

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

WHITMAN, ANN C.: Papers, 1949-90

Accessions 90-14, 91-18 and 92-8

Processed by: TB

Date Completed: June 2001

The papers of Ann C. Whitman were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mrs. Whitman in 1990 and 1991. Additional material was received from Mrs. Whitman's estate after her death.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 1,600
Approximate number of items: 800

Mrs. Whitman signed an instrument of gift for the papers on February 15, 1991. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Ann C. Whitman in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the United States have been donated to the public.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

Ann C. Whitman (1908-1991) was a native of Perry, Ohio. She briefly attended Antioch College in Ohio and then moved to New York in 1929 to obtain work as a secretary. For many years she was the personal secretary to Mrs. David Levy, whose father was one of the founders of Sears, Roebuck and Co. In 1941 she married Edmund S. Whitman, an official of the United Fruit Company.

In 1952, while working as a secretary in the New York office of the Crusade for Freedom, Mrs. Whitman was recruited by Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential campaign staff. She went to Eisenhower's headquarters at Denver, Colorado where she became Eisenhower's personal secretary. After Eisenhower was elected president, Mrs. Whitman accompanied him to Washington, DC, and served as his personal secretary the entire eight years of his presidency. She helped manage Eisenhower's correspondence and was responsible for maintaining Eisenhower's personal files which he kept in his office at the White House.

When President Eisenhower left office in January 1961, Mrs. Whitman accompanied him to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and continued to work for a few months as his personal secretary. She later joined the staff of New York governor Nelson Rockefeller, for whom she worked until she retired in 1977. A biography of Mrs. Whitman, titled Confidential Secretary, has been written by journalist Robert Donovan (Dutton Press, 1988).

The papers of Ann Whitman consist of her social correspondence, news clippings, memorabilia and printed material. Most of the material dates from the period of her work for Dwight D. Eisenhower. Of particular importance is a large file of documents Mrs. Whitman saved that were annotated by Eisenhower. These include drafts of speeches and letters that show the care with which Eisenhower edited the texts.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

1 Items Transferred

Clippings

Correspondence - A-D [complaints about Robert Gray article re Sherman Adams; 1959 letter to George Allen re DDE's work habits and personality; Ellsworth Bunker re Nehru; Elivera Doud]

Correspondence - E [David, John, Mamie and Milton Eisenhower]

Correspondence - Eisenhower, Dwight D. (1)(2)

Correspondence - F-L [Freeman Gosden; Alfred Gruenther; Ferne Hudson]

Correspondence - M-R [Mary Jane McCaffree re Mamie Eisenhower in retirement, Cochran ranch; Tex McCrary; Jane Parsons of British Prime Minister's office]

Correspondence - Rockefeller, Nelson

Correspondence - S-Z [Thomas Stephens re move to Arizona; Sally Studebaker re DDE-JFK transition]

Correspondence – Smith, Merriman (1)(2)

Correspondence – Whitman, E.S. [letters to husband re 1959 DDE trip to Europe, DDE and religion, 1952 campaign; memos by E.S. Whitman re 1955 visit to Eisenhower farm, Christmas 1958 visit to White House]

Correspondence (Miscellaneous)

Eisenhower Centennial (1)-(4) [printed material]

2 Eisenhower Centennial (5)-(7)

Eisenhower Library Documents (1)(2) [copies of documents re Ann Whitman's work in White House]

Eisenhower Writings – 1952 (1) (2) [DDE campaign letters, many annotated drafts, to Bernard Baruch, J.F. Dulles, Edward Earle, John S.D. Eisenhower, Stanley Marcus, Rene Pleven, Arthur Sulzberger, Mrs. Lawson Turner]

Eisenhower Writings – 1952 (3) [meeting in Denver re campaign strategy; drafts of campaign speeches]

Eisenhower Writings – Letters (1)(2) [letters by DDE as president, many annotated drafts, to Charles DeGaulle, J.F. Dulles, Anthony Eden, Mrs. P.A. Hodgson, Lord Ismay re World War II, John F. Kennedy, Harold Macmillan, William Phillips, Owen Rachleff, Alexander Wiley re Bricker amendment]

Eisenhower Writings – Notes (1)(2) [miscellaneous scraps of paper with DDE doodles, signatures, notations, etc]

Eisenhower Writings – Speeches [retyped page from 1953 Inaugural address; 1956 campaign; Suez crisis]

Levy, Adele [1952 Ann Whitman letter re her first day as DDE's secretary]

Magazine – Jours De France Sept. 12, 1959

Memorabilia (1) (2)

White House Staff Reunions 1978, 1982

Will

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