are arranged by type of material and consist of two main types of materials: personal papers and financial records. The clippings relate mainly to her service on the Board of Education, the concerts of her son John, and programs presented by Mrs. Kollen to various organizations.

The correspondence folders contain primarily letters from friends and family members, but also include an invitation to a White House reception from President Theodore Roosevelt. Also included are letters from friends written to her during her illness in 1928, letters of appreciation for her performances, and letters of congratulations on the concerts of her son John.

The diaries were written by Mrs. Kollen during the 1920s and 1930s and contain valuable information about her life, particularly her travels in various parts of the world. Also included in the collection is information relating to her honorary degree from Hope College, materials
concerning the donation of the land for Kollen Park, and a postcard collection obtained during her travels. There is also an extensive collection of photographs of the Kollen family.

The financial records include annual statements of both George and Martha Kollen, income tax returns, and material relating to the property owned by the Kollen family.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical information, n.d.
Biography by Jan Osterhaven, 1975
Clippings, 1932-1952
  Board of Education, 1947
  Concerts, John L. Kollen, 1940-1941
  Programs, 1932-1952
Correspondence, 1918-1952
  Colby, Martha, 1947
  Fox, Major W. H., Salvation Army, 1936
  Getz, George, 1923
  Gobel, Irma, 1923-1924
  Hinkamp, Martha, 1939
  Kollen, Helena, 1924-1925
  Kollen, John, 1928
  Post, Kate G., 1934
  Roosevelt, President Theodore, 1904
  Taylor Produce Co., 1936, 1952
  Wayer, Margaret, n.d.
  ?, Lena, 1930
  Letters of appreciation, 1931-1952
  Letters received in Rochester, Minnesota, 1918
  Letters of congratulations on John's concert, 1925
Diaries, 1921-1941
  1921, 1928-1936
  1928
    Travel Diaries, 1926, 1930; 1938, 1941 (2 folders)
Guest Book, 1924-1951
Honorary Degree, Hope College, 1948 (1 image)
Kollen Park Donation, 1921-1923
Manuscripts and Handwritten Notes (2 folders)
Obituaries, 1919-1960
  George E. Kollen, 1919
  Margaret B. Kollen, 1983
  Martha D. Kollen, 1960
Photographs
  John Kollen, n.d. (27 images)
Kollen family, n.d. (37 images)
Martha Kollen, 1948, n.d. (11 images)
Unidentified, n.d. (6 images)
Postcards, n.d. (2 folders)
Programs and Conferences, 1928-1936
Scrapbook, John L. Kollen, 1925-1936
Wedding Invitation, George Kollen and Martha Diekema, 1894

Box 2

Financial Records, 1901-1958
  George Kollen, 1916-1943
    Statements, 1919-1923
    G.R. Trust Annual Accounts, 1920-1943
    Final Account, 1920
    Will, 1916
  Martha Kollen, 1919-1958
    Statements, 1919-1950
    Financial Papers, 1920-1955
    Wills, 1939, 1946, 1952
Real Estate Records, 1901-1953
  Property Inventory, 1904-1952
  80 West 13th Street, 1901-1955
  129 West 16th Street, 1950-1953