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02.003 Trentwell Mason White Papers, 1944-1959

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Trentwell Mason White, 1944-1959

By Julienne Stenberg (2007) and Marie Wasnock (2011)

Collection Overview

Title: Trentwell Mason White, 1944-1959

ID: 02/003

Creator: Trentwell Mason White (1901-1959)

Extent: 1 Box

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically as applicable within each folder.

Date Acquired: 2007

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This collection consists of documents and photographs related to Trentwell Mason White. Included are several articles written by White, as well as ones written by members of the Board of Trustees. There are a great number of condolence letters addressed to White's second wife, Alma, acknowledging his death in 1959. Correspondence both incoming and outgoing highlight responses of graduating students and faculty members. Trentwell Mason White Hall, along with other dedication ceremonies both honor and thank Trentwell. Anna Savolainen, as the first accepted student at Lesley Normal School also corresponds with Trentwell Mason White about her experiences. Lastly, photographs as well as speeches given by White during various commencements and ceremonies complete the collection.

The following photographs have been removed by the Lesley University Archives for proper storage in the photograph collection:

-One (1) 7 X 5 black and white glossy head shot of Trentwell Mason White taken in May, 1957.

-One (1) 7.5 X 6.25 black and white glossy of a photograph of Trentwell Mason White's formal portrait that was painted for Lesley College by Bernard M. Keyes, date unknown. Photograph

was attached to a separate sheet of paper, which is included with the photograph.

Photocopies of the materials are included in the collection. To see the original photographs, please ask the Archives staff and reference the following number: RG 7.3 AV#1, located in:

Photographs 3.1

Folder, "White, Trentwell Mason, 1944-1959"

Biographical Note

Trentwell Mason White was born on May 15, 1901 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was born to Ivonetta G. Marten and Harry Mason White. He attended public and private schools in Boston for his preliminary education. In 1922 White graduated from Norwich University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and then received his Masters in 1928 from the same school. He was English master at the Hotchkiss School and at Williston Academy. He directed English for the public school system in Dedham, Massachusetts. During 1928-30 at Northeastern University, White was the Assistant Professor of English and Director of Educational Research. He lectured on creative writing at the Breadloaf School of English at Middlebury College. All the while he was writing books for youths as well as adults. White conducted the course in creative writing given at Harvard for many years, which was one of the most popular courses taught at the University.

In 1930 he was simultaneously working as a lecturer at the Breadloaf School, Curry College, Harvard University, as well as working as editor at D.C. Heath & Company, and EDUCATION Magazine. In 1934, White became president and editorial director of Lothrop, Lee, & Shepard Company, a publishing company. Trentwell Mason White was President of the Curry School of Boston from 1935-1939. By this time he had written more books and articles, criticisms and fiction for America's leading magazines. Titles of his books include: Opportunity Ahead!, Famous Leaders of Industry (Series III), The Thing in the Road, How to Write for a Living, Three Rookies at Morton, and Writers of Colonial New England.

In 1944, Trentwell Mason White became President of Lesley College. At his inception the College had an enrollment of eighty-six students with thirteen faculty members teaching courses only leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. During his time at Lesley, the curriculum was extended to a four-year liberal arts program. The enrollment increased to 380 undergraduate students and the faculty membership increased to fifty-four. The Edith Lesley Wolfard Endowment, which in 1944 was valued at \$32,300, by 1959 was valued at \$159,165. The school consisting of four buildings at his inauguration was soon increased to ten buildings.

He married Helen Thompson in Baldwinville, Massachusetts on June 22, 1926. They had two children, Merideth Thompson and Trentwell Mason. White and Thompson divorced in 1936. On July 22, 1939 White married Alma Hortense Carvill in Newton, Massachusetts. They had no children. Trentwell Mason White died unexpectedly on September 18, 1959. His wife, who died on June 7, 1994 at the age of 85, survived him.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: In Library Use Only.

Use Restrictions: The copyright law of the United States, Title 17, U.S. Code, governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of the specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction of copyrighted material is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research" (17 U.S.C. § 108). Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owner. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user. Copyright Owner: Lesley University; Copyright Contact: The Lesley University Archives.

Acquisition Method: Materials were collected throughout the existence of Lesley University from various offices and deposited in the archives through several different accessions. The majority of the materials came from two accessions (2007-01 and 2007-03) that were collected by both the Office of Alumni Relations and the President's Office.

Processing Information: Processed by Julienne Stenberg in 2007 and Marie Wasnock in November 2011.

Finding Aid Revision History: Finding aid to be revised as additional materials are accessioned into collection.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1: Trentwell Mason White, 1944-1959

Folder 1: Articles, 1954-1959

Articles written by Trentwell Mason White for the Lesley community.

Folder 2: Biographical Information, undated

Folder 3: Buildings: White Hall and Stebbins Hall, Dedication, 1958

Folder 4: Ceremonies: Commencement, 1955-1959

Folder 5: Ceremonies: Commencement (speakers), 1948-1954

Folder 6: Ceremonies: Commencement (speakers), 1955-1959

Folder 7: Ceremonies: Fall Convocation, 1955-1959

Folder 8: Ceremonies: Inauguration, 1944

Folder 9: Ceremonies: Spring Convocation, 1950-1959

Folder 10: Ceremonies: Step-Up Ceremony, 1952-1959

Folder 11: Ceremonies: Winter Convocation, 1947-1959

Folder 12: Correspondence: Anna Tikkanen Savolainen, 1958-1960

Includes Ms. Savolainen's biography and photographs.

Folder 13: Correspondence: Incoming, 1957
Folder 14: Correspondence: Condolence letters, 1959
Includes obituary for Mr. White, New York Times, 20 Sept 1959.
Folder 15: NEASC Application (draft), Oct 1952
Folder 16: Photographs, 1944-1957
Folder 17: Speeches, 1950-1959
Folder 18: Stationery with Lesley crest (blank), undated
Includes Lesley College recognition certificates.
Folder 19: White, Alma (wife)