



Guide to the Jeannette Rankin Papers, 1917-1941

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Summary

Collection Title:

Jeannette Rankin papers, 1917-1941

Creator:

Rankin, Jeannette, 1880-1973

Abstract:

Collection contains approximately 50 letters, largely congratulatory, mailed to Jeannette Rankin following her congressional vote opposing the United States' declaration of war on Germany in 1917. Many letters discuss women's suffrage and the desire for peace. Collection also includes assorted materials from Jeannette's lecture tours in New York, including itemized statements from a New York advertising agency and a promotional flyer. There is blank stationary letterhead from her second congressional term. Also includes two letters from Rankin's mother, Olive Pickering Rankin, to her brother, Wellington; these are undated but appear to be from approximately 1917-1920s.

Extent:

0.25 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11871

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m19t6m>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Jeannette Rankin Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection contains approximately 50 letters, largely congratulatory, mailed to Jeannette Rankin following her congressional vote opposing the United States'

declaration of war on Germany in 1917. These letters are from strangers and non-constituents, largely women; most discuss woman's suffrage and the desire for peace, and applaud Jeannette Rankin's bravery for voting her conscience.

Collection also includes assorted materials from Rankin's lecture tours in New York, including itemized statements from a New York advertising agency in 1917, and a promotional flyer with an image of Jeannette Rankin from 1933. There is blank stationary letterhead from her second congressional term.

Finally, the collection also includes two letters from Rankin's mother, Olive Pickering Rankin, to her brother, Wellington Rankin; these are undated but appear to be from approximately 1917-1920s. Olive Rankin discusses her immense dislike of Washington D.C., and her dislike of the people (including suffragist Cornelia Swinnerton) she has met there. One quote from the August 27 (year not included in the letter, although perhaps 1917): "I stay here because I know I am needed though perhaps Jeannette would rather I would not. She has a peculiar liking for a set of New Yorkers. Miss Craft, Miss Swinnerton, and others who would run the house if I were not here. They think with a few jewels and an immense amount of flattery they can own Jeannette, but I have a prior claim. Truly Wellington if you knew the people they would disgust you especially Swinny I think of swine whenever I look at her."

Biographical/Historical

Jeannette Rankin (1880-1917), from Montana, was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, serving two terms in the House of Representatives (1917-1919, and 1941-1943). She was an active suffragist and campaigned as a Republican. Rankin voted against the U.S. declaration of war on Germany in 1917, and was the sole opposing vote in the U.S. Congress declaration of war on Japan in 1941.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Jeannette Rankin Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2015.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, December 2020

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2015-0050-LUBMSS409

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Names and Subjects

- Washington (D.C.) -- Description and travel
- World War, 1914-1918
- Women -- Suffrage -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- Suffragists -- United States.
- Baskin, Lisa Unger, former owner
- United States. Congress. House
- Rankin, Wellington Duncan, 1884-1966
- Rankin, Olive Pickering, 1853-1947

Collection Inventory

Frank Kiernan, General Advertising Agency:
itemized statements for advertising lectures by

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Rankin in Brooklyn and New York City, 1917 March-April	Box 1
Letters (2) from Olive Pickering Rankin to Wellington Rankin, approximately 1917-1920s	Box 1
Letters (approximately 50) to Rep. Jeannette Rankin following her "no" vote in 1917 against war with Germany, 1917	Box 1
Pamphlet advertising Rankin's lectures on a speaking circuit, 1933	Box 1
U.S. House of Representatives blank letterhead from Rankin's second congressional term, 1941	Box 1