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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 554 HELM, Harold Holmes, 1900-1985

2 boxes. 23 folders. 312 items. 1903-1987. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1991.79.63

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Harold Holmes Helm, the son of Dr. Thomas Oliver Helm and Ellen "Nellie" (Blakey) Helm, was born in Auburn, Kentucky on 9 December 1900. He was educated at Auburn Seminary and, after his family moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, at city schools and at Ogden College. Helm enrolled at Princeton University in 1917. In 1920, the year he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton, he joined the credit department of New York's Chemical National Bank. On 14 February 1925, Helm married Mary Grider Rodes (1901-2001) of Bowling Green, Kentucky, the daughter of John B. Rodes and Elizabeth (Hines) Rodes. The Helms had two children: Eleanor Blakey Helm (b. 1928) and John Rodes Helm (1930-2014).

Helm advanced rapidly at Chemical Bank, becoming assistant cashier in 1926, assistant vice-president in 1928, vice-president in 1929, a director in 1941, first vice-president in 1946, and president in 1947. In 1954, after the Chemical Bank & Trust Company merged with the Corn Exchange Bank of New York, Helm became president of the newly named Chemical Corn Exchange Bank, then sixth-largest in the nation. In 1956, he became chairman and chief executive officer, a position he retained when the bank merged with New York Trust Company in 1959 to become Chemical Bank New York Trust Company.

Helm held numerous directorships and trusteeships and was involved in many community, religious and charitable causes. He was treasurer of the New York War Fund's 1944-1945 campaign, directed fundraising in New York state for Richard Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign, and headed the Development Committee for an ambitious 1973 expansion program at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He was the recipient of several honorary degrees, including doctorates from New York University, Columbia University and Centre College, and was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of St. Olav in recognition of Chemical Bank's support of Norway's shipping industry. He also served as an officer of the Princeton National Alumni Association, founded the Princeton University Committee on Annual Giving, and served as chairman of Princeton's Board of Trustees. In 1961, Harold and Mary Helm endowed the Rodes-Helm Lecture Series at WKU, where Harold's sister, Margie Helm, was Director of Library Services. In 1966, shortly after Margie's retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Helm and the Helm Foundation made a further gift to WKU to establish the Margie Helm Library Fund.

Helm retired from Chemical Bank in 1966, but remained as an honorary director for several years and continued to serve on major corporate boards. He died at his home in

Montclair, New Jersey on 19 November 1985 and was interred in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence, publications, clippings, published material, photographs and other personal papers of Harold Holmes Helm that were in the possession of Harold's sister, Margie Helm, at her death in 1991. Correspondence forwarded by Helm to update her on his professional activities consists of originals or carbon copies but, where the writer is a public figure, are usually photocopies. An inventory is in Box 1, Folder 1.

Box 1 contains Harold Helm's personal correspondence as well as invitations, programs, and materials relating to his support of Princeton University. Correspondence from 1903-1958 (Folder 2) includes letters to his parents, siblings and aunt Louise Blakey; they show his affection and generosity toward them and relate his social, family and professional activities, including his ongoing involvement with Princeton University. Of interest is a 1958 report on the launching of the *Harold Helm*, a tanker built at the Kure, Japan shipyards of National Bulk Carrier, Inc., with which the Chemical Bank was associated. Correspondence from 1959-1964 (Folder 3) includes invitations, letters to family, and various messages to Helm congratulating him on professional accomplishments and on a 15 June 1959 *Time* magazine profile. Two letters from family friends recall his youth in Auburn and Bowling Green. He receives thanks for various courtesies and donations, and from Richard M. Nixon for Helm's encouragement after his 1962 defeat in the California gubernatorial election. Correspondence from 1965-1971 (Folder 4) includes a guest list for Harold and Mary Helm's 40th anniversary reception in Bowling Green, Helm's correspondence with WKU president Kelly Thompson establishing the Margie Helm Library Fund, tributes to him on his retirement from Chemical Bank, and a 1971 tribute recognizing his many services to Princeton University. Correspondence from 1972-1982 (Folder 5) includes family news, letters of thanks written to him for donations and for his work in the Republican presidential campaigns of 1972 and 1976, and a letter of praise and reminiscence Helm wrote to his brother Tom's children after Tom's death in 1980. Also of interest is Helm's description of an introduction to Queen Elizabeth II at a 1976 luncheon. Undated correspondence (Folder 6) includes a letter to his sister Margie evidencing his supervision of her investments, and letterhead from Cliff Cottage, Helm's summer home at Martha's Vineyard. Miscellaneous personal papers (Folder 7) include a lengthy list of Harold and Mary Helm's wedding gifts. Two family letters (Folder 8) are from Mary Helm regarding the preservation of Bowling Green's downtown, and from daughter Eleanor with family news. Materials relating to Harold Helm's long association with Princeton University (Folder 9) include his commencement program, clippings and programs reporting on fundraising and alumni activities, correspondence relating to Helm's then-anonymous endowment of a professorship, and the dedication program for the Harold Helm Auditorium on campus. Invitations and programs (Folders 10, 11) for dinners and other ceremonial occasions relate to notables such as Queen Elizabeth II, Charles de Gaulle and Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, as well as to social and bankers' organizations.

Box 2 contains published items relating to Harold Helm's banking career, various certificates and awards, and photographs. Newspaper and magazine articles (Folders 1, 11) document Helm's career and achievements, as do published items in *Finance Magazine* (Folder

2), the Chemical Bank's magazine *Old Bullion* (Folder 3), its "Officers Bulletin" (Folder 4), selected annual reports (Folder 5), other reports relating to his outside directorships and charities (Folder 6), and press releases (Folder 8); included (Folder 11) is a well-illustrated commemoration of his life and career created for his retirement in the style of *Life* magazine. Copies of Helm's speeches (Folder 7) include commencement addresses. Certificates and awards (Folders 9, 11) relate mostly to his education and honorary degrees. Helm's obituary and memorial materials (Folder 10) include a tribute by President William G. Bowen of Princeton University. Photographs (Folder 12) are from ceremonial occasions such as Helm's 40th anniversary with Chemical Bank, and include one childhood photo.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Harold H. Helm	1903-1987	177 items
Folder 1	Inventory; <i>Who's Who</i> data		2 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1903-1958	40 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1959-1964	35 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	1965-1971	27 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1972-1982	26 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	n.d.	6 items
Folder 7	Miscellaneous personal papers	1925-1951	3 items
Folder 8	Helm family letters	1972, n.d.	2 items
Folder 9	Princeton University	1920-1987	18 items
Folder 10	Invitations, programs, events	1947-1962	7 items
Folder 11	Invitations, programs, events	1963-1973	11 items
BOX 2	Harold H. Helm	1908-1985	135 items
Folder 1	Newspaper clippings and magazine articles	1915?-1983	68 items
Folder 2	<i>Finance</i> Magazine	1947-1960	3 items
Folder 3	<i>Old Bullion</i> (Chemical Bank magazine)	1952-1965	7 items

Folder 4	<i>Officers' Bulletin</i> (Chemical Bank)	1956-1971	8 items
Folder 5	Chemical Bank – Annual reports	1953-1963	6 items
Folder 6	Miscellaneous programs and reports – charitable and professional activities	1945-1972	6 items
Folder 7	Speeches	1952-1968	8 items
Folder 8	Press releases	1962-1973	3 items
Folder 9	Certificates, awards, diplomas	1908-1976	4 items
Folder 10	Obituary and memorial service	1985	3 items
Folder 11	Oversized items (C1-D6,#2)	1922-1979	7 items
Folder 12	Photographs	1900?-1973	12 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS HELM, Harold Holmes, 1903-1987
 554 1900-1985
 C1-D6,
 #2 Personal and professional correspondence of Auburn, Kentucky native and New York banker Harold H. Helm. Includes biographical materials, speeches, miscellaneous papers and photographs. 2 boxes. 23 folders. 312 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.
 1991.79.63

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Auburn Seminary – Logan County – Relating to B2,F9
 Banks and banking – Bowling Green – Citizens National Bank – Relating to B1,F5
 Banks and banking – New York, NY – Chemical Bank – Relating to B1,F2-5; B2,F1-6
 Bemower, William Philip “Phil,” 1923-2011 B1,F4
 Blakey, Churchill Ewing, 1922-1975 – Relating to B1,F6
 Blakey, Elizabeth (Lackey), 1896-1968 – Relating to B1,F6
 Blakey, James Churchill, 1904-1958 – Relating to B1,F2
 Blakey, Louise Becker, 1875-1966 – Letters to B1,F2
 Blakey, Louise Becker, 1875-1966 – Relating to B1,F3
 Bowen, William G., b. 1933 B2,F10

Byrd, Harry Flood, Sr., 1887-1966 B1,F3
 Callaway, Harold Hollis "Bo," Sr., 1927-2014 – Relating to B1,F5
 Caskey, Helen B1,F5
 Chemical Bank – New York – Relating to B1,F2-5; B2,F1-6
 Christmas cards, 1903 B1,F2
 Commencements (Academic ceremonies) – Princeton University, 1920 B1,F9
 Covington, Euclid M., 1893-1975 – Photograph B2,F12
 Covington, Euclid M., 1893-1975 – Relating to B1,F3
 Diplomas – Princeton University, 1920 B1,F11
 Elections and election campaigns, 1968, 1972, 1976 – Relating to B1,F4,5
 Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain, b. 1926 – Relating to B1,F5,10
 Ford, Gerald Rudolph, Jr., 1913-2006 B1,F5
 Ford, Wendell Hampton, 1924-2015 B1,F5
 Freeman, Orange Edward, Jr., 1924-1993 B1,F5
 Hall, Emma Bell "Deedy" (Price), 1904-1992 – Letter to B1,F5
 Helm, Ellen "Nellie" (Blakey), 1865-1920 – Comments about, 1920 B1,F2
 Helm, Ellen "Nellie" (Blakey), 1865-1920 – Letters to B1,F2
 Helm, Harold Holmes, 1900-1985 – Correspondence B1,F2-6
 Helm, Harold Holmes, 1900-1985 – Photographs B2,F12
 Helm, Harold Holmes, 1900-1985 – Speeches B1,F3,5; B2,F3,7
 Helm, John Rodes, 1930-2014 B1,F2,5
 Helm, Margie May, 1894-1991 – Letters to B1,F2-6
 Helm, Mary Grider (Rodes), 1901-2001 B1,F5,8
 Helm, Mary Grider (Rodes), 1901-2001 – Photographs B2,F12
 Helm, Thomas Oliver, 1859-1937 – Letters to B1,F2
 Helm, Thomas Oliver, Jr., 1897-1980 – Letters to B1,F2-4
 Helm, Thomas Oliver, Jr., 1897-1980 – Relating to B1,F5
 Jackson, N. Baxter, d. 1973 – Photograph B2,F12
 Jackson, N. Baxter, d. 1973 – Relating to B2,F1-3
 Jewett, Carolyn "Dolly" (Bean), 1898-1974 – Correspondence B1,F3
 Jewett, Carolyn "Dolly" (Bean), 1898-1974 – Photograph B1,F3
 Johnson, Joseph Helm, 1898-1970 B1,F3
 Johnson, Lyndon Baines, 1908-1973 – Relating to B1,F4,10
 Johnston, Percy Hampton, Sr., 1881-1957 – Relating to B2,F4
 Ketcham, Eleanor Blakey (Helm), b. 1928 B1,F8
 Ketcham, James Knowles, b. 1956 B1,F3
 MacArthur, Jean Marie (Faircloth), 1898-2000 B1,F4
 Nahm, Max Brunswick, 1864-1958 B1,F2
 Nixon, Richard Milhous, 1913-1994 B1,F3-5
 Nixon, Richard Milhous, 1913-1994 – Relating to B1,F5,11
 Penney, James Cash, 1875-1971 B1,F4
 Penney, James Cash, 1875-1971 – Relating to B2,F4
 Potter, Douglass Woods, 1903-1962 – Photograph B2,F12
 Princeton University – Princeton, New Jersey – Relating to B1,F2-4,9
 Quillian, William F., Jr., d. 2014 – Photograph B2,F12
Reader's Digest (magazine) – Relating to B1,F5

Report cards – Bowling Green, 1912 B1,F2
 Rice, Laban Lacy, 1870-1973 B1,F3
 Rodes, John Barret, 1870-1970 B1,F3
 Romulo, Carlos Peña, 1899-1985 – Letter to B1,F4
 Shakers – South Union – Relating to B1,F5
 Stevenson, Adlai Ewing, II, 1900-1965 – Relating to B1,F4
 Thompson, Edwin Kelly, 1909-1993 – Correspondence B1,F4
 Thompson, Sarah (Pearce), 1910-1996 B1,F6
 Western Kentucky University – Margie Helm Library Fund – Relating to B1,F4
 Western Kentucky University – Rodes-Helm Lecture Fund – Relating to B1,F5
 Willock, Mary Belle (Fitch), 1911-2005 – Photograph B2,F12
 Willock, Robert Douglass, 1910-1964 – Photograph B2,F12
 World War II, 1939-1945 – New York, 1944-1945 – Relating to B2,F1,6
 Valentines, 1907 B1,F2

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