

Collection #: SIM-12
Title: Phyllis A. Whitney Collection
Creator: Phyllis A. Whitney
Dates:
Extent: 4 Folders
Abstract: This artificial collection provides some documentation of the years author Phyllis A. Whitney lived on Staten Island.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Phyllis A. Whitney Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Department of the Library, College of Staten Island, CUNY, Staten Island, New York.

Acquisition

This collection was donated by Phyllis A. Whitney in July 2006.

Processing Information

Description and a final inventory were executed by intern Steven D'Avria in the Spring Semester, 2008.

Restrictions

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright Notice

The researcher assumes full responsibility for compliance with laws of copyright. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Coordinator of Archives & Special Collections.

Biographical Information

Phyllis A. Whitney was born in Yokohama, Japan in 1903, and lived in Asia until she was 15. After the death of her parents she moved to Chicago where she lived with her aunt. Ms. Whitney resided in Staten Island for over 20 years with her daughter and second husband, Lovell Jahnke. She lived on Constance Avenue in Westerleigh and later on Fort Hill Circle in St. George. Staten Island became the inspiration and setting for several of her books. Her early career in writing was problematic as she found it difficult to secure publishing. However, after publishing her first book, "A Place for Ann," she began writing prolifically, often completing two books in a year. Typically, one book was intended for adults and the other for younger audiences. During her career she often attended conferences and taught writing courses around the country. She taught at Northwestern University in 1945 and at New York University from 1947 to 1958. She had published over seventy books at the time of her death at 104 in February, 2008. Her books and style of writing have received and continue to receive praise.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains photocopies of articles, advertisements for books and photographs taken of and by Whitney documenting books Whitney set on Staten Island and her life on the Island. In addition, it contains correspondence that helps describe Phyllis Whitney's life and accomplishments.

Books Whitney set on Staten Island are available in the CSI Archives, most are signed and first editions.

Arrangement

The materials in this collection are arranged by type of document.

Series Descriptions & Container Listing

Folder	Title
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1	Correspondence
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Letter: Phyllis A. Whitney to College of Staten Island The City of New York
Letter: Georgia Pearson (daughter of Phyllis Whitney) to James Kaser, 2006

2	Newsclipping
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Various articles about author Phyllis Whitney, 1948-1960

3	Photographs
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Photo Album of Whitney's Fort Hill Circle home
Photo Album of Whitney at a book signing at her Fort Hill Circle home, 1958
Publicity photos, Whitney 1950s
Family photos, Whitney and grandchildren at Fort Hill Circle home 1950-1961
"Phyllis Whitney getting background information about Staten Island"

4	Advertisements
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Pamphlet: Youth Today Contest Winner, 1947
Flyer: *Writing Juvenile Fiction by Phyllis Whitney
Booklet: The Quicksilver Pool by Phyllis Whitney

5	Obituaries
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New York Times
Los Angeles Times
The Guardian (London)
The Daily Telegraph (London)

Books:

Ever After. Cambridge, The Riverside Press; 1948. PS 3545 .H8363 E94 1948

Mystery of the Strange Traveler. Philadelphia, Westminster Press; 1951. PS3545 .H8363 M97 1951

The Island of Dark Woods. Philadelphia, Westminster Press; 1951. PS3545 .H8363 I77 1951

Step to the Music. New York, Crowell; 1953. PS3545 .H8363 S74 1953

The Quicksilver Pool. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts; 1955. PS3545 .H8363 Q5 1955

Secret of the Emerald Star. New York, Grosset & Dunlap; 1967. PS3545 .H8363 S43 1967