
Catherine Cooper papers

Finding aid prepared by Katriona Lawrenson

Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Catherine Cooper papers

Dates: 1927 November 11 - 1976 January 24

Collection number: H.Mss.1108

Creator: Catherine Cooper

Extent: 5 Linear Feet(2 records boxes, 1 document box, 1 oversized document box, 1 flat box)

Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library. Claremont, CA 91711

Abstract: The Catherine Cooper Papers offer an in depth insight into the life of one woman living in the early 20th Century, preserving her reflections on life, love, and education. Cooper was an avid writer from an early age who submitted essays to the Pioneer Press paper and wrote short stories. She also kept detailed diaries from her teenage years and the letters she wrote to her friends and families, which make up the bulk of the collection. There is also an abundance of ephemera she collected throughout her life to remember her time as a student at the University of Minnesota and as a teacher at Marshall High School, Minnesota.

Please consult repository.

Language of Material: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to reproduce or to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Catherine Cooper Papers (Collection H.Mss.1108). Special Collections, The Claremont Colleges Library, Claremont, California.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Stewart S. Johnson, 2018.

Accruals

No additions to the collection are anticipated.

Processing Information

Processed in 2018 by Katriona Lawrenson in the Special Collections branch of the Honnold Mudd Library with assistance from Sara Chetney. Materials have been reboxed in acid free folders and boxes. Materials have been organized alphabetically by type, and then chronologically within each type.

Biographical / Historical

The Catherine Cooper papers came to the library through a donor who came across the materials while clearing out an old storage unit. The collection begins with Catherine Cooper's diaries at the age of 12, in which she writes about her time at school, her relationships with teachers, friends and family and her hopes for the future, including becoming a teacher and a writer. The scrapbook of her essay submissions to the Pioneer Press newspaper also reflect this, as she enthusiastically contributed to the competition in order to improve her writing. From there, she went on to study at the University of Minnesota in the late 1930s. Her scrapbooks demonstrate she was actively involved in student life, both socially and politically, as well as the theater department. Around 1940, she began working as an English teacher at Marshall High School in Minnesota, helping to direct school plays. In April of that year, she was involved in a serious car crash which resulted in medical treatment and a legal battle. When America joined World War II in 1941, Cooper exchanged letters with her past students, as well as her brother Gus Cooper, who were all drafted, with her brother serving in North Africa. In that same year, her letters detail how she fell in love with and eventually married a man called Arthur Raine. The rest of the collection mainly comprises of their correspondence to each other and correspondence with his family. In January 1945, she suffered a miscarriage and had to go into hospital, and she kept all of the letters she exchanged in that time. Into the 1950s and beyond, the collection is sparser, but she kept newspaper clippings which discussed the involvement of school students in the Vietnam War protests as well as a few letters and articles.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials related to the personal life of Catherine Cooper. The majority of the collection is comprised of her diaries and correspondence between family and friends. There are also two scrapbooks, containing items laid-in such as newspaper clippings and programs from productions at the University of Minnesota and Marshall High School, Minnesota. Other folders also contain playbills, theatre programs and magazines, reflecting her interests. She

collected assorted ephemera from her life including newspaper clippings, postcards, photographs of friends, leaflets from her travels, tickets from transport and shows, receipts and napkins. Also contains ephemera from her time as a teacher, including test papers, copies of students work and announcements, and drafts of her own writing.

Indexing Terms

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

Subject Terms

Women's studies

History

Genre and Form of Materials

Diaries

Ephemera

Newspapers

Pamphlets

Photographic postcards

Playbills

Scrapbooks

Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1 **Correspondence: Cooper, Catherine 1943 April 14 - 1944 March 29**

Box 1, Folder 2 **Correspondence: Drafts**

Box 1, Folder 3 **Correspondence: Raine, Arthur 1941 June 2 - 1941 June 30**

Box 1, Folder 4 **Correspondence: Raine, Arthur 1941 July 1 - 1941 August 4**

Box 1, Folder 5 **Correspondence: Raine, Arthur 1942 August 8**

Box 1, Folder 6 **Correspondence: Raine family 1943 February 27 - 1944 August 12**

Box 1, Folder 7 **Correspondence: Raine family**

Box 1, Folder 8 **Correspondence: Time in Hospital (1 of 2) 1945 Jan 13 - 1945 Jan 16**

Box 1, Folder 9 **Correspondence: Time in Hospital (2 of 2) 1945 Jan 16 - 1945 Jan 19**

Box 1, Folder 10 **Correspondence 1935 October 16 - 1939 September 30**

Box 1, Folder 11 **Correspondence 1940 February 1 - 1940 December 27**

Note

Some of the correspondence arrived unopened and were opened by library staff. There is a note on the sling on the item indicating as such.

Box 1, Folder 12 **Correspondence 1941 February 14 - 1941 June 22**

Note

Some of the correspondence arrived unopened and were opened by library staff. There is a note on the sling on the item indicating as such.

Box 1, Folder 13 **Correspondence 1954 December 20 - 1973 November 6**

Box 1, Folder 14 **Correspondence**

Note

Some of the correspondence arrived unopened and were opened by library staff. There is a note on the sling on the item indicating as such.

Box 2, Folder 1 **Diary 1927 November 5 - 1928 March 3**

Note

Contains delicate flowers which require care when turning the page.

Box 2, Folder 2 **Diary 1928 March 3 - 1928 July 3**

Note

Contains delicate flowers which require care when turning the page.

Box 2, Folder 3	Diary 1928 July 5 - 1928 December 31 Note Contains delicate flowers which require care when turning the page.
Box 2, Folder 4	Diary 1929 June 9 - 1929 December 13 Note Contains delicate flowers which require care when turning the page.
Box 2, Folder 5	Diary 1929 December 19 - 1930 January 10
Box 2, Folder 6	Diary 1930 January 17 - 1930 February 20
Box 2, Folder 7	Diary 1930 February 20 - 1930 March 15
Box 2, Folder 8	Diary 1930 March 16 - 1930 May 19
Box 2, Folder 9	Diary 1930 May 19 - 1930 July 1
Box 2, Folder 10	Diary 1930 July 12 - 1930 September 2
Box 2, Folder 11	Diary 1930 September 2 - 1930 December 1
Box 2, Folder 12	Diary 1930 December 25 - 1931 May 29
Box 2, Folder 13	Diary 1931 May 31 - 1931 September 12 Note Contains delicate items which require care when turning the page.
Box 2, Folder 14	Diary 1938 July 22
Box 3, Folder 1	Diary: Memories of School Days Note Contains delicate flowers which require care when turning the page.
Box 3, Folder 2	Diary: Scribble-In Trade Mark Book 1940-1941
Box 3, Folder 3	Diary, items laid in: (1 of 3) 1928 July 5 - 1938 July 22
Box 3, Folder 4	Diary, items laid in: Memories of School Days and Scribble-In Trade Mark Book (2 of 3) 1940 October
Box 3, Folder 5	Diary, items laid in: Scribble-In Trade Mark Book (3 of 3) 1941 January 22 - 1941 September 27
Box 1, Folder 15	Magazines and Pamphlets 1944 January - 1971 November
Box 1, Folder 16	Newspaper Clippings: 'An American Family' (1 of 2) 1973 February 17 - 1973 March 15
Box 5, Folder 7	Newspaper Clippings: 'An American Family' (2 of 2) 1973 February 18
Box 1, Folder 17	Newspaper Clippings: Kelly Cherry
Box 1, Folder 18	Newspaper Clippings: Personal (1 of 5) 1940 April 5 - 1976 January 24
Box 5, Folder 2	Newspaper Clippings: Personal (2 of 5) 1972 February 4
Box 5, Folder 3	Newspaper Clippings: Personal (3 of 5)
Box 5, Folder 4	Newspaper Clippings: Personal (4 of 5)
Box 5, Folder 8	Newspaper Clippings: Personal (5 of 5) 1971 September 29
Box 1, Folder 19	Newspaper Clippings: Political (1 of 3)
Box 5, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings: Political (2 of 3)
Box 5, Folder 9	Newspaper Clippings: Political (3 of 3) 1973 February 25
Box 1, Folder 20	Personal Notes
Box 1, Folder 21	Personal Papers: Travel (1 of 2) 1940 August 2 - 1940 August 7
Box 1, Folder 22	Personal Papers: Travel (2 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 23	Personal Papers: University of Minnesota
Box 1, Folder 24	Personal Papers
Box 1, Folder 25	Personal Records: Car Crash 1940 April
Box 1, Folder 26	Photographs and Postcards
Box 1, Folder 27	Publications: Playbills
Box 1, Folder 28	Publications: Playgoer Magazine
Box 5, Folder 6	Publications: Radio City Music Hall
Box 1, Folder 30	Publications 1941 January 3 - 1941 June
Box 1, Folder 30	Publications

Box 4, Folder 1	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Correspondence 1935 December - 1936 February
Box 4, Folder 2	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Ephemera (1 of 3)
Box 4, Folder 3	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Ephemera (2 of 3)
Box 4, Folder 4	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Ephemera (3 of 3)
Box 5, Folder 1	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Newspaper 1936
Box 4, Folder 5	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Newspaper Clippings 1935 - 1936 February
Box 4, Folder 6	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: Programs
Box 4, Folder 7	Scrapbook, University of Minnesota, items laid in: University of Minnesota Ephemera 1936 January - 1936 June
Box 4, Folder 8	Scrapbook: Pioneer Press 1925 December 14 - 1926 November 7 Note Page numbers written in by library staff.
Box 4, Folder 9	Scrapbook: University of Minnesota (1 of 2) Note Contains delicate clippings which require care when unfolding. Page numbers written in by library staff.
Box 4, Folder 10	Scrapbook: University of Minnesota (2 of 2) Note Contains delicate clippings which require care when unfolding. Page numbers written in by library staff.
Box 1, Folder 31	Teaching Records: (1 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 32	Teaching Records: (2 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 33	Writing