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Brite, Henry Dearing, 1906-1976 (MSS 532)

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Descriptive Inventory

**MSS 532 BRITE, Henry Dearing, 1906-1976 and
 Elizabeth (Phillips) Brite, 1907-2000**

1 box. 19 folders. 102 items. 1921-1975. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1988.6.2

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Elizabeth Phillips, the daughter of Harry Silas Phillips and Mary Elizabeth Lile, was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 13 August 1907. She attended Bowling Green public schools and, from 1925-1926, Bowling Green Business University. On 31 May 1931, she married another Bowling Green native, Henry Dearing Brite (born 28 November 1906). In 1935, the Brites moved to Washington, D.C., when the headquarters of Henry's employer, the Electric Home and Farm Authority, relocated to that city. Henry subsequently worked for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from 1942-1948.

Elizabeth had worked at various secretarial jobs before and during her marriage, but was a homemaker in 1941 when her skills came into demand in Washington. She took a job as a receptionist, then in 1942 became secretary to Jonathan W. Daniels when he succeeded First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as Assistant Director of the Office of Civilian Defense. Elizabeth continued to work for Daniels after he became an administrative assistant to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, then acting Press Secretary, and finally Press Secretary to the President. She and Daniels were in the White House at the time of Roosevelt's death and in the early months of the Truman Administration. Both resigned their positions in May 1945, but Elizabeth continued to provide secretarial services to Daniels as well as to William Nichols, editor of *This Week* magazine.

Elizabeth and Henry retired first to Boca Raton, Florida, where they operated a real estate agency, then to Delray Beach, where Henry died on 26 October 1976 and Elizabeth on 26 February 2000.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists mostly of mementoes of political and social events – invitations, programs, tickets, keepsakes, etc. – collected by Elizabeth (Phillips) Brite during her years in Washington, D.C., particularly when she served as secretary to Jonathan W. Daniels. Material relating to President Franklin D. Roosevelt includes press releases from the beginning and end of World War II concerning the attack on Pearl Harbor and the German surrender (Folder 4);

invitations and greeting cards from Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt (Folder 7); and press releases, invitations and a schedule for Roosevelt's funeral ceremony (Folder 10). Other presidential material relates to the inaugurations of Harry S. Truman (Folder 13) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (Folder 15). Also of interest are commemorative medallions for Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Petroleum Industry War Council (Folder 8) and the Thomas Edison Centennial celebrations (Folder 12), the latter event featuring an address by former Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, the father of Jonathan Daniels. Clippings and information on Elizabeth Brite's career (Folders 5, 6) include a report on her appearance as an impersonator on the television show *To Tell the Truth* (Folder 19). Jonathan Daniels' memoir *Frontier on the Potomac* (Folder 11) is inscribed to Elizabeth. The collection also includes letters of Elizabeth to her parents in Bowling Green (Folder 3) after she began working in Washington, D.C. and living with her husband in Silver Spring, Maryland. Some of the letters are on White House stationery. They discuss mostly family and personal matters, although she also refers to other members of the secretarial staff, Roosevelt's 1944 reelection campaign, and to her brother, who is in military service. A letter from Daniels to Elizabeth's mother praises her work as his secretary.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Henry Brite and Elizabeth (Phillips) Brite	1921-1975	102 items
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical data		4 items
Folder 2	Miscellaneous invitations and programs	1921-1956	9 items
Folder 3	Letters to Elizabeth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Phillips, Bowling Green, Kentucky	1941-1945	9 items
Folder 4	White House press releases regarding Pearl Harbor attack and announcement of surrender of Germany	1941, 1945	2 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Brite's letters of appointment; Henry Brite's certificate of appreciation from Reconstruction Finance Corporation	1942-1948	3 items
Folder 6	Clippings regarding Elizabeth Brite and Jonathan Daniels	1943-1973	7 items
Folder 7	Invitations, greeting cards from Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt	1941-1945	6 items
Folder 8	Franklin D. Roosevelt inauguration tickets and commemorative medallion; Petroleum Industry War Council commemorative medallion	1945	4 items

Folder 9	Clipping; photograph of Jonathan Daniels receiving press secretary commission from President Roosevelt (last photograph of Roosevelt before his death, filed in oversized C1-D6,#7)	1945	2 items
Folder 10	Press releases, invitations, ceremony schedules, etc. regarding Franklin D. Roosevelt's death and funeral, and surrender of Germany	1945	11 items
Folder 11	<i>Frontier on the Potomac</i> , by Jonathan Daniels; advertisement for <i>White House Witness</i> by Jonathan Daniels	1946-1975	3 items
Folder 12	Program and clippings regarding Thomas A. Edison Centennial; commemorative medallion	1947	13 items
Folder 13	Truman campaign ribbon; programs, tickets and photographs relating to inauguration of Harry S. Truman	1948-1949	11 items
Folder 14	Autographed souvenir magazine from 7 th Annual Women's National Open Golf Championship	1952	1 item
Folder 15	Tickets, program and photograph relating to inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower	1953	3 items
Folder 16	Program, ticket and clippings for banquet honoring Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh	1960	5 items
Folder 17	Letters and autographed photograph from Hubert H. Humphrey	1962-1966	3 items
Folder 18	Invitation and program for banquet honoring the Shah of Iran	1962	4 items
Folder 19	Clippings regarding Elizabeth Brite's appearance on television show <i>To Tell the Truth</i>	1963	2 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 532 BRITE, Henry Dearing, 1906-1976 1921-1975
and Elizabeth (Phillips) Brite,
1907-2000

Letters, programs, invitations, photographs and other political and social mementoes of Elizabeth Brite and her husband Henry, collected primarily during their years in Washington, D.C. when Elizabeth was secretary to Franklin D. Roosevelt's press secretary, Jonathan W. Daniels.

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1988.6.2

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956 – Photograph B1,F13
Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956 – Relating to B1,F13
Brite, Elizabeth (Phillips), 1907-2000 – Correspondence B1,F3,17
Brite, Elizabeth (Phillips), 1907-2000 – Photographs B1,F15,17
Brite, Elizabeth (Phillips), 1907-2000 – Relating to B1,F1,5,6,19
Brite, Henry Dearing, 1906-1976 – Photograph B1,F15
Brite, Henry Dearing, 1906-1976 – Relating to B1,F3,5
Christmas cards, 1943-1944 B1,F7
Daniels, Jonathan Worth, 1902-1981 B1,F3
Daniels, Jonathan Worth, 1902-1981 – Photograph B1,F9
Daniels, Jonathan Worth, 1902-1981 – Relating to B1,F3,6,9,11
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948 – Relating to B1,F12
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948 – Speeches, 1947 B1,F12
Davies, Ralph K., d. 1971 – Relating to B1,F2
Edison, Thomas Alva, 1847-1931 – Relating to B1,F12
Eisenhower, Dwight David, 1890-1969 – Relating to B1,F15
Elections and election campaigns – Relating to, 1948 B1,F13
Frontier on the Potomac (Book) B1,F11
Funeral invitations, 1945 B1,F10
Golf – Women, 1952 B1,F14
Humphrey, Hubert Horatio, 1911-1978 B1,F17
Ickes, Harold LeClair, 1874-1952 – Relating to B1,F2
Inauguration – Presidents, 1945 B1,F8
Inauguration – Presidents, 1949 B1,F13
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Jones, Jesse Holman, 1874-1956 – Relating to B1,F2

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, 1919-1980 – Relating to B1,F18
 Philip, Prince, consort of Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain, b. 1921 – Relating to B1,F16
 Phillips, Harry Silas, 1876-1953 – Letters to B1,F3
 Phillips, James A., b. 1911? – Relating to B1,F3
 Phillips, Mary Elizabeth (Lile), 1877-1945 – Letters to B1,F3
 Reconstruction Finance Corporation – Relating to B1,F2,5
 Reed, Stanley Forman, 1884-1980 – Relating to B1,F2
 Roosevelt, Anna Eleanor, 1884-1962 – Relating to B1,F7
 Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, 1882-1945 – Photograph B1,F9
 Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, 1882-1945 – Relating to B1,F3,4,7-10
 Television programs – *To Tell the Truth*– Relating to, 1963 B1,F19
 Theater – Bowling Green – Relating to, 1921 B1,F2
 Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972 – Photograph B1,F13
 Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972 – Relating to B1,F13
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Pearl Harbor, Hawaii – Relating to, 1941 B1,F4
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Petroleum Industry War Council – Relating to B1,F2,8
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 World War II, 1939-1945 – Washington, D.C. – Relating to, 1941-1945 B1,F3

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