Jessamyn West Collection

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Whittier College - Wardman Library
7031 Founders Hill Road
Whittier, California 90602
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2020
Descriptive Summary
Title: Jessamyn West Collection  
Dates: 1920-1990  
Collection Number: Coll.2014.001  
Creator/Collector: West, Jessamyn Milhous family  
Extent: 226 linear feet.  
Repository: Whittier College - Wardman Library  
Whittier, California 90602  
Language of Material: English  
Access  
Jessamyn West's diaries are closed to researchers until 2050, at the bequest of Ms. West and her family. All other materials in the collection are open for research.  
Publication Rights  
Authorization to publish, quote, or reproduce must be obtained from Wardman Library, Whittier College.  
Preferred Citation  
Jessamyn West Collection. Whittier College - Wardman Library  
Acquisition Information  
The collection was donated in its entirety by Jessamyn West and posthumously by her family.  
Biography/Administrative History  
Mary Jessamyn West, or Jessamyn West as she was mainly known, (1902-1984) was a Quaker author, born in Indiana and raised in Whittier, Calif. She is best known for her first published book, The Friendly Persuasion, which features Quaker characters. This book was also adapted into a feature film, for which she helped pen a screenplay. Notably, she also published The Quaker Reader, Cress Delahanty, Double Discovery: A Journey, The Massacre at Fall Creek, The Witch Diggers, various poems, short stories, articles, and screenplays. She wrote mainly about feminism, women's issues, and Quaker life. In 1932, West suffered from tuberculosis and was subsequently sent to a sanitarium to recover. Her time battling tuberculosis, both in the sanitarium and at home in the care of her mother, was instrumental in shaping her life and her writing. Ms. West was second cousin to President Richard M. Nixon, and a fellow alumnus of Whittier College. Later in life Jessamyn moved to Napa Valley, Calif. with her husband, where she died in 1984 due to complications from a stroke.  
Scope and Content of Collection  
Indexing Terms  
Quaker women  
Quaker authors  
Quakers in literature  
Quakers  
Authors, American  
Women's studies  
West, Jessamyn  
Milhous family  
Whittier College (Whittier, Calif.)  
Indiana  
Napa County (Calif.)  
Whittier (Calif.)  
Short Stories Manuscripts.