

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library
special collections

Guide to MS-204:

Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing Collection



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

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January 2017

MS-204: Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing Collection

Processed by Karen Dupell Drickamer
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Size

3 boxes, 1.75 cubic feet

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1944 – 1965
Bulk: 1950 – 1954

Provenance

Gift of Nancy and Andrew Dewing, May 2016.

Biographical Note

Elisabeth Covington Smith was born on 25 April 1916 in Philadelphia, PA, to Earle Covington Smith (1885-1965), an engineer, and Elizabeth Fulton Drummond (1888-1916), a member of an old Philadelphia family. Elisabeth's mother died within six weeks of her birth from complications of childbirth. In June 1917 her father enlisted in the Army, Officers Reserve Corps, Ordinance Department and sailed to France in early 1918. Elisabeth was raised in the home of her paternal grandparents by her aunt, May Smith.

Elisabeth (Bess, Betty) attended Friends Select School in Philadelphia and the University Pennsylvania, majoring in English and French. She later attended business school and was employed by AT&T. On 21 March 1944, she enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corps, quickly rising to 1st Sergeant. In 1947, as the Army Air Corp was separating out to become the Air Force, she accepted a position as Warrant Officer and remained in the Army for the rest of her career.

During the beginning of the Korean War, Elisabeth was stationed in Japan, assigned to the office of General MacArthur. While in Japan, she used her leave time to travel through Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, and the Philippines. A later posting in France allowed her to tour all over Europe when on leave. She met her future husband on a steamer while touring the Greek islands. Some of her other postings were New Jersey, Texas, California, Wyoming, Colorado. Her last posting was at the Pentagon and it was from there that she retired as a fourth level Warrant Officer (CWO-W-4) in February 1965. In March, she and Steven Bronson Dewing were married in Fairfax, Virginia. The Dewings moved to Maine and continued their love of travel. Following her husband's death in 1996, Elisabeth continued traveling the world. Her last trips included Chile, Peru and Easter Island at age 88, sailing the Nile at 89, and a train ride to the bottom of Copper Canyon, Mexico, at 90. Elisabeth Covington Smith Dewing died on January 5, 2007.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists photographs of Elisabeth's travels through Japan, Thailand, India, and the Philippines 1950-1953; photographs of Fort Lee, Virginia and a base near Atlantic City, New Jersey in the 40s; her military medals, ribbons and pins; and her uniform (ca. 1965) with cap, skirt, and jacket (with all insignia, buttons, patches and bars).

Series Description

This collection is divided into three series. **Series I:** Photos, **Series II:** Medals, Pins, and Buttons, **Series III:** Textiles.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: Photos

- 1-1 Inventory and research
- 1-2 Documents: Military Papers
- 1-3 Photos: Elisabeth Covington Smith
- 1-4 Photos: Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1944
- 1-5 Photos: Ft. Lee, Virginia, June 1950
- 1-6 Photos: Japan, Tokyo (Takashimaya and Ginza Christmas Decorations), 1950
- 1-7 Photos: Japan, Tokyo, 1950 – 1951
- 1-8 Photos: Japan, Shizuura Rest Hotel, Numazu, November 1950
- 1-9 Photos: Japan, Kamakura, 1951
- 1-10 Photos: Japan, Yugawara, Spring 1951
- 1-11 Photos: Japan, Fujiya Hotel, Hakone, September 1951
- 1-12 Photos: Japan, Enoshima Island, Kanagawa Prefecture, November 1951
- 1-13 Photos: Japan, Nikko, January 1952
- 1-14 Photos: Japan, Asa Kanko, August 1952
- 1-15 Photos: Japan, Office in Yokohama, Hallandia Courts, October 1952
- 1-16 Photos: Japan, Osaka Castle, fishing boats, rice farmers – on the way to Kokara, October 1952
- 1-17 Photos: Japan, a trip on the "Q" boat in Tokyo Bay, August 1953
- 1-18 Photos: Japan, unidentified
- 1-19 Photos: India
- 1-20 Photos: Philippines, February 1953
- 1-21 Photos: Thailand
- 1-22 Photos: Miscellaneous – Friends
- 1-23 Photos: Miscellaneous – unidentified 1964

Series 2: Medals, Pins, and Buttons

- 2-1 Medals: U.S. Armed Forces National Defense Service Medal with ribbon and bar, original box
- 2-2 Medals: U.S. Army of Occupation WWII Service Medal with ribbon, bar and *Japan* clasp
- 2-3 Medals: WWII American Campaign Medal with ribbons and 2 bars, original box

- 2-4 Medals: Two U.S. Armed Forces Victory WWII Medals with ribbons & bars, original boxes
- 2-5 Medals: U.S. Army Commendation Medal, with ribbon, bar pin, and original box
- 2-6 Medals: Bronze Star Medal, ribbon, bar, pin, original box
- 2-7 Medals: Good Conduct Medal, original box
- 2-8 Medals: Two U.S. Korean Service Medals, ribbons, bar pin, one original box
- 2-9 Medals: Two United Nations Korea Medals, ribbons, bar pins, original boxes, *For service in defense of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.*
- 1-10 Pins: WWII U.S. Air Corps Pilot Wings and Propeller round pin
- 2-11 Pins: WWII U.S. Army Warrant Officer Shoulder Rank, Jr. Grade Pin
- 2-12 Pins: *This We'll Defend* pin, Meyer Insignia pin
- 2-13 Pins: Four U.S. Army insignia pins
- 2-14 Pins: U.S. pin
- 2-15 Pins: Two small Oak Cluster clasps
- 2-16 Buttons: Four U.S. Army buttons, Handy Button Mach. Co., Chicago
- 2-17 Buttons: four small U.S. Army buttons, Scovill Mfg. Co., Waterbury, Conn.

Series 3: Textiles

Textiles: U.S. Army uniform, ca. 1965, consisting of skirt, cap, and jacket, complete with all insignia, buttons, patches, and bars.

Contact Information

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