

Dorothy Elderdice (1892-1979) Papers A Finding Aid

McDaniel College

REQUEST AS:

Call No: MS2009.4

Repository: Hoover Library, McDaniel College

Creator: Dorothy Elderdice, 1892-1979

Title: Dorothy Elderdice (1892-1979) Collection

Dates: 1903-1987 (Bulk 1903-1930 & 1948-1979)

Quantity: 4.5 linear feet (9 document cases)

Processing Information:

Processed: July 2009

By: Victoria A. Childs

April, 2010 by Barbara O'Brien

Acquisition Information:

Dorothy Elderdice gave the monograph of her father's life to the Hoover Library at McDaniel College on February 15, 1973. A second copy of the monograph of her father's life came to the Archives with her papers which were given the Hoover Library, McDaniel College, with the permission of Dorothy Elderdice's family on August 19, 1981. Her medals were given to College Archivist Samuel B. Schofield for the museum room and special display for the College's 100th anniversary in 1967.

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Preferred citation: Dorothy Elderdice (1892-1979) Papers, 1903-1987 (MS2009.2), McDaniel College Archives.

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Copying: Papers may be copied in accordance with the Archives' usual procedures.

Biography

Dorothy Elderdice was born in Westminster, Maryland, on April 6, 1882, to Annabel (Smith) and Dr. Hugh Latimer Elderdice. She graduated from Western Maryland College in 1911, Suma cum laude, and went on to Emerson College of Oratory in Boston, 1912 - 1913. Then she studied at University of Tennessee in 1914 before returning to Boston to study at Leland Powers School in 1917-1918. In the Spring of 1919, she went on to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. In 1920 she enrolled as an Inter-Theater Arts student in New York City and spent the summer of 1922 with the Outdoor Players in Peterboro, NH.

Throughout her early years Dorothy took different jobs teaching speech, drama, and French, and doing public orations while she wrote pageants. Her first work was giving readings a various church functions. In 1915 she gave a reading at the National Convention of the Young People's Union of the Methodist protestant Church in Columbus, Ohio. During World War One she traveled the Delmarva Peninsula speaking at churches for the Y. W. C. A. War Council and the Blue Triangle of the Y.W.C.A. She taught French at the Idaho Technical Institute in Pocatello, 1922-1923, and then from 1923 to 1924, she was the drama director at the Church of All Nations in New York City. As her term with the Church of All Nations was ending she found work for six months in West Virginia. Then she went on to West Palm Beach, Florida to direct community drama from 1925 to 1927. Between jobs Dorothy often returned home where she would find local jobs writing pageants and work at the Westminster Theological Seminary, where her father was president.

Dorothy finally settled in Westminster, Maryland in 1927 taking a permanent job at the Seminary teaching religious drama and speech and working in the library. She was paid little for her work and took summer jobs including teaching dramatics at Western Maryland College during the 1932 summer session. Money was always tight and she lived with her parents first at the President's house at the Westminster Theological Seminary and when Dr. Elderdice retired, in the "little house down the Hill." She stayed on at her parents' home after they had died and there she started her business of repairing and leasing costumes. When she first settled back in Westminster, "she felt she had returned to a cage rather than a roost." Over time she "realized that it wasn't a cage but a home with many windows looking out on a horizon that could be as wide as the universe."

Her most known works were written while she was in Westminster. *The Sheathing of the Sword*, a pageant exhorting peace among all nations, was written and performed in Westminster, Maryland in 1922. *Carroll Caravan* was written in 1936 for the Centennial Anniversary of Carroll County, Maryland. She wrote and produced *We Have Spoken for World Without War*, presented at Scheveningen, Holland in July, 1965 for the 50th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Also in the 1960s she wrote *Vietnam Calling* a forward thinking dialog where America talks with Vietnam about the differing views on the war over Telstar.

Dorothy died October 1, 1979

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection primarily consists of diaries, letters, photographs, awards, poetry, play notes, play lists, and a few of her pageants. Dorothy's diaries are sporadic in the beginning, but at that time they are more detailed regarding her personal relationships with friends, and family. After 1948 the diaries feature social issues pertinent to the civil rights movement, equal rights for women, and human rights. She also continued to write about her friends and her daily life. Her last entries are about dealing with her final illness, cancer.

Most of the papers and diaries came to the Colleges Archives shortly after she died. Dorothy wrote of diaries from when she was in Florida and in Idaho, however these diaries were not received with her papers and diaries. There are a number of years for which no diaries have been located (1931-1947). The early diaries were borrowed by the local American Association of University Women for transcription and returned. Condolence letters sent to Ms. Shipley in 1979 were sent on to the College's archives at a later date and are in Box 9, folder 95. There was also a file from College President Ralph John's office placed with her papers. This file is folder 93 in box nine. Photographs were placed in two folders in Box 8. Pages were removed from two early diaries which had rusted metal binder rings. The pages were placed in order in file folders and the binders that held the pages were placed in envelopes and then with their respective pages.

Container List

- Box 1: Series 1; Diaries 1903-1928; Folders 1-20
- Box 2: Series 1; Diaries 1925-1930 & 1948-1949; Folders 21-34
- Box 3: Series 1; Diaries 1950-1959; Folders 35-45
- Box 4: Series 1; Diaries 1960-1967; Folders 46-57
- Box 5: Series 1; Diaries 1968-1973; Folders 58-64
- Box 6: Series 1; Diaries 1974-1979, Folders 65-70
- Box 7: Series 2; Monographs, Folders 71-73
- Box 8:
 - Series 3; Pageants & Writings 74-80;
 - Series 4 papers including Correspondence, Folders 81-85;
 - Series 5, Family Papers, folder 86;
 - Series 6, Photographs, folders 87-89
- Box 9:
 - Series 5, Family Papers, Folder 90;
 - Series 6, Awards and Medals Folder 91-92;

- Series 7, Estate and Memorials, Folders 93-96;
- Series 8, American Association of University Women, Folder 97;
- Series 9, Lillian Shipley, Folder 98

Inventory by folder

Box 1:

- 1. Diary 1, 1903-1928
- 2. Journal titled "My Commencement," 1907
- 3. Diary 2, 1915-1920; bindings
- 4. Diary 2, loose postcards, clippings, photographs, notes, and memorabilia from diary
- 5. Diary 2, pg 1-9; postcards, Young People's Union membership pin (1915), Young people's Union program (1915),
- 6. Diary 2, pg 10-15; postcards attached to pages, business cards
- 7. Diary 2 pg 16-21; Concert program, letter from Harvey Orwick (1915), train ticket, photographs, and business cards
- 8. Diary 2, pg 22-27; photographs and business cards
- 9. Diary 2, pg 28-35; photographs
- 10. Diary 2; letter from Leland Powers School RE: Dorothy attending (1917)
- 11. Diary 2; three Letters from Dorothy to her parents, Betsy Ross letter, newspaper clippings, and a program.
- 12. Diary 3, 1923-1924;
- 13. Diary 3: Letter from Dorothy addressed to "Girls," January 3, 1924,
- 14. Diary 4, 1924-1925; binding
- 15. Diary 4; pg 1-14,
- 16. Diary 4, pg 15-26
- 17. Diary 4, pg 27-33
- 18. Diary 4, pg 34-47
- 19. Diary 4. pg 48-54 blank pages
- 20. pg 55-66 of diary 4. Diary entries

Box 2

- 21. Diary 5, 1925-1930; binding
- 22. Diary 5, pg 1-10
- 23. Diary 5, pg 11-22
- 24. Diary 5, pg 23-33
- 25. Diary 5, pg 34-41
- 26. Diary 5, pg 42-52
- 27. Diary 5, pg 53-59
- 28. Diary 5, pg 60-75 of diary 5. Diary entries
- 29. Diary 5; letter dated March 11, 1978, from Charles Read
- 30. Diary 6, 1930; "My Trip Abroad" referenced as 'Travel Diary,'
- 31. Diary 6, loose papers including letters, postcards, and a story written by Dorothy.
- 32-34: Diaries 7-9

- 32. 1929-1930
- 33. 1948
- 34. 1949

Box 3

- 35-44: Diaries 10-19
 - 35. 1950
 - 36. 1951
 - 37. 1952
 - 38. 1953
 - 39. 1954
 - 40. 1955
 - 41. 1956
 - 42. 1957
 - 43. 1958
 - 44. 1959
- 45. Diary 19, 1959; letter from Dorothy to her doctor.

Box 4

- 46-47: Diaries 20,21
 - 46. 1960
 - 47. 1961
- 48. Christmas letter removed from the back of diary 21 (1961)
- 49-50: Diaries 22,23
 - 49. 1962
 - 50. 1963
- 51. Program for “Vignettes” at Gettysburg. Removed from the back of diary 23 (1963)
- 52-56: Diaries 24-28
 - 52. 1964
 - 53. 1965 (January 1-July 17)
 - 54. 1965 – “European Trip”(July 19-December 31)
 - 55. 1966
 - 56. 1967
- 57. Papers removed from the back of diary 28 (1967). Playbill, map, catholic mass prayer, newspaper clipping.

Box 5

- 58-59: Diaries 29,30
 - 58. 1968
 - 59. 1969
- 60. Papers removed from the back of diary 30. Verse from newspaper, advertisement for Stratmore Hall
- 61-64: Diaries 31-34
 - 61. 1970
 - 62. 1971

- 63. 1972
- 64. 1973

Box 6

- 65-70:Diaries 35-40
 - 65. 1974
 - 66. 1975
 - 67. 1976
 - 68. 1977
 - 69. 1978
 - 70. 1979

Box 7

- 71. “Hugh Elderdice, president of the Westminster theological Seminary, 1897-1932,” monograph
- 72. “Hugh Elderdice, president of the Westminster theological Seminary, 1897-1932,” monograph, copy 2
- 73. “On Campus: 1897-1911,” memoir

Box 8

- 74. “The Sheathing Of the Sword,” 1922
- 75. “Carroll County Caravan,” 1937
- 76. “We Have Spoken for World Without War,” 1965
- 77. “Westminster Windows on the World
- 78. “From Fence Rail to Alter Rail, Grace Lutheran Church,” 1967
- 79. “Vietnam Calling, “ undated
- 80. “Emerson Quarterly,” 1931-1932
- 81. Papers from “sheathing of the Sword,” 1922
- 82. Correspondences & Notes, 1920 – 1971 (4 pcs)
- 83. Excerpts from Letters Home while in Europe, 1965
- 84. Christmas Letters, 1957-1976
- 85. Newspaper clippings, programs and bulletins; 1920 – 1979
- 86. Hugh Elderdice report cards, 1914-1917
- 87. Family Photographs (3 pcs)
 - Dorothy Elderdice, 20 yrs old, 1912
 - Latimer Elderdice, 9 months
 - Hugh Latimer Elderdice (date or age unknown)
- 88. Photographs of classmates
 - Mercedes Bowman and May Townsend
 - Mary Delashmutt
 - Helen Englar
 - Esther Kauffman
 - May Lippy
 - Ruth Monroe

- Olive Pennell
- Isabel M. Roop
- Olive Simpson
- Grace Steele
- Marguerite L. Stem
- Ava Taylor
- Geraldine Waters
- **89.** Photographs of classmates
 - Anna Marie Crumrine
 - Ellen Jackson
 - Laura Ruark
 - Marguerite Stem
 - Mary Stonesifer
 - Lulu Wooden

Box 9

- **90.** Apostolic Benediction, 1925
- **91.** Awards and citations 1965-1978
- **92.** Medals awarded Dorothy Elderdice and pins, 1911-1917 (7 pcs)
- **93.** Papers concerning Dorothy Elderdice 1976-1987
- **94.** Obituary Notices and Memorials, 1979
- **95.** Letters of condolences, 1979
- **96.** Estate Inventory, 1981
- **97.** American Association of University Women, 1980-1982
- **98.** Lillian Shipley papers, (3pcs)

Additional catalog entries:

Persons:

Ahern, Sadie
 Bowman, Mercedes
 Coe, A. B.
 Crumrine, Anna Marie
 Dalashmutt, Mary
 Elderdice, Annabel
 Elderdice, Dorothy
 Elderdice, Hugh Latimer
 Elderdice, Latimer
 Englar, Helen
 Jackson, Ellen
 John, Dr. Ralph

Kauffman, Esther
Lippy, May
Monroe, Ruth
Pennell, Olive
Read, Charles
Read, Edgar T.
Roop, Isabel
Ross, Betsy
Ruark, Laura
Schofield, Samuel
Shipley, Lillian
Shroyer, Helen
Simpson, Olive
Steele, Grace
Stem, Marguerite
Stigers, Kitty
Stonesifer, Mary
Taylor, Ava
Townsend, May
Tracy, Margaret E. Rinehart
Waters, Geraldine
Wooden, Lulu

Corporate Bodies:

American Association of University Women
Emerson College of Oratory
Historical Society of Carroll County
Idaho Technical Institute
McDaniel College
National Council of Defense
United Methodist Historical Society
Wesley Theological Seminary
Western Maryland College
Westminster Theological Seminary
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Associated Titles:

The Carroll County Caravan, 1937
"The Emerson Quarterly"
From Fence Rail to Altar Rail: The Hundred Years of Grace Lutheran Church 1867-1967
Hugh Latimer Elderdice, President of Westminster Theological Seminary 1897-1932
On Campus – 1897-1911- Informal Reminiscences of College Days at Western Maryland
The Sheathing of the Sword, 1922

Vietnam Calling, 1960s
We Have Spoken for World Without War, 1965

Subjects:

Colleges – History –United States
Colleges – Women’s history – United States
Cancer – Women – United States
Education – Religion – United States
Education – Women – United States
History – American – World War I
History –America—Vietnam Police Action
Politics – Civil Rights
Politics – 19th Amendment – Women’s Rights

Genres and Forms:

Awards
Diaries
Letters
Manuscripts
Medals
Newsletter
Photographs

Occupations:

Costumer
Educator
Pageant writer