March 2014


Western Theological Seminary

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W96-1215.5. Holmes, Madeline (1904-1999).
Papers, 1924-1993. 3.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Maryville College (Tennessee) class of 1924. Earned an M.A. degree from the University of Michigan in 1928. In 1935, she studied at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, and again at the University of Michigan from 1945-1948. Spanish, English and journalism teacher at Ottawa High School in Grand Rapids. Missionary to Arabia (1952-1968) and director of the House of Happiness Orphanage in Kuwait and Bahrain. Collection includes correspondence, writings, personal materials, and many photographs.

Accession No.: W96-1215
Provenance: Madeline Holmes
Donor: Harvey Staal
Photographs: Several hundred images (Boxes 2 and 3)
Processed by: John Maassen, October 1999
Ena Brooks, February 2000

Biography

Madeline A. Holmes was born on May 22, 1904, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Dr. and Mrs. John G. Huizinga. She was graduated from South High School in Grand Rapids in 1920 and earned a B.A. degree from Maryville College, Tennessee, in 1924. She earned an M.A. degree from the University of Michigan in 1928. In 1935 she studied at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, and again at the University of Michigan from 1945-1948. She taught Spanish, English and journalism at Ottawa High School in Grand Rapids. She also played the cello and piano and was a Sunday School and Adult Bible Class teacher.

In 1952, she was appointed a short term missionary to Arabia and became a career missionary to that field in 1955. In 1957, she took over the House of Happiness Orphanage in Kuwait and Bahrain. She ended her missionary service and 1968 and retired in Zeeland, Michigan.

She died on January 22, 1999, in Holland, Michigan, at the age of ninety-four.

A quote from a letter in 1972 may suggest her personal philosophy and personality.

"...we were advised to keep a Log of Joy, but how could I keep one when my life is so full of joyful experiences that, quoting St. John, ‘If they should be written everyone, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.’”

Scope and Content

The Madeline Holmes collection contains articles that she wrote for education journals during her teaching career as well as articles for publication during her time as a missionary in Arabia. A large part of her files is made up of personal correspondence.

There are also many photographs.
Container List

Box 1

Biography, n.d.
Clippings, 1977
Family Tree
  Berger (Miss Holmes’ parents), October 2, 1977
  Huizinga (Miss Holmes’ parents), 1987
Passport, n.d.
Prose and Poetry, n.d.
Scholastic Records and Teaching Credentials, 1924-1928, 1936, 1946-1951

Box 2

Photographs and Art

Box 3

Photographs