
Guide to the Coolidge Family Papers

Collection number: SC 471

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Coolidge Family Papers

Collection Number: Stanford University Archives SC 471

Extent: 2.75 linear feet

Language: English

Provenance:

Gift of Dave Coolidge, 1993

Restrictions:

None.

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Biographical Note

The Coolidge family papers were largely generated by five sisters: Agnes Elizabeth Brown, Zaidee Brown, Harriett Brown Coolidge, Ellen Coit Brown Elliott, and Louise Brown Nash; their brother Bolton Coit Brown is also represented in the papers. They were the children of Martha Coit Brown and the Rev. Edmund Woodward Brown of Burdett, New York.

The family's affiliation with Stanford University began in 1891 with the appointment of Orrin Leslie Elliott, Ellen Brown's husband, as Secretary and Registrar, and Bolton C. Brown's appointment as art professor. Louise Brown moved out to assist her sister Ellen at home during that first year; she later married Herbert Nash, Stanford's first librarian. She was the artist for the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory from 1893 to 1897 and did scientific illustrations for many faculty members.

Zaidee Brown was a member of the Stanford class of 1898, earning a degree in English. She was a professional librarian, serving in various positions around the country. Harriett Brown earned her bachelor's degree in English at Stanford in May of 1902; she married Herbert Coolidge, a Stanford student during the years 1899 to 1904, in 1904. She was for many years a leader and teacher at the Santa Barbara Truth Center. Agnes E. Brown, also known as Bessie, earned her bachelor's degree in English at Stanford in May of 1906. She was also a librarian.

Scope and Contents Note

The Coolidge family papers consist of correspondence, journals, writings, genealogy, art work, and photographs of the Brown and Coolidge families. In addition to family letters and photographs, the collection includes the religious writings and radio talks of Harriett Brown Coolidge, 1936-1944; and scientific illustrations and art work of Louise Nash and her "journal letters" written during sketching trips, 1920s and 1930s. Of note among the family papers is the Brown family "newspaper," titled "Our Talk" or "Brown's Household Bulletin." They include sketches by Bolton C. Brown and Louise Brown and Ellen Brown's account of a reception for University President Andrew White at Cornell (1882). The photograph album includes images of Harriett Brown Coolidge and her children Ruth and Coit, Agnes E. Brown, Mary Roberts Smith who

married Dane Coolidge, Zaidee Brown and other librarians at Washington State College and at Long Beach public library, the Santa Barbara Truth Center, and several images of Stanford University taken by Ellen Coit Elliott.

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