

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY  
ABILENE, KANSAS

BLACK, LILLIAN "RUSTY" BROWN: Papers, 1945-2005

Accession: A02-16 and A05-10  
Processed by: MB  
Date Completed: December 17, 2009

The papers of Lillian "Rusty" Brown Black were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by Black in July, 2002 and June, 2005.

Linear feet:	2
Approximate number of pages:	3260

Lillian H. "Rusty" Brown Black signed an instrument of gift for the papers on September 7, 2005. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Lillian "Rusty" Brown Black in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the United States government have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are properly classified.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Lillian H. “Rusty” Brown Black grew up in Kansas and Nebraska, and received secretarial training as a young woman. During World War II, she worked as a secretary at a military base in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1945, she joined the American Red Cross (ARC). Over the next seven years, Black worked in Red Cross clubs in the Philippines, Japan, and Germany. In 1952, after the closing of the ARC clubs, Black began work at the Pentagon. The following year, she joined the White House secretarial pool. Black remained at the White House until 1961, when John Eisenhower hired her to assist him in researching *The White House Years*. Soon thereafter, Dwight D. Eisenhower asked her to be his personal secretary at Gettysburg and Palm Desert. She agreed, and continued in that position until 1967, when her parents’ ill health forced her to return to Kansas City, Kansas to care for them. In 1974 and 1975, Dr. Maclyn Burg conducted two oral history interviews with Black. These are available at the Eisenhower Presidential Library; they focus primarily on her time in the Red Cross, and the early years at the White House.

The papers and memorabilia donated by Black fall into five categories: American Red Cross service overseas; the White House secretarial pool during the Eisenhower administration; Black’s time as Eisenhower’s personal secretary; materials relating to Eisenhower’s legacy collected after the end of her service; and World War II era papers of her husband, Robert Russell Black.

The ARC materials constitute the richest series in the collection. They include orders, newsletters, souvenir brochures and booklets, advertisements, tickets, drawings, postcards, dolls, a wool uniform jacket liner covered in military patches, a uniform cap with a Red Cross pin, and an unpublished memoir written in 2002, and revised in 2005. The artifacts have been withdrawn to the Museum collection. The oral history transcript should also be consulted for research into this period.

Black’s service in the White House secretarial pool is documented in various official communications to White House staff, copies of press releases and schedules, memoranda, tickets, invitations, campaign material, a notebook of pattern letters, personal correspondence, clippings, and other materials. When using this series, the oral history transcript should also be consulted for background information about the secretarial pool and Black’s comments on various members of the administration with whom she had contact.

As Dwight D. Eisenhower’s second term came to a close, Black became an assistant to John Eisenhower. In October of 1962, she became Dwight D. Eisenhower’s personal secretary at Gettysburg, traveling with him to Palm Desert in the winters. Copies of notes, work-related correspondence, an address book, personal correspondence, photographs, clippings, a 1966 Christmas card list, and other materials document this period. Some letters annotated by DDE are included. In 1967, she left Eisenhower’s employ to care for her parents.

The fourth series includes correspondence, newsletters, and other materials from the Eisenhower Foundation and other institutions, organizations, and events dedicated to the Eisenhower legacy. Some personal letters are included; however, most of the material

was intended for wide distribution. Some material pertaining to oral history interviews and gifts of material to the Eisenhower Presidential Library is also included.

The fifth and final series consists of World War II-era papers collected by Black's husband, Robert Russell Black. Skits, dramatic readings, and speeches make up the collection. Many appear to have been intended for recreational use by the troops during the war.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

### Box Nos. Series

SERIES 1: RED CROSS SERVICE, 1945-2005 (Bulk, 1945-52)

1 Publications: Army-Navy Hit Kit A02-16

Publications: The Spearhead (5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division), 1945

Publications A05-10

Publications: Europe

Publications: Japan

Publications: Military

Publications: Boomerang, 1945-46

Memoir of American Red Cross Service in World War II, the Philippines, Japan, and Germany (February 2002, revised 2005)

Memorabilia

Scrapbook—see Box 5

SERIES 2: WHITE HOUSE SECRETARIAL POOL, 1953- 1960

2 Scrapbook 1 (1), 1954-57

Scrapbook 1 (2), 1954-67

Scrapbook 2, 1954-57

Work-related material (1), 1954-60

Work-related material (2) 1954-60

Pattern letter notebook, no date

Social correspondence, photographs, and clippings, 1953-60

Eggbert and Other Navy Cartoons by Earle D. Chesney

Memorabilia

SERIES 3: GETTYSBURG AND PALM DESERT, 1955-69

- 3 Publications, 1961-67
- Work-related materials, 1959-68
- Address book
- Christmas card list, 1966
- Color copies of documents in the possession of Lillian “Rusty” Brown Black, 1964-69
- Social correspondence, photographs, and clippings, 1955-67 (bulk, 1961-67)
- Memorabilia

SERIES 4: EISENHOWER-RELATED MATERIAL, 1967-2003

- 4 Social correspondence, 1967-70, 1978
- Oral history interviews and gifts of materials, 1991-97
- Correspondence regarding the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society (1), 1992-96
- Correspondence regarding the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society (2), 1997-2003
- Publications and clippings (1)
- Publications and clippings (2)

SERIES 5: ROBERT RUSSELL BLACK PAPERS

- Soldiers’ skits and dramatic readings (1), World War II era
- Soldiers’ skits and dramatic readings (2), World War II era
- 4 Red Cross Scrapbook (see SERIES 1)

END OF CONTENTS