Margaretta du Pont Coleman papers 2027

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Repository:</strong></th>
<th>Manuscripts and Archives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator:</strong></td>
<td>Coleman, Margareta du Pont, 1862-1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
<td>Margareta du Pont Coleman papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ID:</strong></td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date [inclusive]:</strong></td>
<td>1852-1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description:</strong></td>
<td>4.33 Linear Feet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language of the Material:</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract:</strong></td>
<td>The Margareta E. &quot;Meta&quot; du Pont Coleman Papers primarily consist of family correspondence collected by Meta Coleman.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historical Note

Little has been written on the branch of the du Pont family that relocated to Louisville, Kentucky in the mid-nineteenth century. Antoine Bidermann du Pont (1837-1923), known as "Bidermann," was the youngest child of Alfred Victor du Pont (1798-1856) and Margareta Elizabeth Lammot du Pont (1807-1898). After attending school in Philadelphia, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1856 and moved to Louisville where he went into a paper mill business with his brother A.V. "Fred" du Pont. Both of the brothers achieved financial success; Bidermann du Pont was later president of the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad, the Louisville, Paducah and South-Western Railroad, and the Central Coal & Iron Company.

Bidermann du Pont married Ellen Susan Coleman, in April 1861, and they had seven children from 1862-1872. The eldest child, Margareta Elizabeth (1862-1938), known as "Meta," was named after her paternal grandmother, with whom she had a warm, close relationship. Meta's siblings include T. Coleman du Pont (1863-1930), president of E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (1902-1915) and U.S. senator (1924-1928), and Zara du Pont (1869-1946), known for her work in women's suffrage, labor activism, and social causes.

After the death of her mother in May 1876, Meta du Pont resided for several month with her grandmother at "Goodstay" in Wilmington, Delaware, returned home to Louisville, and attended boarding school in Philadelphia from October 1878 through May 1879. She visited her grandmother at least one a year and they maintained a regular correspondence until her grandmother's death in April 1898. Upon her return from boarding school, Meta du Pont lived in her father's home in Louisville "Central Park," and
was responsible for running the household, and had an active social life consisting of visits with friends, attending parties, plays and dances, and ice skating.

In May 1888, Meta du Pont married a first cousin, Bannen Coleman (1856-1898), a Louisville businessman associated with her brother T. Coleman du Pont and her father. They had three children: Arthur Moxham Coleman (1890-1931), Greta Clare Coleman (1891-1952) and Alfred Victor Coleman (1893-1967). She apparently lived a conventional life of a married upper-middle class woman in the late nineteenth century.

After her husband's death, Meta du Pont Coleman continued to reside at "Central Park" in Louisville. By the first decade of the twentieth century, she had moved to Massachusetts and lived in the Boston area. She was interested in genealogy and collected family memorabilia and information until her death in 1938.

Scope and Content

The Margaretta E. "Meta" du Pont Coleman Papers primarily consist of family correspondence collected by Meta Coleman.

The correspondence between Meta Coleman and Bannen Coleman appear to be fairly complete, as do the letters written by Bidermann du Pont and Meta Coleman to Margaretta Lammot du Pont, and the correspondence received by Meta Coleman. The correspondence of the other family members is sporadic, with obvious gaps and omissions; it may no longer be extant, or may remain in the possession of family members.

Much of the correspondence relates to family matters, both in Louisville and on the Brandywine with reports on births, deaths, sickness, weddings, travel, and the social scene. There are descriptions of clothing, household furnishings, servant problems, and weather. There are some references to politics, particularly in the letters from Bidermann du Pont to his mother. The letters between Bannen Coleman and Meta Coleman trace their courtship and subsequent marriage. There is occasional discussion of business in letters from Bidermann du Pont to his mother, and in the letters received by Fred du Pont and Bannen Coleman.

The collection comes from the Louisville, Kentucky branch of du Pont family. The papers are an excellent complement to previously accessioned du Pont family papers at Hagley Museum and Library. There are some letters and other papers of the Louisville du Ponts scattered throughout other du Pont family collections at Hagley. The Margaretta E. "Meta" du Pont Papers is an important resource for any researcher interested in mid to late nineteenth century du Pont family history. The letters document nineteenth century upper-middle and upper class women's concerns, interests, attitudes, and lives.
Arrangement

The letters are arranged by recipient of the correspondence, and then chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630
Wilmington, Delaware 19807
askhagley@hagley.org
URL: http://www.hagley.org/library

Provenance

Gift of Robert Victor Coleman (grandson of Margaretta E. "Meta" du Pont Coleman), October 1991

Related Materials

Related Material

du Pont Family Papers (Accession 1089), Manuscripts and Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library
Controlled Access Headings

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
- Home economics.
- Middle class women
- Europe -- Description and travel.
- Domestic relations.
- Kentucky -- Description and travel.
- Social history
- Coleman, Margareta du Pont, 1862-1938
- Coleman, R. Bannen (Robert Bannen), 1856-1898
- Du Pont family
- Du Pont, Alfred Victor, 1833-1893
- Du Pont, Bidermann, 1837-1923
- Du Pont, Ellen Coleman, 1838-1876
- Du Pont, Margarett Lammot, 1807-1898
- Du Pont, T. Coleman (Thomas Coleman), 1863-1930
- Du Pont, Zara, 1869-1946
- Coleman family

Collection Inventory

Margaretta E. "Meta" du Pont Coleman, 1875-1912

Scope and Content

Correspondence received by Meta du Pont Coleman discussing social life and times in Louisville, Kentucky and on the Brandywine among du Pont family members; boarding school; travels from Kentucky and Delaware; courtship and marriage; household administration; and children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1875-June 1878</td>
<td>box 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1878-1879</td>
<td>box 2</td>
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<td>1880-1881</td>
<td>box 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1882-1885</td>
<td>box 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886-1891</td>
<td>box 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892-1912</td>
<td>box 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Margaretta E. Lammot du Pont, 1852-1903

Letters from Bidermann du Pont, 1852-1896

Scope and Content

Letters Margaretta E. Lammot du Pont received from her son Bidermann du Pont. These were found tied together in bundles and were arranged chronologically. In these letters, he discusses school in Philadelphia; life in Louisville, Kentucky; weather; family matters; the Civil War and its effects; and travel in Europe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tr>
<td>1852-1865</td>
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<td>1867-1874</td>
<td>box 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875-1896</td>
<td>box 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letters, 1859-1898 (Box 10)

Scope and Content

Letters received from other family members; topics include family matters.

Estate Papers, 1897-1903 (Box 11)

Scope and Content

Includes a copy of her will and inventory of estate, correspondence between executors of estate, Pierre S. du Pont and T. Coleman du Pont and one of her beneficiaries Margaretta E. "Meta" du Pont Coleman.

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Bannen Coleman, 1884-1898 (Box 12)

Scope and Content

Includes correspondence Bannen Coleman received including letters from Meta Coleman, written during their courtship and after their marriage and business related correspondence form Coleman du Pont.

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Bidermann du Pont and Ellen Coleman du Pont, 1856-1894 (Box 12)
Scope and Content

Letters received by Meta Coleman's parents, Bidermann du Pont and Ellen S. Coleman du Pont; topics primarily include family matters such as births, deaths, growth of children, servant problems, household furnishings. Correspondents include mother-in-law Margaretta E. Lammot du Pont, sister-in-law Sophie du Pont, niece Anne Cazenove du Pont, and friend Tessie Clark.

A.V. "Fred" du Pont, 1854-1892 (Box 13)

Scope and Content

Letters received by Meta Coleman's uncle, A.V. "Fred" du Pont. The correspondence is primarily from family members and covers both family and business concerns. Several of the letters were written by family members, expressing their gratitude for monetary assistance that he provided.

Frères et sœurs

Scope and Content

Correspondence received by the siblings of Meta Coleman: Pauline du Pont Baldwin, Antoine Bidermann ("Ermann") du Pont, T. Coleman du Pont, Zara du Pont, and Dora du Pont Phillips.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pauline du Pont Baldwin, 18961898</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.B. &quot;Ermann&quot; du Pont, 1885</td>
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Scope and Content

Correspondent is brother T. Coleman du Pont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. Coleman du Pont, 1889-1896</td>
<td>box 13</td>
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</table>

Scope and Contents note

Correspondents include Du Pont gunpowder agent in Cincinnati George W. Schwarz, and father Bidermann du Pont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Zara &quot;Zadie&quot; du Pont, 1886-1904</td>
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</table>

Scope and Contents note

Correspondents include sister Pauline du Pont Baldwin and brother T. Coleman du Pont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dora du Pont Phillips, undated</td>
<td>box 13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Scope and Contents note

Correspondent is grandmother Margareta E. Lammot du Pont.

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## Autres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Victor Coleman, 1903</td>
<td>box 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Scope and Content**

Correspondence received by Meta Coleman's aunts Paulina du Pont and Elizabeth A. ("Bessie") Coleman and cousin Kate Hunter, and son. The correspondence for both Series 6 and 7 is family related.

| Dora Coleman, 1891 | box 13 |
| **Scope and Contents note**

Correspondent is Henry Phillips.

| Elizabeth A. "Bessie" Coleman newspaper clippings, 1910-1915 | box 13 |
| **Scope and Contents note**

Correspondents include niece Meta Coleman, Greta Coleman, Lucy Irwin, nephew T. Coleman du Pont, William Coleman, Ida Coleman, Dora Morgan, niece Sophia.

| Nanno Coleman, 1896 | box 13 |
| **Scope and Contents note**

Correspondent is sister Elizabeth Coleman.

| Paulina du Pont, 1860-1911 | box 13 |
| **Scope and Contents note**

Correspondents include brother Bidermann du Pont, sister-in-law Ellen Coleman du Pont, and niece Meta du Pont Coleman.

| Kate Hunter, 1880 | box 13 |
Scope and Contents note

Correspondent is friend F. Lockett.

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Family Miscellany, 1846-1900 (Box 13)

Scope and Content

Consists of family miscellany such as stray letters, invitations, an additional items

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