Guide to the Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller Papers, 1944-1958

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Note
History -- History, University of California -- History, UC BerkeleyHistory -- History, CaliforniaGeographical (By Place) -- California
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Collection number: BANC MSS 89/199 c

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1944-1958
Collection Number: BANC MSS 89/199 c
Creator: Miller, Lea Van Puymbroeck
Extent: Number of containers: 1 box
Linear feet: .4
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Primarily correspondence concerning her weaving and exhibitions, her contributions to periodicals on weaving and textile arts, and her search for newly developed fabrics as weaving materials.

Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller Papers, BANC MSS 89/199 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Acquisition Information

The Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller papers were transferred to The Bancroft Library from the Lowie Museum of Anthropology in December 1988, after being received there from the California Academy of Sciences.

Biography

Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller was born in Oswego, Oregon, on May 2, 1898 of Belgian parents. She received a BFA and MFA from the University of Washington in 1924 and 1934, and at various points between and after these degrees worked privately with a number of sculptors and designers. Before coming to the University of California, Berkeley, Miller taught art and design in Seattle high schools and at the University of Washington.

Subsequently Miller became better known as a weaver, specializing in gauze techniques, stimulated by an interest in Peruvian textiles derived from the research of Lila O'Neill. She was interested in the utilization of new, synthetic materials in her weaving, adapting them to the gauze techniques in which she specialized. She exhibited her works extensively and won an impressive number of awards, recognizing her importance in developing and extending modern weaving design and technique.

Miller's career at the University of California began in 1941, when she was appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Decorative Art; she retired as full Professor in 1965 from the Department of Design, College of Environmental Design. She was apparently an enthusiastic teacher and also served as a student adviser in the College of Letters and Science. Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller died on December 13, 1979.

Scope and Content

The Lea Van Puymbroeck Miller Papers consist almost entirely of correspondence, and represent only a portion of her career, mainly from about 1945 to 1958, although most of the correspondence is concentrated in the 1949-1953 period. Major topics are her weaving and exhibitions, her contributions to periodicals on weaving and textile arts, and her search for newly developed weaving materials. There are a few letters which deal with her work as a student adviser and one folder, at the end, contains a small number of personal and family papers.

Box 1, folder 1
A miscellaneous

folder 2
American Craftsmen's Council 1944-50

folder 3
Anderson, Lowell 1952-53

folder 4
Some written by his wife, Barbara

folder 5
B Bryan, Dorothy 1950-52

folder 6
Mainly written on behalf of Handweaver and Craftsman

folder 7
C California State Fair 1951-53

folder 8
Written by Grant Duggins, exhibit supervisor for art

folder 9
Carnegie Institution of Washington. Division of Historical Research. 1948

folder 10
Written by Marjorie Harrison

folder 11
Craft and Hobby Book Service 1951-57

folder 12
D miscellaneous

folder 13
Denny, Grace G. (Grace Goldena), d. 1971 1947-50

folder 14
F-G Gupta, B.N. 1945-46

folder 15
H-I miscellaneous

folder 16
Hatch, J.D. 1949

folder 17
Herman, Arthur 1951

folder 18
Hill, Henry 1951

folder 19
Johnson, Pauline 1944

folder 20
Kohler, Melvin 1951

folder 21
L miscellaneous

folder 22
Liebes, Dorothy 1948-58
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 23     | Lyon, Mary 1950  
         | Written for *Craft Horizons* |
| 24-26  | M-N-O-P miscellaneous |
| 27     | Professional Weavers' Association 1952 |
| 28     | R miscellaneous |
| 29     | Rossbach, Ed. 1948-50  
         | Includes typescript of his "Handweaving as an art form" |
| 30     | Ryan, Beatrice Judd 1947-51 |
| 31-32  | S-T miscellaneous |
| 33     | Tensolite Corporation 1947-48 |
| 34     | U miscellaneous |
| 35     | University of California, Berkeley. College of Letters and Science 1948-55  
         | Written by deans, A. R. Davis and Lincoln Constance, mainly relating to student advising |
| 36     | University of Tennessee 1948-49  
         | Written by Marion Heard, Professor of Craft Design, College of Home Economics, Dept. of Related Arts and Crafts |
| 37     | University of Washington 1951-53  
         | Written by various individuals, mainly relating to her teaching there in summer of 1952 |
| 38-39  | W-Y-Z miscellaneous |
| 40     | Family papers 1947-49  
         | Telegrams regarding the death of her mother and memorial program; draft of her husband's will |