



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

William Blair correspondence

1950s-1982 [bulk 1950s]

MssCol 23097

Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Blair, William McC., Jr. (William McCormick), 1916-2015

Title: William Blair correspondence

Date: 1950s-1982 [bulk 1950s]

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by William M. Blair, 2014.

Abstract: William Blair (1916-2015) was a lawyer who served as administrative and executive secretary to presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson from 1950 to 1955. He was the United States ambassador to Denmark from 1961 to 1964, and to the Philippines from 1964 to 1967. The William Blair correspondence dates from the 1950s to 1982 and consists of incoming personal letters from Lauren Bacall, Rose Kennedy and Brooke Astor.

Preferred citation: William Blair correspondence, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

Creator History

William Blair was a lawyer who served as administrative and executive secretary to presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson from 1950 to 1955. He was the United States ambassador to Denmark from 1961 to 1964, and to the Philippines from 1964 to 1967. Blair was married to Catharine "Deeda" Blair, who is a board member on a number of medical research institutes. William Blair formed friendships with the actors Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart through their support of Stevenson.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of incoming personal letters from Lauren Bacall, Rose Kennedy and Brooke Astor, to William Blair, with one letter from Kennedy addressed to Mrs. Blair. Bacall's correspondence

(circa 1950s), in the form of letters, postcards, a note, and a holiday greeting card, comprises the bulk of the collection. She mentions her films, travels, and work schedules, and includes hopes of seeing Blair again. The two letters from Rose Kennedy (1961) concern social matters and date during Blair's period as ambassador to Denmark, at which time he worked closely with President Kennedy. Brooke Astor (circa 1982) sends her condolences on the death of Blair's father, William M. Blair.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ambassadors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Astor, Brooke

Bacall, Lauren, 1924-2014

Kennedy, Rose Fitzgerald, 1890-1995

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Lauren Bacall circa 1950s
- b. 1 f. 2 Rose Kennedy 1961
- b. 1 f. 2 Brooke Astor [1982]