Finding aid for the Elizabeth Corbett papers 0148

Finding aid prepared by Natalie Camacho
USC Libraries Special Collections
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2014 February
Title: Elizabeth Corbett papers
Collection number: 0148
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.42 Linear feet1 box
Date (inclusive): 1952-1969
Abstract: Correspondence between novelist Elizabeth Corbett (b. 1887, Aurora, Ill., d. 1981, New York, NY) and Laura Burmeister; includes typescript poems.
creator: Burmeister, Laura E.
creator: Corbett, Elizabeth Frances, 1887-
Preferred Citation [Box/folder# or item name], Elizabeth Corbett papers, Collection no. 0148, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Conditions Governing Access COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. Advance notice required for access.
Acquisition Gift of Laura Burmeister.
Biographical note Elizabeth Corbett was born in Aurora, Illinois in 1887 and lived with her family in the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Milwaukeer. She was awarded a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1910, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Corbett wrote a series of popular historical or period novels. Her books were especially popular among women. She died January 24, 1981 at age 93.
Scope and Content This collection consists of writings by Elizabeth Corbett. It includes both correspondence between Corbett and servicemen in Korea who advertised in newspapers requesting letters, and correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and Laura E. Burmeister. Many of these letters include poems by Corbett and newspaper clippings. The correspondence between Corbett and Burmeister is generally about Corbett's daily life. She often makes references to the Model School, which both Corbett and Burmeister attended. In addition to information about the lives of servicemen in Korea, this collection contains information about the declining state of the newspaper business and newspaper strikes (1.22, 2.11) in the United States.
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Subjects and Indexing Terms Burmeister, Laura E.-- Archives
Corbett, Elizabeth Frances, 1887-- Archives
Authors, American--20th century--Archival resources
Clippings
Correspondence
Poems

Correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and servicemen in Korea

Box 1, Folder 3

Soldiers' Appeal for Letters and Elizabeth Corbett's Response 1952 November 24

Scope and Content A group of soldiers in Korea wrote to a newspaper asking for people to write them letters. Corbett responded describing what they would do if they visited her apartment in Greenwich Village.
Correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and John M. Griffin 1952 December 8-1953 January 9

Scope and Content
Griffin's letter includes a brief history of his life, including his time in the merchant marine that began when he was 15. Corbett's letter includes stories about what was going on at the time and about her neighbors.

Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Mr. Ceely 1952 December 10

Scope and Content
Corbett's response to an appeal for letters. It describes what they would do if Ceely visited her apartment in Greenwich Village.

Correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and Edward G. Ceely 1952 December 16-1953 January 12

Scope and Content
Ceely's letter includes biographical information about himself, including information on his service in the Air Force. He describes his warehousing job on a Navy base on the Aleutian islands. Corbett's response addresses some of what Ceely wrote about. She also writes about her holiday season in New York.

Photograph of Ceely enclosed.

Marines' Appeal for Letters and Elizabeth Corbett's Response 1953 January 20

Scope and Content
A group of soldiers in Korea wrote to a newspaper asking for people to write them letters. Corbett responded with information about herself and described what they would do if they visited her apartment in Greenwich Village.

Letter from Phill Neeley to Elizabeth Corbett 1953 January 22

Scope and Content
The letter includes information about Neeley's life before the war.

Correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and Bill Rice 1953 May 17-November 23

Scope and Content
Rice writes about a letter from Corbett that he read that was not addressed to him. He writes that he was interested in Corbett's writing because he also wrote sometimes. He tells of the uneasiness that the servicemen feel and that letters are the only link they have between where they are and home. Corbett's response tells of the different events going on in her life at the time.

Letter from Richard D. Treadwell to Elizabeth Corbett 1953 August 28

Scope and Content
Treadwell writes about his aspirations of becoming a writer. He studied Journalism for two years until he had to go to Korea.

Photographs from Korea enclosed.

Correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and Laura E. Burmeister

Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1960 August 29

Scope and Content
The letter includes Corbett's response about the two of them planning to meet. Corbett writes a bit about where she lives.
Correspondence between Elizabeth Corbett and Laura E. Burmeister

Box 1, Folder 12
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1961 February 5
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about some of the women they knew growing up and about living in New York.

Box 1, Folder 13
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1961 March 20
Scope and Content
Corbett provides information about the Model School, which both she and Burmeister attended, and about some of the children who also attended it. She mentions her new novel, Hidden Island.
Poem "For Your Easter" enclosed.

Box 1, Folder 14
Letter/poem from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1961 December
Scope and Content
Holiday poem.

Box 1, Folder 15
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1962 January 10
Scope and Content
Corbett expresses her distaste for political correctness.
Newspaper clipping "Through My Bi-Focals" enclosed.

Box 1, Folder 16
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1962 March 15
Scope and Content
Corbett mentions the article that she wrote for The Writer (1.2). She analyzes lines from poems and books she had to read in school. She talks about her grandfather who was adopted into the Oenida tribe.
Poems "Domestic Crisis," "Epitaph," and "Lenten Interlude" enclosed.

Box 1, Folder 17
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1962 April 14
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about someone she went to school with.
Poem "All My Best to You" and newspaper clippings "Historic Homes Thrill Retirees" and "Mildred Lindsay No Social Butterfly" enclosed.

Box 1, Folder 18
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1962 July 12
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about news that her brother passed on to her about his grandson's high school graduation. She mentions that her new novel The Paige Girls had been published the previous month.

Box 1, Folder 19
Poem by Elizabeth Corbett with note addressed to Laura E. Burmeister 1962 December 6
Scope and Content
Poem "Compliments of the Season."

Box 1, Folder 20
Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1963 February 5
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about going through the papers that have accumulated in her home over the years. She says that the newspaper strike makes it difficult for her to keep up with public news.

Box 1, Folder 21
Easter holiday card from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1963 April 9
Corbett writes about how writing books has changed with technology. She writes that the
newspaper strike has ended.
Poems "Invocation" and "Today's Concession" enclosed.

Corbett writes about fan letters and her neighbors. She mentions that she had a new
novel, The Heart of the Village, published earlier that year.

Corbett writes about a World Series game that occurred on that day and about her
birthday celebrations. She mentions that she has enclosed letters from servicemen and
copies of her responses to them.

Corbett writes about some of her and Burmeister's former classmates. She writes about
the recent events in her life and talks about the decline in the number of newspapers and
magazines in New York.

Poem "Yuletide."

Poem "It's Coming!"

Coliseum, New York, New York.

Corbett writes about her and Burmeister's recent events. She mentions that her newest
book, Lisa Kennerley's Husband, was just published earlier that year.
Poems "De Senectute" and "Answering THOSE Questions" enclosed.

Corbett writes about the publishing of her most recent book, "Anniversary." She writes
about the death of her brother. She mentions that her apartment was burglarized and
that her typewriter was stolen. She writes about the World Series and the presidential
campaigns.
Poem "A Case History" enclosed.

Empty envelope addressed from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1964
December 8
Box 1, Folder 32  Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1965 April 28
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about Burmeister's possible publication of her written works. She says that her own book, The Continuing City, is due to be released that week. She writes about her new television set.

Box 1, Folder 33  Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1965 July 10
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about an obituary for Burmeister's friend, Robert Ruark. Ruark was a writer. She writes about a macaw that belongs to her neighbors.
Newspaper clippings “More Quotations From Trove of Memories” and “Columnist Robert Ruark, 'Last Safari' Ends at 49” enclosed.

Box 1, Folder 34  Postcard from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1965 October 11
Scope and Content
Corbett denies writing a magazine article and says that she has a new book that will be published.

Box 1, Folder 35  Poem by Elizabeth Corbett with note to Laura E. Burmeister 1965 December 2
Scope and Content
Poem “Holiday Greetings.”

Box 1, Folder 36  Poem by Elizabeth Corbett with note to Laura E. Burmeister 1966
Scope and Content
Poem “Which Holiday?”

Box 1, Folder 37  Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1966 May 9
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about the recent newspaper strikes and the closing of the New York Herald Tribune. She mentions the record-breaking cold weather.

Box 1, Folder 38  Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1966 May 26
Scope and Content
Corbett writes that the New York Journal American has ceased publication.

Box 1, Folder 39  Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1966 September 12
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about the origins of last names and about recent events in her life, such as a visit from her nephew.

Box 1, Folder 40  Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1967 May 8
Scope and Content
Corbett writes about events in her life and about mutual friends. She mentions the newspaper collapse in New York.
Poem “To the Comrades” enclosed.

Box 1, Folder 41  Newspaper clipping with note from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1967 August 15
Scope and Content
Newspaper article “Pigeons Are for the Birds.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 42</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1967 October 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett writes about her newest book, Harry Martin's Wife, and about her eightieth birthday party.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 43</th>
<th>Poem by Elizabeth Corbett with note to Laura E. Burmeister 1967 December 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poem &quot;Again!&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 44</th>
<th>Empty envelope addressed from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1968 May 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 45</td>
<td>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1968 July 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett responds to a letter from Burmeister and writes about people she knows in Philadelphia. She mentions her books The Distant Princess and In Miss Armstrong's Room.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 46</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1968 October 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett writes about her new book, Ladies' Day. She writes about her familiarity with plogenic organizations as she was in Alpha Gamma Delta and was a plogenic delegate for some time.</td>
</tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 47</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1968 November 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett writes that her books are sometimes criticized because &quot;they are about decent people.&quot; She writes about her Thanksgiving celebrations and dinner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 48</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1968 December 26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett writes about a poem that Burmeister wrote and about a childhood &quot;green Christmas.&quot;</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 49</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1968 December 30</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett writes about wrapping up her affairs for the end of the year.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 50</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1969 April 9</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett makes a reference to an autograph from Charles L. Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) that she gave to her nephew. She writes about recent events in her life, including Easter and her goddaughter's upcoming wedding.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 51</th>
<th>Letter from Elizabeth Corbett to Laura E. Burmeister 1969 May 6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corbett writes to Burmeister about Emmy Sonnemann-Goering, wife of Hermann Goering. She includes a quote about her from Louis Lochner's translation of The Goebbels Diaries. She writes about the difficulties of starting a new novel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Notes from Laura E. Burmeister re Corbett collection</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes about the collection.</td>
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Box 1, Folder 52

**On the News Stand March 24**

**Scope and Content**

This appears to be a game similar to a crossword puzzle where one is given a theme and a series of clues. The person must find a connection between the clue given and the theme. In this case, the theme is "On the News Stand," alluding to newspapers and magazines. For example, when given the clue "One Hundred Years," the person playing the game answered "Century."

Box 1, Folder 2

**The Writer 1962 March**

**Scope and Content**

The Writer is a monthly literary magazine founded in Massachusetts in 1887. It publishes articles that could be of interest and help to writers of different levels. The March 1962 issue includes articles by Elizabeth Corbett and Betty Friedan.