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## Lewis, Norman Victor, 1917-1999 (MSS 215)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 215    LEWIS, Norman Victor, 1917-1999**

2 boxes. 12 folders. 485 items. Originals, photographs.

2008.89.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Norman V. Lewis was born on 24 January 1917 in Nanaimo, British Columbia. He graduated from the University of Kentucky and taught school for several years. He was an aviator in World War II, serving as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He married Bettie Gibson Phelps, of Somerset, in November 1942. They moved to Bowling Green in the late 1940s and founded Royal Music Company. The couple was instrumental in cultivating music and the arts in the Bowling Green area. Mr. Lewis served on the Bowling Green City Commission from 1957 to 1960. Norman and Bettie were members of State Street United Methodist Church. Norman died on 31 January 1999 and is interred in the Richmond Cemetery in Richmond, Kentucky. His wife Bettie is buried beside him; she died on 3 November 2006. The couple had two children: Norman Victor Lewis, Jr., a physician, and Thomas R. Lewis, an attorney and judge.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists almost exclusively of letters sent from Norman V. Lewis to his girlfriend and subsequent wife Bettie Gibson (Phelps) Lewis from 1938 to 1945. They include courtship letters prior to the Lewis's marriage in 1941. The letters also document Lewis's service in World War II as a naval aviator. A listing of addresses is included with this finding aid. Photographs were separated to the Kentucky Library Research Collections.

***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Norman V. Lewis</b>	<b>1938-1943</b>	<b>278 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory and list of addresses		2 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	4 July 1938- 30 Dec. 1941	59 items

Folder 3	Correspondence	1 Jan. 1942- 27 Aug. 1942	57 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	2 Sept. 1942- 2 Dec. 1942	60 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	11 Jan. 1943- 27 July 1943	67 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1 Aug. 1943- 20 Nov. 1943	33 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Norman V. Lewis</b>	<b>1944-1945; n.d.</b>	<b>207 items</b>
Folder 1	Correspondence	1 Jan. 1944- 30 June 1944	55 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	2 July 1944- 30 Sept. 1944	35 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	3 Oct. 1944- 27 Dec. 1944	30 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	8 Jan. 1945- 26 Jan. 1945	8 items
Folder 5	Undated correspondence	n.d.	65 items
Folder 6	Miscellaneous – Letter to D.M. Phelps from Aunt Flossie; farewell program for Air Group 11; calling card for Bettie Gibson Phelps; photocopies of photographs	1918, 1942	14 items

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS LEWIS, Norman Victor, 1938-1945  
215 1917-1999

This collection consists almost exclusively of letters sent from Lewis to his girlfriend and subsequent wife, Bettie Gibson (Phelps) Lewis. They include courtship letters, correspondence documenting Lewis's World War II service and military life, and letters containing information about family matters.

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## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Courtship, 1938-1942 B1,F2-4  
Lewis, Bettie Gibson (Phelps), 1919-2006 – Letters to, 1938-1945  
Lewis, Norman Victor, 1917-1999 – Photographs  
Phelps, David McCord, Jr., 1895-1956 – Letter to, 1918 B2,F6  
Phelps, Lona Orwin, 1896-1968 – Letter to, 1918 B2,F6  
Poetry, 1939 B1,F2  
U.S. – Navy – Relating to, 1941-1945  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Letters

## **SEE and SEE ALSO**

Phelps, Bettie Gibson, 1919-2006  
See  
Lewis, Bettie Gibson (Phelps)

Hardin/Jeffrey 09/24/2008