



Guide to the Mary Duke Biddle papers, 1894-1982, 1992-2004, 2013, bulk 1913-1960

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The Duke Endowment

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Mary Duke Biddle papers, 1894-1982, 1992-2004, 2013, 1913-1960

Creator:

Biddle, Mary Duke, 1887-1960

Abstract:

Mary Lillian Duke Biddle (1887-1960) was the only daughter of Sarah P. and Benjamin N. Duke and one of the heirs of the Duke family fortune. This collection documents her personal and family life in New York and North Carolina as a wealthy socialite and philanthropist in the first half of the 20th century. She gave notable contributions to Duke University related to the Duke Homestead, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, and Duke University Libraries, and she established the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation in Durham to continue her philanthropy after her death.

Extent:

45 Linear Feet (39 boxes (including 24 flat boxes), two oversize folders, and two volumes.)

Language:

Material in English.

Collection ID:

RL.13054

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1hn0g>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Duke Biddle papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection documents Mary Duke Biddle's personal, social, and family life in New York and North Carolina through her correspondence, legal and financial records, scrapbooks and photo albums, photographic prints, and a

small number of other files. The financial records are particularly extensive, and the dates of this collection are due to the numerous trusts she established to benefit her children and grandchildren past her death.

Family members represented include Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle Jr., Nicholas Benjamin Duke Biddle, Angier Buchanan Duke, Benjamin Newton Duke, Sarah Pearson Angier Duke, and Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans. Other individuals represented include Karl Bock, William Preston and Mary Few, Frederic Moir Hanes, and Ellen Shipman. Subjects include the Duke Homestead, Elon College, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Trinity College/Duke University, and the Duke University Woman's College.

Biographical/Historical

Mary Lillian Duke Biddle was born on November 26, 1887, in Durham, NC to Sarah Pearson Angier Duke (1856-1936) and Benjamin Newton Duke (1855-1929). She was the second Duke to graduate from Trinity College in 1907, after her older brother Angier Buchanan Duke in 1905, and she was presented at the Court of St. James in 1913. She married Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle Jr. (1897-1961) in 1915 and they had two children: Mary Duke Biddle (1920-2012) and Nicholas Benjamin Duke Biddle (1921-2004). They divorced in 1931 after she was able to prove infidelity in court and she legally changed Nicholas's name from Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle III in 1933 (his father later reused this name on another son). She had a multi-year depressive episode after this ordeal, during which she was treated by Frederic M. Hanes of Duke University at her request, and she continued to deal with bouts of depression for the rest of her life. Her primary residences were 1009 Fifth Avenue in New York, NY (after 1919), "Linden Court" in Irvington, NY during the summers (after 1921), and "Pinecrest" in Durham (after 1935).

A trained singer and opera lover, Biddle became a patron of the arts and continued her family's legacy of philanthropy, especially to Trinity College/Duke University. In particular, she purchased then transferred the title to her grandfather Washington Duke's homestead in 1931 (which is now owned and operated by the state as a historic site), supported the gardens that would be named after her mother in 1939, gave \$1.5 million to expand the main library in 1946, and left \$1 million in her will (which had to be reduced to \$420,000 in effort to honor all her bequests). She also donated to North Carolina College and Lincoln Community Hospital in Durham, two institutions created to serve the local African American community due to segregation. She established the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation in 1956 to continue her philanthropy after her death, with their offices originally located in 30 Rockefeller Plaza. The music building, an exhibition space in the special collections library, and the rose garden at Duke University are named in her honor.

Biddle died on 14 June 1960 in Durham and is buried in the Duke family mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery.

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Arrangement

The Mary Duke Biddle papers are arranged into five series: Correspondence, Financial, Legal, Visual Material, and Personal.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

A project is currently underway to process and incorporate additional material to Semans family-related collections before they become fully open to researchers in January 2027. Work on this collection is likely finished, but it is hard to say with 100% certainty. This project is being funded by a Duke Endowment grant focused on Duke family papers. For more information, please contact the Rubenstein Library.

Access restricted. Access to this material will be consistent with the 1991 agreement between Duke University Library, James H. Semans, and Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans. Access to any correspondence, legal papers, and financial papers is restricted and will be permitted only with prior written permission, which should be sought from the chair of the board of the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. This restriction shall be in place until 1 January 2027, after which all material shall be considered open for research.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are fragile photographic formats and may require extra assistance from staff. Use of digital access copies is preferred. Contact Research Services for access.

Acquisition Information

The Mary Duke Biddle papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library as a transfer from the Semans family papers in 2024. They were originally gifts from James H. and Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans between 1969-1990.

Processing Information

This collection was originally a series in the former Semans family papers, which were processed by Madeleine Bagwell Perez and Donna Longo DiMichele, April 1991; encoded by Alvin Pollock; and updated by staff, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017, Paula Jeannet, 2018, and Leah Tams, December 2021.

The Semans family papers were separated by series into four collections by Zachary Tumlin, February 2024, as part of a project funded by The Duke Endowment. He was subsequently aided by Will Clemmons, Kelley Slebos, and Zoe Finiasz.

Material described in the Semans family papers collection guide came from almost two dozen accessions from 1969-1990. Over three dozen additional accessions to the Semans family papers were received between 1992-2025. This collection guide could describe material from any of those accessions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Angier Buchanan Duke papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

Benjamin Newton Duke papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans family papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University. Includes additional visual and audiovisual material with Mary Duke Biddle.

Sarah P. Duke Gardens records, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Names and Subjects

- Autochromes (photographs)
- Duke Homestead (Durham, N.C.)
- New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs -- History -- 20th century
- Photograph albums
- Scrapbooks
- Upper class families -- New York (State)
- Upper class families -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Women millionaires -- North Carolina -- Correspondence
- Women philanthropists -- North Carolina -- Correspondence
- Biddle, Anthony Joseph Drexel, 1896-1961
- Biddle, Mary Duke, 1887-1960
- Biddle, Nicholas Duke, 1921-2004
- Duke, Benjamin N. (Benjamin Newton), 1855-1929
- Duke, Sarah P., 1856-1936
- Duke family
- Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
- Sarah P. Duke Gardens (Durham, N.C.)
- Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1894-1960

Access Restrictions:

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is restricted and will be permitted only with prior written permission, which should be sought from the chair of the board of the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. This restriction shall be in place until 1 January 2027, after which all material shall be considered open for research.

Arranged chronologically, then files of condolences at the end.

Scope and Contents

Primarily correspondence to and from Biddle, but also includes correspondence to and from Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., Benjamin N. Duke, Sarah P. Duke, Angier Buchanan Duke, Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, Nicholas Duke Biddle, and Duke University administrators, trustees, and faculty. There is a significant amount of correspondence from Duke family business managers to her related to her finances and from her to Duke University related to her philanthropy. Some legal documents related to financial transactions are interspersed. There are also files specifically for the many condolences addressed to her on the deaths of her brother, father, and mother.

1894, 1913-1960 Box 1

Physical Description: 17 folders

Condolences: Duke, Angier Buchanan, 1923
September-October Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents

Includes one folder of telegrams.

Condolences: Duke, Benjamin N., 1929 January-
June Box 1

Physical Description: 2 folders

Condolences: Duke, Sarah P., 1936 September-
November Box 1

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Contents

Includes one folder of telegrams.

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Financial, 1917-1982, 1992-2004, 2013

Access Restrictions:

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Arranged alphabetically, with trusts arranged chronologically.

Biographical / Historical

Additional information on each trust can be found at the file level in a historical note.

Related Material:

The Financial series in the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans family papers includes bound cash books for the 1958 trust created by Mary Duke Biddle for her grandchildren.

Scope and Contents

Primarily files on at least 25 trusts plus bound cash books, financial journals, ledgers, and voucher records. Also includes a folder and a bound financial journal, ledger, and four minute books for Linden Investment Corporation.

Cash book 7, 1947 March-1951 November	Box 9
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Cash book, 1956 November-1960 December	Box 8
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Scope and Contents

Securities distributed to Mary Duke Biddle Foundation per trust agreement.

Checkbook, 1958 August-1960 June	Box 1
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Processing Information:

Disbound.

Scope and Contents

Stubs only.

Duke University Library addition, 1946-1953	Box 1
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Insurance, 1933-1956	Box 1
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Scope and Contents

Includes a "report on inspection results with Mr. Pemberton and insurance men re: furniture and objects of art found in condition to be restored" (after Linden Court fire) on Karl Bock letterhead.

Journal 1, 1917 January-1925 November Box 10

Physical Description: Visible pest damage.

Biographical / Historical

Linden Court was purchased in June 1921.

Journal 2, 1925 December-1932 December Box 10

Journal 3, 1933 January-1943 November Box 11

Biographical / Historical

Pinecrest was purchased in 1935.

Journal 4, 1943 December-1953 December Box 11

Biographical / Historical

Gifts to Duke University to expand the library were given between 1946-1950. The Great Appalachian Storm of 1950 hit Linden Court on 25 November.

Journal 5, 1953 December-1960 June Box 12

Physical Description: Outer spine has separated.

Ledger 1, 1917-1925 Box 13

Ledger 2, 1926-1931 Box 14

Ledger 3, 1932-1939 Box 14

Ledger 4, 1940-1950 Box 15

Ledger 5, 1951-1960 Box 16

Ledger: Payroll, 1929-1930 Box 8

Processing Information:

Disbound.

Scope and Contents

Includes Sarah P. Duke, estate of Benjamin N. Duke, and Ra-Var Corporation.

Linden Investment Corporation, 1924, 1951 Box 1

Scope and Contents

Includes blank stock certificates.

Linden Investment Corporation: Journal, 1924-1928 Box 8

Linden Investment Corporation: Ledger, 1924-1928 Box 8

Linden Investment Corporation: Minute book 1, 1924-1925 Box 8

Linden Investment Corporation: Minute book 2, 1926-1941 Box 8

Linden Investment Corporation: Minute book 3, 1942-1950 Box 8

Linden Investment Corporation: Minute book 4, 1951-1960 Box 8

Prince and Whitely, 1930-1931 Box 1

Biographical / Historical

New York brokerage firm that failed in October 1930.

Promissory notes, 1935, 1952 Box 1

Receipts and invoices, 1921, 1930, 1940-1941 Box 1

Scope and Contents

1930 items are from Biddle's trip to Paris and 1940-1941 items are from Cartier for custom remounted jewelry.

Summary financial statements, 1927-1939 Box 1

Processing Information:

Disbound.

Scope and Contents

Tabs for securities sold, securities purchased, net worth, summary income, trusts, analysis of cash, and Sarah P. Duke net worth.

Trial balance, 1944 December 31 Box 1

Scope and Contents

Only contains a single one of these monthly financial reports.

Trust holdings, 1944-1946 Box 1

Scope and Contents

The typeset material is similar to what is in the "Summary financial statements" volume, but this material was found separately and is dated later, plus there is a handwritten version.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent and
Nicholas Duke Biddle (1928), 1928-1965 Box 32

Physical Description: 18 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 5949. Trustee: Guaranty Trust Company. This trust was originally established to benefit Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr. then pass to his children, but after the divorce it was reformed.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent and
Nicholas Duke Biddle (1928), 1956-1957 Box 33

Biographical / Historical

Account number 5949. Trustee: Guaranty Trust Company. This trust was originally established to benefit Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr. then pass to his children, but after the divorce it was reformed.

Scope and Contents

Proxies folder.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
(1931), 1931-1973, 1992-2004, 2013 Box 33

Physical Description: 6 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7902. MDBTS "trust #4." Trustees: Guaranty Trust Company and John C. Thorne.

Scope and Contents

2013 items are two thick, bound packets from the New York Surrogate's Court.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1931),
1965-1973 Box 33

Physical Description: 3 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7903. NDB "trust #3." Trustees: Guaranty Trust Company and John C. Thorne.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
(1939), 1939-1955 Box 33

Physical Description: 5 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 65557. Trustees: George G. Allen, William R. Perkins, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1947),
1947-1962 Box 34

Physical Description: 11 folders

Biographical / Historical

Trustees: Freeman J. Daniels and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
(1949), 1949-1973, 1998 Box 34

Physical Description: 8 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 2432. Trustees: Chemical Bank and Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
(1949), 2014 Box 35

Physical Description: 2 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 2432. Trustees: Chemical Bank and Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1949),
1949-1973, 1980 Box 35

Physical Description: 7 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7011. Trustees: Guaranty Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and William R. O'Connor.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1950),
1950-1965, 1970 Box 35

Physical Description: 5 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 604359. Trustees: First National City Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and William R. O'Connor.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
(1951), 1951-1974, 1998 Box 35

Physical Description: 3 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 16248. Trustees: Hanover Bank, Freeman J. Daniels, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
(1951), 1951-1973 Box 36

Physical Description: 3 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 16248. Trustees: Hanover Bank, Freeman J. Daniels, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent and
Nicholas Duke Biddle (1955), 1955-1977,
1996-2004 Box 36

Physical Description: 7 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 605015. Trustees: City Bank Farmers Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and Francis R. Pemberton.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent (1956), 1956-1978, 1980, 1992-1996 Box 36

Physical Description: 4 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7357. MDBTS "trust #1." Trustees: Guaranty Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1956), 1956-1981 Box 36

Physical Description: 5 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 605225. Trustees: First National City Bank, Freeman J. Daniels, and Francis R. Pemberton.

Trusts: Mary Duke Biddle Foundation (1956 September), 1956-1960 Box 37

Biographical / Historical

Trustees: Mary Duke Biddle, MDBTS, Nicholas Duke Biddle, James H. Semans, Freeman J. Daniels, Francis R. Pemberton, and Bert W. Stiles.

Trusts: Mary Duke Biddle Foundation (1956 November), 1956-1964 Box 37

Physical Description: 5 folders

Biographical / Historical

Trustees: Freeman J. Daniels, Francis R. Pemberton, and William R. O'Connor.

Trusts: Grandchildren (1958), 1958-1963 Box 37

Physical Description: 8 folders

Biographical / Historical

Trustees: Freeman J. Daniels and Francis R. Pemberton.

Scope and Contents

Includes Nicole Pandora Duke Biddle.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent (1960 April), 1960-1973, 1980, 1992-1996 Box 37

Physical Description: 3 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7636. MDBTS "trust #2." Trustees: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and William R. O'Connor.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1960 April),
1960-1973

Box 37

Physical Description: 2 folders

Biographical / Historical

Trustees: Hanover Bank, Freeman J. Daniels, and Louis C. Vaden.

Trusts: Grandchildren (1960), 1960-1970, 1985

Box 37

Physical Description: 5 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 605965. Trustees: First National City Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and Francis R. Pemberton.

Trusts: Grandchildren (1960), 1970-1973

Box 38

Biographical / Historical

Account number 605965. Trustees: First National City Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, and Francis R. Pemberton.

Trusts: Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent (1960
June), 1960-1973, 1980-1982, 1992-1995

Box 38

Physical Description: 8 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7647. MDBTS "trust #3." Trustees: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, Francis R. Pemberton, and William O'Connor.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1960 June),
1960-1973

Box 38

Physical Description: 6 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 7648. NDB "trust #2." Trustees: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Freeman J. Daniels, Francis R. Pemberton, and William O'Connor.

Trusts: Biddle, Nicholas Duke (1960 December),
1961-1973, 1978-1981

Box 38

Physical Description: 4 folders

Biographical / Historical

Account number 606111. Trustees: First National City Bank and Freeman J. Daniels.

Voucher record 1, 1919 July-1922 August	Box 17
Voucher record 2, 1922 September-1924 August	Box 17
Voucher record 3, 1924 September-1926 February	Box 18
Voucher record 4, 1926 March-1927 July	Box 18
Voucher record 5, 1927 July-1928 September	Box 19
Voucher record 6, 1928 October-1929 November	Box 19
Voucher record 7, 1929 November-1931 March	Box 20
Voucher record 8, 1931 April-1932 June	Box 20
Voucher record 9, 1932 July-1933 December	Box 21
Voucher record 10, 1933 December-1935 April	Box 21
Voucher record 11, 1935 May-1936 September	Box 22
Voucher record 12, 1936 October-1937 December	Box 22
Voucher record 13, 1938 January-1939 April	Box 23
Voucher record 14, 1939 May-1940 October	Box 23
Voucher record 15, 1940 October-1942 June	Box 24
Voucher record 16, 1942 June-1944 June	Box 24
Voucher record 17, 1944 June-1946 June	Box 25
Voucher record 19, 1948 April-1949 December	Box 25
Voucher record 20, 1950 January-1951 October	Box 26
Voucher record 21, 1951 October-1953 June	Box 26

Voucher record 22, 1953 July-1955 April	Box 27
Voucher record 24, 1957 February-1958 September	Box 27
Voucher record 25, 1959 October-1960 April	Box 28
Voucher record 26, 1960 May-June	Box 29

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Legal, 1917-1967

Access Restrictions:

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Arranged alphabetically, with appraisals arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Primarily appraisals of the contents of homes and artwork, both before and after Biddle's death. Also includes two court cases, powers of attorney, and her will.

Appraisals, 1917-1921, 1939, 1956	Box 2
Appraisals: Contents: 1009 Fifth Ave., 1939 November 30	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Appraisals: Contents: Durham, NC, 1939 December 12	Box 2
Appraisals: Contents: Linden Court, 1939 February 20	Box 2
Appraisals: Artwork: Duke University, 1942 December 24	Box 2

Appraisals: Artwork: 1009 Fifth Ave., 1949 November 7	Box 2
Appraisals: Artwork: Linden Court, 1949 November 7	Box 2
Appraisals: Contents: Pinecrest, 1956 September 17	Box 2
Appraisals: Contents: Linden Court, 1959 December 29	Box 2
Appraisals: Contents: Pinecrest, 1960 March 16	Box 2
Appraisals: Contents, undated	Box 2
Processing Information:	
Disbound.	
Scope and Contents	
Tabs for 1009 Fifth Avenue, Linden Court, Pinecrest, and 30 Rockefeller Plaza.	
Biddle v. Biddle, 1928-1931	Box 2
Estates, 1961-1967	Box 2
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Includes an executed copy of Biddle's will, inventories, tax documentation, appraisals, and documentation from court proceedings.	
Estates: Appraisal of contents: 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 1960 June 14	Box 2
Estates: Appraisal of contents: 1009 Fifth Ave., 1960 June 14	Box 2
Estates: Appraisal of contents: Linden Court, 1960 June 14	Box 2
Estates: Appraisal of contents: Pinecrest, 1960 June 14	Box 2

Estates: Appraisal of contents: Uplands, 1960
June 14 Box 2

Estates: Appraisal of jewelry and furs: Durham
and New York, 1960 June 14 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Includes inventories of selections, a public auction catalog, and black and white photo negatives.

Estates: Appraisal of contents: Durham and
New York, 1960 December 7 Box 2

Estates: Jewelry, 1961 Box 2

Estates: Notes and correspondence, undated Box 2

Inventories, 1940s-1950s Box 2

Powers of Attorney, 1920, 1946, 1950 Box 2

Property: 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 1933 Box 2

Biographical / Historical

This 65-story skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan was opened to tenants in 1933 and originally known as the RCA Building.

Scope and Contents

Leases, subleases, and renewals of office space on the 57th floor. Includes a floorplan without interior walls.

Property: Four Acres, 1926 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Grant of deed and personal property by Benjamin N. Duke to Sarah P. Duke and Mary Duke Biddle.

Property: Palm Beach lots, 1923-1931 Box 2

Biographical / Historical

Two neighboring lots in Poinciana Park (and two lots in "Primavera Estates") about four miles north-northwest from the Biddle estate known as "Sarmiento."

Scope and Contents

Includes four black and white photo prints showing undeveloped waterfront land.

Property: Vickers Alley, 1954

Box 2

Biographical / Historical

Two lots in Durham "on the westerly side of Duke Street" across from Four Acres conveyed by Benjamin N. and Sarah P. Duke and eventually both acquired by Home Security Life Insurance Company. These lots were split by a private alley.

Scope and Contents

A quitclaim deed between Biddle and Home Security Life Insurance Company to the alley and two diagrams seemingly showing both lots off of Jackson Street.

Rosen v. Biddle, 1939

Box 2

Biographical / Historical

Civil defamation suit brought in Westchester County, NY by Marie Hall Rosen (plaintiff) against Mary Duke Biddle (defendant).

Will, 1960 April 14

Box 2

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Visual Material, 1900-1956

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Digital surrogates of the autochromes are available and preferred for use. Contact Research Services for access.

Organized into three subseries: Scrapbooks, Photo Albums, and Photographs.

Related Material:

Additional visual and audiovisual material with Biddle can be found in the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans family papers.

Scope and Contents

Individual or collections of still images of Biddle and her family.

Scrapbooks, 1900-1932

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Mainly scrapbooks with newspaper society page clippings about the Duke and Biddle families and Duke University, with some including correspondence to and from Benjamin Newton Duke primarily related to Duke University. Also includes two baby books.

Opera/theater personalities, 1900-1920 Box 3

Physical Description: Leather flaking on spine. Photomechanical prints.

Bridal book, 1915 Box 3

Physical Description: Tearing along spine.

Scope and Contents

Gift of Mary F. Houston.

Family, 1915-1931 Box 39

Physical Description: Bound.

Scope and Contents

Clippings, correspondence (including a handwritten 1929? item from Benjamin Newton Duke), printed material (multiple Duke Alumni Register), a few pieces of sheet music, and one black and white photo print of Benjamin. Subjects include a 1915 musical performance by Biddle, the death of Angier Buchanan Duke and Benjamin, and NC universities connected to the family.

Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent baby book, 1920 Box 3

Biddle, Nicholas Duke baby book, 1921 Box 4

Family, 1928-1932 Box 4

Divorce, 1930-1931 Box 39

Scope and Contents

Clippings from all across the US, many with photos or illustrations of the parties involved.

Family, 1930-1932 Box 39

Scope and Contents

Clippings, 10 black and white photo prints (some taken aboard the SS Bremen in September 1931), three pieces of correspondence, and four music programs. Some clippings have to do with Biddle's children, including MDBTS receiving a medal from Ernest Schelling.

Photo Albums, circa 1914-1920s, 1951-1957

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Two sets of photo albums, with the first being from the 1920s, more likely assembled by Biddle's mother, and showing Biddle with her parents, husband, and two young children, including on vacation in Florida and on a Northeast boardwalk. The second set is from the 1950s and shows an older Biddle with her daughter, grandchildren, and friends, especially at Pinecrest.

Duke, Benjamin N. family, circa 1914-1920s

Box 30 > Volume RL01167-
VS-0030

Scope and Contents

New Jersey and maybe Newport. Includes Mary Duke Biddle, Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., Benjamin N. Duke, Sarah P. Duke, and baby nurses with MDBTS and Nicholas Duke Biddle.

Duke, Benjamin N. family: Linden Court, circa
1921-1922

Box 30 > Volume RL01167-
VS-0031

Processing Information:

Prints separated for preservation purposes.

Scope and Contents

Includes Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., Mary Duke Biddle, MDBTS, Benjamin N. Duke, Cordelia Drexel Biddle Duke, James B. Duke, Sarah P. Duke, Elizabeth Gotham, and possibly Anthony Drexel Duke, Angier Biddle Duke, and Doris Duke.

Duke, Benjamin N. family: Boardwalk, 1920s

Box 30 > Volume RL01167-
VS-0032

Scope and Contents

Atlantic City or Newport. Includes Mary Duke Biddle, MDBTS, Nicholas Duke Biddle, Benjamin N. Duke, James B. Duke, Sarah P. Duke, and others.

Duke, Benjamin N. family, 1920s

Box 30 > Volume RL01167-
VS-0033

Scope and Contents

Palm Beach and possibly Atlantic City or Newport. Includes Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., Mary Duke Biddle, MDBTS, Nicholas Duke Biddle, Angier Biddle Duke, Angier Buchanan Duke, Anthony Drexel Duke, Benjamin N. Duke, Sarah P. Duke, Elizabeth Gotham, and Cordelia Drexel Biddle Robertson.

Duke, Benjamin N. family, 1920s

Box 30 > Volume RL01167-
VS-0034

Processing Information:

Prints separated for preservation purposes.

Scope and Contents

Possibly assembled by Sarah P. Duke. Locations include Florida, Atlantic City, Irvington, Duke Farms, and James B. Duke's Charlotte mansion. People include Lida Duke Angier, Anthony J. Drexel Biddle Jr., Nicholas Duke Biddle, Mary Duke Biddle, Angier Biddle Duke, Angier Buchanan Duke, Anthony Drexel Duke, Benjamin N. Duke, James B. Duke, Sarah P. Duke, Cordelia Drexel Biddle Robertson, and others.

Biddle, Mary Duke family, 1951 May, 1953
December

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes MDBTS, James H. Semans, and the Trent girls.

Biddle, Mary Duke family, 1954 January-
August

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes MDBTS and James H. Semans, the Trent girls, Nicholas Duke Biddle, and Elizabeth Gotham.

Biddle, Mary Duke family, 1954 October-
December

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes MDBTS and James H. Semans, the Trent girls, Nicholas Duke Biddle, and Roland Alston.

Biddle, Mary Duke family, 1955 January-May

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes MDBTS and James H. Semans, Barbara Trent, and Nicholas Duke Biddle

Biddle, Mary Duke family, 1956

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes MDBTS and James H. Semans, Rebecca Trent, and Jenny Semans.

Biddle, Mary Duke family, 1957

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes Jenny Semans.

Photographs, circa 1910, 1913, 1930s-1940s

Physical Description: Photographic prints, including four autochromes, prints on linen, and hand-colored prints.

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Digital surrogates of the autochromes are available and preferred for use. Contact Research Services for access.

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Portraits of Biddle, taken in whole or part by New York City studios. Includes her in the gown she wore when she was presented at the court of St. James.

Biddle, Mary Duke, circa 1910 (online item available)

Box 6

Physical Description: 2 items ; Autochromes.

Digital Object: [Biddle, Mary Duke \(diascope\), circa 1910](#)

Digital Object: [Biddle, Mary Duke \(diascope\), circa 1910](#)

Access Restrictions:

Digital surrogates are available and preferred for use.

Biographical / Historical

Produced using a rare early color photographic process and displayed in diascope cases.

Biddle, Mary Duke: Court of St. James, 1913 Box 31

Scope and Contents

Includes hand-colored prints.

Biddle, Mary Duke: Michael Gallo, 1940s Box 31

Physical Description: 8 folders ; Prints on linen.

Biddle, Mary Duke: Studio of Carmen, 1930s Box 31

Scope and Contents

Includes a hand-colored print. Five prints are autographed on the mat, including to Sarah P. Duke, MDBTS, and a "Miss [Timey?]."

Duke, Sarah P., circa 1910 (online item available) Box 6

Physical Description: 2 items ; Autochromes.

Digital Object: [Duke, Sarah P. \(diascope\), ca. 1910](#)

Digital Object: [Duke, Sarah P. \(diascope\), ca. 1910](#)

Access Restrictions:

Digital surrogates are available and preferred for use.

Biographical / Historical

Produced using a rare early color photographic process and displayed in diascope cases.

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Personal, 1903-1960

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

A relatively small amount of material that does not fit into any other series. Highlights include a Bible inscribed by Amelia Bingham, clippings, a

personalized request for funding from Elon College, a diploma, and wedding material.

Address books, 1950, undated Box 7

Appointment books, 1949-1950 Box 7

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Scope and Contents

Mostly empty.

Bible, 1916 Volume 1

Scope and Contents

Inscribed by actor and producer Amelia Bingham to "Mr. and Mrs. Duke," Christmas 1916.

Bible, 1937 Volume 2

Physical Description: Front cover has separated.

Scope and Contents

Signature with year in front matter.

Clippings, 1913-1960 Box 7

Physical Description: 8 items

Scope and Contents

One item shows Biddle in what appears to be a wedding dress and two contain accounts of her 1913 trip to Europe with Sarah P. Duke.

Clippings: New York Times, 1915 June 27 Oversize-folder 1

Physical Description: Laminated.

Scope and Contents

Includes wedding dinner of Angier Buchanan and Cordelia Drexel Biddle Duke, Mary Duke Biddle bridal portrait, and young Doris Duke.

Dinner record, 1929 August Box 7

Processing Information:

Removed from almost entirely empty volume.

Scope and Contents

Three meals at Chetwode; includes attendee seating arrangements.

Elon College, 1927, 1931

Box 7

Physical Description: 2 items

Scope and Contents

A bound 1927 Artelia Roney Duke Science Building "dedicatory exercises and addresses" booklet and a personalized, bound 1931 appeal for funding that includes five photo prints.

Oh, Promise Me!, 1903

Box 30

Physical Description: Torn last page.

Scope and Contents

"Mary L. Duke, Xmas 1903" on front cover in her handwriting. Song for mezzo soprano or baritone with piano accompaniment in F. Words by Clement Scott with music by Reginald de Koven. Published by G. Shirmer.

Trinity College diploma, 1907 June 5

Oversize-folder 2

Language: Latin.

School notes, 1903, undated

Box 7

School publications: Biddle, Nicholas Duke, 1938-1939, undated

Box 7

Scope and Contents

St. Paul's School; mainly Horae Scholasticae issues.

Wedding, 1915

Box 7

Scope and Contents

Includes bound gift registry.

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