

Finding Aid for the Emily Deming collection

Collection 149

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
September 1992
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Deming, Emily
Title	Emily Deming collection
Date [inclusive]	1925, 1940s-1986
Extent	1.5 Linear feet Two boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Emily Deming (ca. 1902-1998) worked as an executive housekeeper at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was a patroness of the visual, musical, architectural, and theatrical arts. This collection represents her personal collecting of materials gathered during her interactions in support of the local arts in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Included are programs from various fine arts events, New York 1925/1926 correspondence from Josephine F. Royle and Selena Royle, a scrapbook, and various other memorabilia. An autographed picture of Selena Royle, who was a famous actress of the 1920s and 1930s, is available, as well as photos of Representative Gerald R. Ford at a Welcome Home for the Blind ceremony. The memorabilia also includes brochures from First (Park) Congregational Church, the Heritage Hill Association, Welcome Home for the Blind, and Celebration on the Grand.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Emily Deming (ca. 1902-1998) worked as an executive housekeeper at Blodgett Hospital. She was active in the Lions Club. She was a patroness of the visual, musical, architectural, and theatrical arts. In this capacity, she was close to the local theatrical element, collecting information on Selena Royle and Spencer Tracy, who went on to success beyond Grand Rapids. Her involvement in the community led her to deal with such prominent people as former President Gerald R. Ford.

Scope and Contents note

Contains various news clippings, programs, brochures, photographs, and correspondence. The news clippings are photocopies and include articles on the theater, historical landmarks, and the Symphony. Some of the other holdings may be photocopies, but are primarily the original programs or publications collected by Deming. The programs from ballet, theater, symphony, and other musical events represent select events, and are by no means comprehensive within the broad date ranges. The brochures were produced by Heritage Hill, Welcome Home for the Blind, and First (Park) Congregational Church. The photographs depict Gerald R. Ford at the opening of Welcome Home for the Blind and an autographed picture of Selena Royle. The correspondence is with Selena Royle's sister Josephine and Gerald R. Ford. (4 signed originals are in the security file/Safe. Two signed copies of the program are still in 149-1-4. 4/3/2007)

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department September 1992

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Emily Deming, April 17, 1991; accession number 1991.008

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Park Congregational Church. (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Ford, Gerald R, 1913-2006
- Royle, Selena, 1904-1983

Subject(s)

- Arts -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Correspondence with Josephine F. Royle and Selena

Collection Inventory

Correspondence with Josephine F. Royle and Selena		
	Box	Folder
Original Correspondence with Josephine F. Royle and Selena, primarily from New York, 1925-1926.	1	1
The Phantom Ship / by Josephine Royle. Limited Ed. Printed Privately by Selena Royle.	1	1
Photocopies of news clippings related to Selena.	1	1
Subject Files, 1970-1981.		
First (Park) Congregational Church, Fine Arts Committee. Publications. 1976.		
	Box	Folder
The Tiffany Collection. [flyer on the stained glass windows)	1	2
Our Heritage. Cover illustration by J. Schultz.	1	2
Heritage Hill Association.		
	Box	Folder

Welcome Home for the Blind, 1970.

The McCabe-Marlow House : a house of history to complement a tradition of excellence. Sept. 1981.	1	3
Flyer on the McCabe Marlow House	1	3
1971 Autumn Tour of Homes flyer/program.	1	3
13th Annual Musical Christmas Tour of Homes.	1	3
Welcome Home for the Blind, 1970.		
	Box	Folder
[Letter] To Miss Emily C. Deming. July 23, 1970 signed: Jerry Ford	1	4
[Letter] Letterhead: Harry S. Truman. June 17, 1970. To Miss Deming. Signed: Harry Truman.	1	4
[letter] September 22, 1970. To: Miss Emily C. Deming. Signed Jerry [Ford]	1	4
		Box
Original correspondence in Security.		SAFE
[Program] Welcome Home for the Blind, August 25, 1970 signed Gerald R. Ford. [29]		SAFE
Newspaper Clippings, 1971-1986, n.d.		
	Box	Folder

Photographs, 1970, n.d.

Grand Rapids Symphony, 1975-1986, n.d.	1	5
Historical Landmarks, 1971-1981, n.d.	1	6
Theater Articles/Reviews, 1973, n.d.	1	7
Various Personal, 1975-1979, n.d.	1	8

Photographs, 1970, n.d.

	Box	Folder
Royle, Selena -- autographed, n.d. (1)	1	9
Ford, Gerald R. at Welcome Home for the Blind, 1970. Robinson Studio. (8)	1	10
Photos from Scrapbook in Box 2. Includes Betty Hanna and likely Spencer Tracy	1	10.5

Programs, 1941-1980.

	Box	Folder
Civic Theater Programs, 1941-1966.	1	11
Community Concert Association Programs, 1951-1968.	1	12
Grand Rapids Civic Ballet Company Programs, 1944-1974.	1	13

Miscellaneous

Grand Rapids Symphony Programs, 1947-1980.	1	14
Keith's Theater Programs, 1944.	1	15
Pantlind / MSU Programs, 1971-1974.	1	16
Religious Music Programs, 1956-1976.	1	17
Miscellaneous		
	Box	Folder
Festival of Praise and Thanksgiving.	1	18
A Century of Music.	1	18
Celebration of the Arts Celebration, 1980.	1	18
Celebration on the Grand, 1981.	1	18
		Box
Scrapbook of theater programs, 1940-1942. Contains 8 photos of actors, including Betty Hanna and Spencer Tracy, which have been moved to 149-1-10.5		2