Mayo, George Morrow, 1896-1983 (MSS 521)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 521  MAYO, George Morrow, 1896-1983

2 boxes.  11 folders.  20 items.  1896-1981.  Originals, photographs and photocopies

1986.12.2

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George Morrow Mayo, who went by Morrow Mayo throughout his life, was born at 1002 Chestnut Street in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on 8 November 1896, the son of George Randall Mayo and Dixie (Robinson) Mayo. George Randall was a native of Bristol, England, and Dixie hailed from Bowling Green. Morrow was the third and youngest son of the George and Dixie, the other sons being John and Ernest. Morrow attended Bowling Green public schools and later matriculated at the Bowling Green Business University right as World War I was starting in Europe. When the U.S. joined the War in 1917, Morrow quickly joined the Navy. He enlisted on 12 July 1917 and was discharged on 11 July 1921. He left the service as a Quartermaster First Class.

After his military service, Morrow lived all over the country and worked for newspapers in Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Kansas, Oklahoma and California. He also did freelance writing, producing articles that appeared in The New Republic, The Nation, Current History and other highly regarded periodicals. He wrote about local lore, current global events, and travel. His largest work was a history of California’s City of Angels entitled simply Los Angeles (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1933). He was also well-known for a poem that he wrote about World War I titled “Sons of the Flag” which appeared in the New York Times during the war. It was apparently published earlier in the Washington [D.C.] Times under the titled “A Toast.”

Morrow met Muriel L. Van Norden, a fashion designer and merchandizer, on a cruise from New York to San Francisco via the Panama Canal. The couple lived together for several years prior to their marriage on 13 June 1931 in New York City. In the early-1960s both retired and began years of trekking about the country in their travel trailer. Mayo kept a travelogue about those years titled “Trailering.” Although liberal in his politics and societal issues, Morrow often wrote about his strong views on an expanding Israel and conservative values.

Morrow died in South Carolina in January 1981.
**COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection consists of two volumes of a scrapbook compiled about the lives of George and Muriel Morrow. The scrapbooks were removed from three-ring binders; many of the pages were left in protective sleeves and photographs were not dismounted. The pages were numbered by the creator. The scrapbooks contain copies of Morrow's articles, a chronological narrative history of their lives, travel accounts, a small amount of correspondence, photographs, and other ephemera such as Christmas cards, postcards, and small maps. Also included is an autographed copy of Morrow's book *Los Angeles* with a custom tooled leather jacket. News clippings about Morrow and photographs of some of Morrow's Bowling Green family can also be found in the collection.

**SHELF LIST**

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<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>MAYO, Marrow</th>
<th>1986-1981</th>
<th>19 items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and news clippings</td>
<td>1918-1983</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Photos</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Book <em>Los Angeles</em>, notes from Muriel and cover by Edith W. Van Norden</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
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<td>1896-1931</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
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<td>1931-1936</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
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<td>1936-1946</td>
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<td>Scrapbook by Muriel Mayo, vol. 1, pages 131-182</td>
<td>1946-1956</td>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Scrapbook by Muriel Mayo, vol. 1, pages 182-190 and vol. 2, pages 190a-242</td>
<td>1957-1964</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS MAYO, George Morrow, 1896-1983
521 1896-1981
Scrapbooks (2) documenting the life and times of journalist George Morrow Mayo and his fashion designer wife Muriel L. Van Norden. Scrapbooks contain a historical narrative, articles written by Mr. Mayo, as well as photographs and other ephemera such as postcards, small maps, etc. Also includes news clippings, photos of Mayo's Family and an autographed copy of his book *Los Angeles* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 193)
2 boxes. 11 folders. 20 items. Originals, photographs and photocopies. 1986.12.2

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Airstream Trailers – Relating to B2,F1
Authors – Kentucky B1,F6
Bilby, Ed – Comments about B1,F4
Courtship B1,F4
Crime and criminals – Comments about, 1931 B1,F5
Certificates - Discharge papers – World War II, 1939-1945 B1,F4
Drawings
Dulles, John Foster, 1888-1959 – Letter to B2,F1
Farms and farming – Comments about, 1931 B1,F4
Fashion designers – Relating to B1,F5
Gold mining – Comments about, 1936 B1,F5
Journalists – Relating to B1,F4
Krushchev, Nikita, 1894-1971 – Relating to B1,F3
Los Angeles (book) B1,F4
Mayo, Dixie (Robinson), 1866-1946 – Photo B1,F2
Mayo, Ernest Randall, b. 1892 – Photo B1,F4
Mayo, George Mayo, 1896-1981 – Photos B1,F4
Mayo, George R., d. 1949 – Photo B1,F2
Mayo, Muriel L. “Butch” (Van Norden) – Photos B1,F4
Mayo, Muriel L. “Butch” (Van Norden) – Relating to
McPherson, Aimee Semple, 1890-1944 – Comments about, 1929 – Comments about B1,F4
New York City – Travel and description, 1929 B1,F4
Pasadena, California – Comments about B1,F5
Poetry B1,F1
Roosevelt, Anna Eleanor, 1884-1962 B2,F1
San Francisco, California – Travel and description, 1920s B1,F4
Sharkey, Tom “Sailor Tom,” 1873-1953 – Comments about, 1936 B1,F6
“Sons of the Flag” (poem) B1,F1
“A Toast” (poem) B1,F1
Travel trailers – Relating to B2,F1
Vienna, Austria – Comments about B1,F4

SEE or SEE ALSO

“A Toast to the Kaiser”
See:
“A Toast”

Sledge/Jeffrey 12/11/2014