Guide to the Marjorie Armstrong Family Papers

Finding aid was created by Russell Michalak, 2009
Ella Strong Denison Library
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October 2009
Descriptive Summary

Title: Marjorie Armstrong Family Papers
Creator: Armstrong, Marjorie
Dates: 1809-1974
Extent: 13 boxes
Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library.
1090 Columbia Avenue
Claremont, California 91711

Abstract: Marjorie Armstrong (1907-1991) graduated from Pomona College (1938) and was director of the Mary B. Eyre School from 1936-1939. Correspondence written to Armstrong from her mother, Sarah Louise Armstrong, makes up a substantial portion of the collection. Also included are her school and college ephemera and records from Claremont High School, Pomona College and Smith College; diaries of both mother and daughter (1929-1973); correspondence and documents from the courtship and marriage of Sarah Louise Armstrong (née Peet) and Dr. Frank T. Armstrong, D.D.S; and some material related to William W. Peet, a prominent missionary and relative of Sarah Louise and Marjorie Armstrong.

Collection Number: D19xx.619_armstrong.ead.xml
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Physical Location: Ella Strong Denison Library, Scripps College, Claremont University Consortium.

Restrictions on Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Marjorie Armstrong Family Papers. Ella Strong Denison Library, Scripps College, Claremont, California.

Acquisition Information
Unknown.

Processing Information
Processed by Laura Irmer for Archival Studies 311, Claremont Graduate University, Spring 2009.

Accruals
No addition to the collection is anticipated.

Biography of Marjorie Armstrong

Marjorie Ruth Armstrong was born April 5, 1907 and passed away in July 1991. Her parents were Sarah Louise Armstrong, née Peet, (1880-1973) and Frank T. Armstrong (1870-1914); the two were married on September 28, 1904. Her mother was both a teacher and an artist and her father was a dentist. With her mother and younger brother George Bennett Armstrong (1909-?), she moved to California from Iowa in 1921 and the family settled in Claremont in 1922. She graduated from Claremont High School in 1924. Her undergraduate studies were completed at Pomona College and she received her B.A in 1928. While at Pomona College she was a member of the Women's Glee Club. Following her graduation from Pomona College, she attended Smith College in New Hampshire and received an M.A in Early Childhood Education in 1929. From 1936-1939 she served as director of the Mary B. Eyre School, a model nursery school, at Scripps College. It appears that she never married. Throughout her life, she was highly active in early childhood education, specifically in the state of California and was involved in the founding of several nursery schools. She appears to have been highly involved in the church and was likely a supporter of missionary activities, specifically with an organization by the name of Christian World Missions. In addition a relative on her mother's side was William W. Peet, a prominent member of the missionary community, specifically in the 'East.'

Sources for Biographical note: Hand written document of family history in box 11, folder 11, as well as Ken Counselman's, "The Mary B. Eyre Children's School: An Administrative History," PhD diss., 1986

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection covers the time period from circa 1809-1974. The collection is divided into two series: Marjorie Armstrong Papers; and Sarah Louise Armstrong Papers. The general organization of each series is in descending order: record type and within that whenever possible arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. The oldest item in the collection is a...
family record book from circa 1809. A primary component of the collection consists of letters written to Marjorie Armstrong by her mother Sarah Louise Armstrong with the bulk of this from 1960-1969. Other correspondents are represented in the collection as well, but without the same frequency observed in the correspondence from mother to daughter. Of note in terms of correspondence, there are letters relating to the courtship between Dr. Frank T. Armstrong, D.D.S and Sarah Louise Armstrong (née Peet) from circa 1904. Additionally, there are journals belonging to both Marjorie Armstrong and her mother. These range in date from 1929-1973 and help document each woman’s day-to-day life. The collection also includes assignments completed by Marjorie Armstrong in the course of her education, as well as ephemera related to graduating from the secondary and higher education institutions she attended. Other items of interest include the marriage of certificate of Marjorie Armstrong’s parents and the father’s certificate upon receiving his degree in dentistry from Northwestern University.

Series Arrangement
The Marjorie Armstrong Family Papers have been divided into two series: the papers of Marjorie Armstrong and the papers of her mother Sarah Louise Armstrong. The Marjorie Armstrong Papers are further divided into three sub-series: correspondence; school and personal records; and diaries. The following are the sub-series for the Sarah Louise Armstrong Papers: correspondence; family records; and diaries. Within these two series, the materials are grouped by record type and chronologically whenever possible within these groupings. Additionally, in the correspondence, the letters are arranged alphabetically by sender and within this chronologically. The suggestion for this organization was taken from the limited organization given the collection by its record creator. The correspondence was roughly grouped together in a suitcase belonging to Marjorie Armstrong, the diaries were grouped together in one box, and the family and school papers were together in another box. The majority of the letters in this collection were bundled/grouped by Ms. Armstrong by year. This bundling allowed for the assignment of a year to certain letters that were not accompanied by an envelope with postmark. In terms of the correspondence, the date on the letter is given preference to the postmark date. When the letter is not dated but has an envelope complete with postmark this is the date used. Eight of the letters from Marjorie Armstrong’s correspondence and one letter from Sarah Louise Armstrong’s correspondence were too long for a letter-sized document box and have accordingly been moved to a legal-sized document box. This is also noted in the relevant sections on the container list of this finding aid. There also several letters addressed to both Marjorie and Sarah Louise Armstrong. These letters have been filed with the correspondence of Sarah Louise Armstrong.

Series 1 Marjorie Armstrong Papers
Subseries 1.1 Correspondence
Subseries 1.2 School and Personal Records
Subseries 1.3 Diaries
Series 2 Sarah Louise Armstrong Papers
Subseries 2.1 Correspondence
Subseries 2.2 Family Records
Subseries 2.3 Diaries

Related Material


Subject Headings
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection
Armstrong, Marjorie
Armstrong, Sarah Louise
Pomona College
Smith College
Women’s studies
Western Americana -- 1900-1999
diaries

Series 1 Marjorie Armstrong papers, 1809-1974
Subseries 1.1 Correspondence, 1913-1974
Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence to Marjorie Armstrong. Primary correspondent is her mother, Sarah Louise Armstrong.

Box 6, folder 4
Armstrong, Catherine, 1967
Scope and Content Note
1 letter.

Box 6, folder 5
Armstrong, Frank T., 1913
Scope and Content Note
1 postcard.

Box 6, folder 6
Armstrong, George Bennett, 1953-1969, undated
Scope and Content Note
7 letters.

Box 6, folder 7
Armstrong, Jon and Jeanne, 1963, 1966, undated
Scope and Content Note
4 letters.

Box 1, folder 1
Armstrong, Sarah Louise, ca. 1913
Scope and Content Note
3 postcards, 2 letters.

Box 1, folder 2
Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1958-1962
Scope and Content Note
11 letters.
Note
(See also box 12, Folder 5 for circa 1961 September 5).

Box 1, folder 3
Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1962-1963
Scope and Content Note
13 letters.
Note
(See also box 12, Folder 5 for 1963 May 6).

Box 1, folder 4
Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1963
Scope and Content Note
11 letters.

Box 1, folder 5
Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1963
Scope and Content Note
12 letters.

Box 1, folder 6
Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1963
Scope and Content Note
12 letters.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Armstrong, Sarah Louise,</th>
<th>Scope and Content Note</th>
<th>Letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, folder 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1963-1964</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, folder 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>1964</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2, folder 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1964</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2, folder 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1964-1965</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>2, folder 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>1965</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, folder 6</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3, folder 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1965</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
<td>(See also box 12, Folder 5 for 1965 June 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>3, folder 2</td>
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<td>1965</td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, folder 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1965-1966</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Armstrong, Sarah Louise</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>13 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>11 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>13 letters.            Note (See also box 12, Folder 5 for 1968 February 16).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>13 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1968-1969</td>
<td>12 letters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 5, folder 2

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1969**
Scope and Content Note
12 letters.

Box 5, folder 3

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1969**
Scope and Content Note
13 letters.

Box 5, folder 4

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1969**
Scope and Content Note
12 letters.

Box 12, folder 5

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1960-1969**
Scope and Content Note
8 letters.
Note
Oversized.

Box 5, folder 5

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, ca. 1964**
Scope and Content Note
14 letters.
Note
(See also box 12, Folder 5 for 1 letter circa 1964)

Box 5, folder 6

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1965-1967**
Scope and Content Note
16 letters.

Box 5, folder 7

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, 1968-1969**
Scope and Content Note
14 letters.

Box 6, folder 1

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, Undated**
Scope and Content Note
12 letters.
Note
(See also box 12, Folder 5 for [no year] June 9)

Box 6, folder 2

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, Undated**
Scope and Content Note
13 letters.

Box 6, folder 3

**Armstrong, Sarah Louise, Undated**
Scope and Content Note
12 letters.

Box 6, folder 8

**Hall, Mrs. John, Undated**
Scope and Content Note
1 letter.
Box 6, folder 9  [Hall?], Nela, 1974
Scope and Content Note
1 letters.

Box 6, folder 10  Mikami, Ikuko, 1968
Scope and Content Note
4 letters, 1 postcard.

Box 6, folder 11  Ratschat, Ingrid, 1957-1969
Scope and Content Note
5 letters. Includes letters from sponsored child and sponsorship material from Save
the Children Federation, Inc. Two of the sponsored child's letters are in German and
are accompanied by English translation.

Box 6, folder 12  Updike, Mrs. [?], 1908
Scope and Content Note
1 postcard.

Box 6, folder 13  surname], Elizabeth, 1928
Scope and Content Note
1 card.

Box 6, folder 14  surname], Sarah, 1909
Scope and Content Note
1 postcard.

Box 6, folder 15  Miscellaneous Envelopes and utility bills

Subseries 1.2 School and Personal Papers, 1917-1929
Scope and Content Note
Contains records and ephemera related to Marjorie Armstrong's school career. These are
related to attendance Claremont High School, Pomona College, Smith College and various
other schools attended.

Box 10, folder 1  Claremont High School, 1922-1924
Scope and Content Note
Includes her High school Diploma, Newspaper clippings related to her graduating
class, Draft of graduation speech she gave entitled "World Wide Vision".

Box 10, folder 2  Graduation Cards, 1924
Box 10, folder 3  Pomona College, 1924-1928
Scope and Content Note
Includes class of 1928 graduation programs and Marjorie Armstrong's acceptance
letter to school.

Box 10, folder 4  Pomona College Art Appreciation Notebook, 1928
Box 10, folder 5  Pomona College Assignments and Glee Club, 1924-1928
Box 12, folder 1  Pomona College Scrapbook-Loose Material, 1924-1928
Box 12, folder 2  Pomona College Scrapbook, 1924-1928
Box 10, folder 6  Smith College, 1928-1929
Box 10, folder 7  Miscellaneous School Records, 1917-1919
Scope and Content Note
Includes a photograph that might possibly be of Marjorie Armstrong and report cards.
Series 1 Marjorie Armstrong papers, 1809-1974
Subseries 1.2 School and Personal Papers, 1917-1929

Box 10, folder 8  Miscellaneous personal records and ephemera

Subseries 1.3 Diaries, 1929-1972

Box 7, folder 1  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1929
Box 7, folder 2  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1930-1934
Box 7, folder 3  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1935-1938, 1940
Box 7, folder 4  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1941-1945
Box 7, folder 5  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1946-1949
Box 7, folder 6  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1951
Box 7, folder 7  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1961
Box 7, folder 8  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1962
Box 7, folder 9  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1963
Box 7, folder 10  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1964
Box 7, folder 11  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1965
Box 7, folder 12  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1966
Box 7, folder 13  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1967
Box 7, folder 14  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1968
Box 7, folder 15  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1969
Box 7, folder 16  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1970
Box 7, folder 17  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1971
Box 7, folder 18  Marjorie Armstrong Diary, 1972

Series 2 Sarah Louise Armstrong Papers, 1897-1969

Subseries 2.1 Correspondence, 1897-1969

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence is from a variety of senders. Of especial interest are the courtship letters between Sarah Louise and Frank T Armstrong. Represented are postcards sent by Marjorie Armstrong to her mother, during a brief separation in 1913. Also, a prominent individual represented in the correspondence is William W. Peet.

Box 11, folder 1  Armstrong, Frank T. (recipient), 1904
Scope and Content Note
5 letters.

Box 11, folder 2  Armstrong, Frank T. (sender), 1904
Scope and Content Note
3 letters.

Box 11, folder 3  Armstrong, Jeanne, 1969
Scope and Content Note
3 letters.

Box 11, folder 4  Armstrong, Jon, 1963, undated,
Scope and Content Note
15 letters.
Scope and Content Note
Includes letters addressed to Sarah Louise Armstrong and Marjorie Armstrong, as well as letters signed from Jon and Jeanne Armstrong.

Box 11, folder 5  Armstrong, Marjorie, circa 1913, circa 1969
Scope and Content Note
7 postcards, 8 letters.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 12, folder 4</th>
<th>Armstrong, Marjorie, circa 1913, circa 1969</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 postcards, 8 letters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 6</th>
<th>Peet, [?].W., 1897</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 letter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 7</th>
<th>Peet, Mary, 1913-1914, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 letter, 2 postcards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 8</th>
<th>Peet, William W., 1927-1942</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 letters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 9</th>
<th>[no surname], Elizabeth, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 letters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 10</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Senders, A-Z, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 letters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Subseries 2.2 Family Records, 1809-1970**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes material related to Frank T. Armstrong's graduation from Northwestern University Dental School, Sarah Louise and Frank T. Armstrong marriage certificate, a typed copy of a suicide note from an unnamed male member of the Armstrong family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 11</th>
<th>Family Documents and Ephemera, 1896-1960</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes clippings on William W. Peet, materials related to Frank T. Armstrong's graduation from Northwestern University Dental School, Frank T. Armstrong and Sarah Louise Armstrong's wedding book, and a handwritten document with a brief history of the Armstrong family.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 12</th>
<th>Miscellaneous Family Ephemera, circa 1900-circa 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content Note</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes clippings on William W. Peet, materials related to Frank T. Armstrong's graduation from Northwestern University Dental School, Frank T. Armstrong and Sarah Louise Armstrong's wedding book, and a handwritten document with a brief history of the Armstrong family.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 13</th>
<th>Family Poetry, 1900-1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, folder 14</th>
<th>Unsigned Suicide note, 1936 August 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Subseries 2.3 Diaries, 1929-1973

Scope and Content Note
The two cash books included give insight into Sarah Louise Armstrong's income and expenditures. Listed is the amount she received for some of her paintings.

Box 8, folder 1  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1929
Box 8, folder 2  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1931
Box 8, folder 3  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1932
Box 8, folder 4  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1934
Box 8, folder 5  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1935
Box 8, folder 6  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1936
Box 8, folder 7  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1937
Box 8, folder 8  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1938
Box 8, folder 9  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1939
Box 8, folder 10  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1942
Box 8, folder 11  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1943
Box 8, folder 12  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1944
Box 8, folder 13  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1945
Box 8, folder 14  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1946
Box 8, folder 15  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1947
Box 8, folder 16  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1948
Box 8, folder 17  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1949
Box 8, folder 18  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1950
Box 8, folder 19  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1952
Box 8, folder 20  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1953
Box 8, folder 21  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1954
Box 8, folder 22  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1955
Box 8, folder 23  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1956
Box 8, folder 24  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1957
Box 9, folder 1  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1958
Box 9, folder 2  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1959
Box 9, folder 3  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1960
Box 9, folder 4  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1961
Box 9, folder 5  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1962
Box 9, folder 6  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1963
Box 9, folder 7  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1964
Box 9, folder 8  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1965
Box 9, folder 9  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1966
Box 9, folder 10  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1967
Box 9, folder 11  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1968
Box 9, folder 12  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1969
Box 9, folder 13  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1970
Box 9, folder 14  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1971
Box 9, folder 15  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1972
Box 9, folder 16  Sarah Louise Armstrong Diary, 1973
Box 9, folder 17  Cash Book, 1946-1951
Box 9, folder 16  Cash Book, 1952-1956