Guide to the George and Eleanor Bridges Papers
MSS.0210

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November 20, 2012
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository
W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama

Creator
Bridges, Eleanor, 1899-1987

Creator
Bridges, George, 1899-1976

Title
George and Eleanor Bridges Papers

Date
1932-1965

Extent
0.2 Linear feet (23 Letters, 1 Postcard, 8 newspaper clippings, 14 miscellaneous items; 4 journals/diaries)

Language
English

Language of Materials note
Materials are in English and Spanish.

Abstract
Letters written to George and Eleanor Bridges, of Homewood, Jefferson County, Alabama, and others written by George. There are also newspaper clippings, miscellaneous items and four journals.

Preferred Citation note
The George and Eleanor Bridges Papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
Biographical/Historical note

George Bridges was born in Tennessee in 1899 (possibly 31 March) and was a well-known sculptor in Alabama. He and his wife, Eleanor (born in Georgia on 16 December 1899), lived in Homewood, Jefferson County, Alabama. The bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson in the Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham was made by George Bridges. He died in February 1976; she died in June 1987.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists mainly of letters written to George and Eleanor Bridges, of Homewood, Jefferson County, Alabama, and others written by George. There are several letters written in Spanish from friends in Guatemala, Cuba, and Mexico. One letter, dated April 27, 1950, is a carbon copy of a letter from Alyce Billings Walker, Director of the Women’s Department of the Birmingham News Age – Herald to Dr. John Gallalee, President of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, in which she recommends that George Bridges be considered for producing a special sculpture to go into the new Physics Building on campus. Dr. Gallalee’s reply is also included. In it, dated May 2, 1950, he indicates that he is not sure of where the project stands and that he is referring Mrs. Walker’s letter to Dr. Eric Rodgers, head of the Physics Department.

There are also eight newspaper clippings. In three of the clippings (including photographs) George Bridges is shown carving the statue of the Rev. W. D. Hargrove, founder of the Union Bethel Independent Methodist Church. The caption under one of the pictures states “The statue is believed to be the first to a Negro minister in the world.” The other clippings are articles George or Eleanor clipped and saved.

The miscellaneous items include invoices, business cards, scratch sheets of paper, and a seven page essay on the Arts in the South. The essay is not signed.

The four journals include a 1964 amateur gardening diary kept by Eleanor Bridges. There is also what appears to be a book of favorite quotations. The third journal appears to be a combination phone book and note book for Eleanor’s committee work. The fourth journal is a log book kept by Mrs. Richard Massey of Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, on a cruise from New York City, New York to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1923.

Administrative Information
Publication Information
W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama November 3, 2008

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
Purchased from Cather & Brown, 1992

Processed by
Martha Bace, 2008

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Business records
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Diaries
- Essays
- Personal correspondence

Geographic Name(s)

- Jefferson County (Ala.)

Subject(s)

- Alabama
• Arts--Alabama
• Community and Place
• Music and Performing Arts
• Sculptors--United States
• Southern Life and Culture
• Sports, Recreation and Leisure
• Travel and Tourism
Collection Inventory

| Letters, newspaper clippings, miscellaneous items (cards, invoices, etc.) | 4047 | 210.1 |
| Journals/diaries | 4047 | 210.2 |

Scope and Contents note

The four journals include a 1964 amateur gardening diary kept by Eleanor Bridges. There is also what appears to be a book of favorite quotations. The third journal appears to be a combination phone book and note book for Eleanor’s committee work. The fourth journal is a log book kept by Mrs. Richard Massey of Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama on a cruise from New York City, New York to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1923.