Guide to the Claire Giannini Hoffman Papers, 1887-1997

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Collection number: BANC MSS 98/178 c

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Date Completed:
December 2004
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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Claire Giannini Hoffman papers,
Date (inclusive): 1887-1997
Collection Number: BANC MSS 98/178 c
Creator: Hoffman, Claire Giannini
Extent: 2 cartons, 1 oversize box
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Abstract: The Claire Giannini Hoffman Papers (1887-1997) consist of correspondence; biographical materials, including writings related to economic issues, clippings about Hoffman, the Bank of America, and her father, Amadeo Peter Giannini; and a small amount of family papers.
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog
Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Claire Giannini Hoffman Papers, BANC MSS 98/178 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

**Related Collections**

Giannini Hoffman pictorial collection, BANC PIC 1998.075

**Separated Material**

Printed materials have been transferred to the Book Collection of The Bancroft Library.

Photographs have been transferred to Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Videotapes/sound recordings have been transferred to the Microforms Collection of The Bancroft Library.

Medals have been transferred to the Objects Collection of The Bancroft Library.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.


Giannini, Amadeo Peter, d 1870-1949.

Giannini, Amadeo Peter, d 1870-1949 x Family.

Giannini family.

Italian Americans z California.

Bankers z United States.

Bankers--California.

Bankers z California z San Francisco.

Bank of America.

Bank of America x History.

Bank of Italy, San Francisco.

Banca d'Italia.

Banks and banking z United States x History.

Banks and banking z California x History.

**Provenance**

The Claire Giannini Hoffman Papers were given to The Bancroft Library in April and June 1998 at the bequest of the Claire G. Hoffman estate.

**Funding**

Funding for processing provided by the Estate of Claire Giannini Hoffman.

Claire Evelyn Giannini was born on December 30, 1904 to Amadeo Peter Giannini (died 1949) and Clorinda Agnes Cuneo (also called Clara Cuneo; died 1941) in San Mateo, California.

She was educated at San Mateo Grammar School, Rosemary Hall in Greenwich, Connecticut, Ransom School in Piedmont, California, Mills College in Oakland, California; she also attended business school in Beverly Hills, California.

Hoffman's father, A.P. Giannini was the founder of the Bank of Italy, later renamed Bank of America, and of the Banca d'America e d'Italia. Her brother, L. M. Giannini, was president of the Bank of America from 1936 to his death in 1952. Her husband, Clifford P. Hoffman, was an investment banker. He died in 1954.

Since an early age, Claire Giannini Hoffman accompanied her father on business trips nationwide and abroad. She was appointed on June 14, 1949 to a seat on the Board of Directors of the Bank of America left vacant by the death of her father, from which she resigned in 1985. Upon the death of her brother in 1952, she became a member of the General Executive Committee of the Bank of America. In 1957, she was elected a Director of the Banca d'America e d'Italia. She was also Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bank of America-Giannini Foundation, established in 1945.

Claire Giannini Hoffman was active in many national and international banking organizations, where she often was the only woman member. She was a United States delegate to the Atlantic Congress held in London in 1959. In 1960, she was appointed as a member to the Council of Consultants on the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 1973, she was the first...
woman to be asked to be a governor of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Claire Giannini Hoffman was a committed supporter of women pursuing careers and strove to secure equal opportunities for women in business. She was committed to continuing her father's legacy until her death in 1997 at her childhood home in San Mateo.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Claire Giannini Hoffman Papers (1887-1997) consist of correspondence; biographical materials, including writings related to economic issues, clippings about Hoffman, the Bank of America, and her father, Amadeo Peter Giannini; and a small amount of family papers.

Most of the correspondence in this collection is from Hoffman's friends and colleagues, rather than her family. The majority of the correspondence concerns Hoffman's social activities and her father A.P. Giannini. There is a small amount of correspondence that relates to Hoffman's business life, however, very few letters document her activities as bank director. No banking papers are held in this collection.

Except for a speech about her father, Hoffman's writings are about the economic issues and policies of the 1970's. The collection contains a small amount of writings about Hoffman, such as interviews with her regarding her involvement in Bank of America, and those related to her experiences with her father.

The biographical materials are comprised mostly of newspaper and magazine clippings dating from the 1960s-1970s. They are further subdivided into clippings about Hoffman, clippings about Bank of America, and materials regarding legislation. Clippings about Hoffman detail her social activities and opinions about economics and about her father's work. Clippings about the Bank of America are concerned particularly with books published about Bank of America, including *Roller Coaster* by Moira Johnston, and *Breaking the Bank: The Decline of BankAmerica*, by Gary Hector, and Hoffman's opinions on issues related to Bank of America and her father. These clippings illustrate Hoffman's opinions on bank policy and her committed interest in preserving her father's legacy. The small amount of legislation and related clippings are concerned with the control and regulation of bank holding companies and the gold reserve requirement.

The Giannini family papers include materials related to A.P. Giannini and Hoffman's mother, Clorinda Agnes Cuneo Giannini, and miscellaneous materials about Hoffman's husband, Clifford P. Hoffman, and her niece, Anne Giannini. The materials concerning A.P. Giannini are comprised mostly of newspaper and magazine clippings about him, with very few letters or personal biographical materials. The small amount of materials about Clorinda Agnes Giannini (also called Clara Cuneo) consist of a book of school work, an autograph book, and a memoriam of her death.

Hoffman's papers reflect her opinions about the development of the Bank of America from the 1950's, when she assumed the position of director, to her resignation in 1985. They illustrate Hoffman's consistent efforts to maintain her father's standards in both her personal and professional life and her devotion to preserving his legacy of equality and fairness in banking.

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**Ctn. 1, folders 1-28**

**Series 1: Correspondence, 1937-1997**

**Arrangement**

Divided into incoming and outgoing correspondence.

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes correspondence with friends and colleagues.

**Ctn. 1, folders 1-27**

**Incoming correspondence, 1937-1997**

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by name of writer or company. Each folder is then arranged chronologically.

**Scope and Content Note**

Though one incoming letter is dated 1927 and some date from the 1980's, most letters date between 1949 and the 1970's, or 1994-1997. There is a small amount of correspondence from Presidents Nixon and Reagan. Some are copies of letters not directly addressed to Hoffman.

**Carton 1, folder 1**

**A, 1954-1970**
SERIES 1: Correspondence, 1937-1997

Incoming correspondence, 1937-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 1, folder 1-2</th>
<th>B, 1951-1996</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 4</td>
<td>C, 1949-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 5</td>
<td>D, 1952-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 6</td>
<td>E, 1952-1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 7</td>
<td>F, 1952-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 8</td>
<td>G, 1953-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 9</td>
<td>H, 1952-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 10</td>
<td>I, 1951-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 11</td>
<td>J, 1952-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 12</td>
<td>K, 1956-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 13</td>
<td>L, 1950-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 14</td>
<td>M, 1927-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 15</td>
<td>N, 1957-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 16</td>
<td>O, 1958-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 17</td>
<td>P, 1951-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 18</td>
<td>Q, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 19</td>
<td>R, 1952-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 20-21</td>
<td>S, 1937-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 22</td>
<td>T, 1950-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 23</td>
<td>U-V, 1951-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 24-25</td>
<td>W, 1949-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 26</td>
<td>X-Y-Z, 1956-1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 1, folder 27</td>
<td>Unidentified correspondence, n.d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ctn. 1, folder 28
Outgoing correspondence, 1954-1996

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Includes fourteen letters, including some addressed to presidents Eisenhower and Reagan, and to the board of directors of the Bank of America.

Ctn. 1, folder 25
Outgoing, 1954-1996

SERIES 2: Biographical Materials, n.d.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Ctn. 1, folders 29-30
Writings, ca. 1970-1985

Arrangement
Divided into two subject folders: Writings by Hoffman and writings about Hoffman.
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Includes the press release upon Hoffman's resignation from Bank of America, a speech about World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and about her father, A. P. Giannini.

Ctn. 1, folder 29
Writings by Hoffman, ca. 1970's-1980's
Ctn. 1, folder 30
Writings about Hoffman, n.d.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ctn. 1, folders 31-37, oversize box 1</th>
<th>Clippings, n.d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Subdivided into: About Claire Giannini Hoffman, About Bank of America, and Legislation. Each sub-sub series is arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Includes a scrapbook of clippings and loose clippings regarding Claire Giannini-Hoffman; the Bank of America; and two subject folders on economic legislation. The scrapbook of clippings relate to Hoffman's election to the board of directors of Sears, Roebuck &amp; Co. in 1963. After this, most of the clippings date 1963-1975 (and especially 1970-1971). None of the articles date from the eighties and only one is dated 1991. Most of the articles are concerned with Hoffmans' business travel, her various awards and elections, her opinions about economic issues, meetings and social events, and her father A.P. Giannini. Some articles are written in Spanish or Italian. A small amount of U.S. Congress bills, clippings about bank holding companies and booklets about gold show Hoffman's interest in economic legislation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ctn. 1, folders 31-33, oversize box 1</th>
<th>About Claire Giannini Hoffman, n.d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Clippings about Claire Giannini Hoffman's position as a director of Bank of America and her social activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>otbertype OS Box 1 carton 1, folder 31-33</th>
<th>Scrapbook: Election to Board of Directors of Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clippings about Hoffman, n.d.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ctn. 1, folders 34-35</th>
<th>About Bank of America, 1969-1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Includes publicity booklets about Bank of America, and clippings regarding Bank of America issues as well as Claire Giannini’s disagreements with bank policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| carton 1, folder 34 carton 1, folder 35 | Clippings about Bank of America, 1982-1990 Publicity Booklets, 1969-1989 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ctn. 1, folders 36-37</th>
<th>Legislation, 1955-1973</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Divided into Legislation and Clippings about Legislation. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
<td>Includes reprinted government legislation and clippings regarding specific legislation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SERIES 2: Biographical Materials, n.d.

Miscellaneous Biographical Materials, 1904-1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>carton 1, folder 38-39</th>
<th>Miscellaneous biographical materials, 1904-1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copy of birth certificate (1904), marriage license (1930); awards; pedigree of Hoffman's dog; minutes from the Sixteen Club (1959-1969), booklet on the Francisca Club; inventory of jewelry and coins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ctn. 2

SERIES 3: Family Papers

Arrangement
The Family Papers are divided into three sub-series: A.P. Giannini, Clorinda "Clara" Cuneo, and miscellaneous family papers.

Scope and Content Note
The materials about A.P. Giannini, Hoffman's father, consist mostly of clippings about Giannini; a small amount of correspondence; and materials relating to A.P. Giannini commemorative programs and the A.P. Giannini stamp. The materials relating to Hoffman's mother, Clorinda Agnes Cuneo Giannini (also called "Clara" Cuneo) include a book of school work completed as a student at Notre Dame College; a book of autographs and texts written by friends; and a memoriam commemorating her death. There are some miscellaneous materials relating to other family members such as Anne Giannini, granddaughter of A.P. Giannini, and Clifford P. Hoffman, Claire Giannini Hoffman's husband.

Ctn. 2, folders 1-7


Arrangement
Each folder is divided according to subject, then arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Includes clippings about A.P. Giannini; a small amount of correspondence; and materials relating to commemorative programs and the A.P. Giannini postal stamp.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>carton 2, folder 1</th>
<th>Correspondence, 1916, n.d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 2-4</td>
<td>Clippings, 1924-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 5</td>
<td>Miscellaneous biographical materials, 1930-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 6</td>
<td>A.P. Giannini commemorative program, 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 7</td>
<td>A.P. Giannini postage stamp, 1973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ctn. 2, folders 8-10

Clorinda Agnes Cuneo Giannini (also called "Clara Cuneo"), ca. 1895-1941

Arrangement
Divided by subject, then arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>carton 2, folder 8</th>
<th>School work by Clorinda Cuneo, ca. 1895</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 9</td>
<td>Autograph book, 1887-1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 10</td>
<td>Memoriam for Clorinda A. Giannini, 1941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ctn. 2, folder 11

Miscellaneous family papers, 1916-1989

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Materials relating to Anne Giannini and Clifford P. Hoffman.

| carton 2, folder 11 | Miscellaneous, 1916-1989 |