Descriptive Summary

Creator: Borsum, Marjorie Kelly
Title: Marjorie Kelly Borsum Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1927 - 1966
Extent: 0.40 linear feet(1 archives box)

Abstract: Correspondence (1927-28) from Marjorie Kelly (Borsum) to family members during a year traveling in Europe and North Africa and a year living in Paris. Correspondence (1929-65) to Marjorie Kelly Borsum from one of Picasso's former mistresses, Fernande Olivier, from Mme. Asselin announcing Olivier's death, and a letter from Havelock Ellis. Also included is a photo of Olivier and an art exhibition broadside from Paris.

La Jolla, California 92093-0175

Collection number: MSS 0116
Language of Material: Collection materials in English

Access
Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information
Not Available

Preferred Citation
Marjorie Kelly Borsum Papers, MSS 0116. Mandeville Special Collections Library, UCSD.

Publication Rights
Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Biography
Marjorie Kelly was born in November 1904 in a part of San Diego County just east of Carlsbad known then as Rancho Agua Hedionda. She attended San Diego High School, graduating in 1921, and received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and her master of arts degree from the University of Southern California.

Between 1927 and 1929, Marjorie Kelly traveled in Europe and North Africa with Kate Frost, the two finally settling in Paris for the winter (1928-29) as tenants in the home of Mlle. Guillemin. During the Paris winter, Kelly took French lessons two or three times per week from Fernande Olivier, who had met Picasso in 1903, lived with him for many years, and whose friends and neighbors still called her "Mme. Picasso."

Kelly eventually married Adolph "Red" Borsum, a career navy dentist, and together they lived in, among other locales, American Samoa and Japan. During her life, Marjorie Kelly Borsum became an arts professor at San Diego State College and was a member of the Asian Arts Committee of the San Diego Fine Arts Society. She died in Solana Beach in May 1978.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Marjorie Kelly Borsum Papers comprise .4 cubic feet (1 archives box) and are arranged in two series.

CORRESPONDENCE represents two bundles of letters and cards: the first, numerous cards and letters from Borsum to various family members during her two years abroad in Europe and North Africa (1927-29), including her mother, Mrs. Robert J. (Eliza Witty) Kelly; her sister, Emily; her brothers, Robert Dewey, Stanley, and Carroll. Kelly Borsum recounts the day-to-day trials and pleasures of life abroad, and details both locales and individuals visited.

The second bundle is comprised of 30 letters (1929-65 and undated) from Fernande Olivier to Borsum over the course of their friendship, which lasted nearly 40 years. Olivier talks of life with Picasso, mentions mutual friends, along with famous names such as Alice B. Toklas (who also took French lessons from Olivier), and laments economic hardships and life during WWII.

Included in CORRESPONDENCE is one letter from Borsum to Olivier. Two additional letters can be found in the collection, as well: one from Mme. Asselin, a friend of Olivier's, informing Borsum of Olivier's death in 1966, and one from Havelock Ellis in response to Borsum's inquiry regarding a possible connection between the color red and "inversion."

MISCELLANEOUS consists of two items: a small photo of Fernande Olivier and a broadside announcing an art exhibition at the Moderne Académie in Paris.

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

Subjects
Borsum, Marjorie Kelly -- Archives
Olivier, Fernande
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
Photographic prints -- 20th Century

**Contributors**
Olivier, Fernande -- correspondent

---

**CORRESPONDENCE**

box 1, folder 1  
**Madame Asselin 1966**
Note
To Marjorie Kelly Borsum

box 1, folder 2  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1929**
Note
To Carroll Kelly

box 1, folder 3  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1929**
Note
To Dewey Kelly

box 1, folder 4  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1928 - 1929**
Note
To Emily Kelly

box 1, folder 5  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1927 - 1928**
Note
To Mrs. Robert Kelly

box 1, folder 6  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1929**
Note
To Mrs. Robert Kelly

box 1, folder 7  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum**
Note
To Mrs. Robert Kelly, undated/partially dated

box 1, folder 8  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1928**
Note
To Stanley Kelly

box 1, folder 9  
**Marjorie Kelly Borsum 1966**
Note
To Fernande Olivier

box 1, folder 10  
**Havelock Ellis 1937**
Note
To Marjorie Kelly Borsum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| box 1, folder 11 | **Fernande Olivier 1929 - 1949**  
Note  
To Marjorie Kelly Borsum |
| box 1, folder 12 | **Fernande Olivier 1950 - 1965**  
Note  
To Marjorie Kelly Borsum, 1950-1965 and undated |
| box 1, folder 13 | **Photograph (Fernande Olivier) and Broadside**  
Note  
Announcement of Paris art exhibition at the Moderne Academie, n.d. |