



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Curatorial Records, circa 1946-1982

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Curatorial Records
Identifier:	Accession 95-090
Date:	circa 1946-1982
Extent:	14 cu. ft. (14 record storage boxes)
Creator::	National Museum of American History. Division of Political History
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 95-090, National Museum of American History.
Division of Political History, Curatorial Records

Descriptive Entry

This accession consists of the records of Margaret Brown Klapthor, former Scientific Aide in the Civil Section of the Division of History, United States National Museum (USNM), 1944-1946; Assistant Curator of the Section of Civil History, in the Division of History, USNM, 1947-1948; Assistant Curator, 1949-1953, and Associate Curator, 1954-1956, of the Division of Civil History, USNM; and Associate Curator, 1957-1970, Curator, 1971-1984, and Curator Emeritus, 1985-1994, of the Division of Political History, National Museum of American History.

Materials consist of Klapthor's correspondence and memoranda, most of which pertains to her publications and work on the First Ladies Collection of dresses (or *Collection of White House Gowns*); research notes and manuscripts for the publication *China for the President's House*; and subject files on the First Ladies, as well as furniture and china porcelain ware at the White House. Materials also include a draft of a speech for the 50th Anniversary of the First Ladies Collection; biographical information about First Ladies; exhibition scripts; newspaper clippings, articles, and other publications pertaining to the First Ladies Collection; an inventory list of the First Ladies' dresses; some drawings and photographs of the First Ladies; and photographs of the First Ladies Collection.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
Museum exhibits

Politics and culture
Presidents' spouses -- United States

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Books
Clippings
Drawings
Manuscripts

Names:

Klapthor, Margaret Brown
National Museum of American History (U.S.) First Ladies Hall
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Political History

Container Listing

Box 1

PRESIDENTS NOTES CHINA

- Box 1 of 14 Sources (3 folders)
- Box 1 of 14 Introduction
- Box 1 of 14 George Washington
- Box 1 of 14 John Adams
- Box 1 of 14 Thomas Jefferson
- Box 1 of 14 James Madison
- Box 1 of 14 James Monroe
- Box 1 of 14 John Quincy Adams
- Box 1 of 14 Andrew Jackson
- Box 1 of 14 Martin Van Buren
- Box 1 of 14 William H. Harrison, John Tyler, James K. Polk
- Box 1 of 14 Polk
- Box 1 of 14 Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce
- Box 1 of 14 Pierce Administration

Box 2

PRESIDENTS NOTES CHINA

- Box 2 of 14 Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson, Buchanan
- Box 2 of 14 James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 14 Lincoln China
- Box 2 of 14 Lincoln
- Box 2 of 14 Lincoln Buff and Gold Service
- Box 2 of 14 Lincoln (2 folders)

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Box 2 of 14	Grant
Box 2 of 14	Hayes - General Collectors
Box 2 of 14	Hayes - Marchman
Box 2 of 14	Hayes China
Box 2 of 14	Hayes - Haviland
Box 2 of 14	Hayes
Box 2 of 14	Hayes Research
Box 2 of 14	Hayes
Box 2 of 14	Garfield
Box 2 of 14	Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland
Box 2 of 14	Arthur & Cleveland I
Box 2 of 14	Arthur
Box 2 of 14	Cleveland
Box 2 of 14	Benj. Harrison
Box 2 of 14	Harrison
Box 2 of 14	McKinley
Box 2 of 14	Cleveland & McKinley

Box 3

	PRESIDENTS NOTES CHINA
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Box 3 of 14	Wilson (3 folders)
Box 3 of 14	Harding
Box 3 of 14	Coolidge
Box 3 of 14	Hoover
Box 3 of 14	Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy

Box 3 of 14	F. D. Roosevelt
Box 3 of 14	Truman
Box 3 of 14	Eisenhower
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Box 3 of 14	LBJ China File #1
Box 3 of 14	Johnson China File - Alabama
Box 3 of 14	Johnson China File - Alaska
Box 3 of 14	Johnson China File - Iowa
Box 3 of 14	Johnson China File - Kansas
Box 3 of 14	Johnson (2 folders)
Box 3 of 14	Miscellaneous Johnson China
Box 3 of 14	Johnson China File #2
Box 3 of 14	Richard M. Nixon
Box 3 of 14	Carter
Box 3 of 14	Reagan
Box 3 of 14	Park Service Dig
Box 3 of 14	China Survey
Box 3 of 14	White House Model
Box 3 of 14	Notes and Articles
Box 3 of 14	Bibliographies
Box 3 of 14	White House Loan Information
Box 3 of 14	Correspondence
Box 3 of 14	White House Preservation Fund & Exhibit
Box 3 of 14	Museums
Box 3 of 14	The President's House, A History
Box 3 of 14	Liaison with White House

Box 3 of 14	White House Miscellaneous
Box 3 of 14	Visitor's Exhibit
Box 3 of 14	Guide Book
Box 3 of 14	Pearce Slide Lecture
Box 3 of 14	Orders and Repairs, Martin Van Buren
Box 3 of 14	Christmas in the White House
Box 3 of 14	White House Children

Box 4

Box 4 of 14	White House Staff
Box 4 of 14	White House Weddings
Box 4 of 14	Social Events - General
Box 4 of 14	News Media & Communication
Box 4 of 14	Presidents & Music
Box 4 of 14	Social Events 1800-1850
Box 4 of 14	Social Events 1850-1869
Box 4 of 14	Social Events 1869-1880
Box 4 of 14	Social Events 1880-1900
Box 4 of 14	Social Events 1900-1933
Box 4 of 14	Social Events 1933-
Box 4 of 14	James Hoban
Box 4 of 14	Benjamin Latrobe
Box 4 of 14	Exterior - General & Miscellaneous
Box 4 of 14	White House Grounds
Box 4 of 14	Doors and Gates
Box 4 of 14	Columns and Archways
Box 4 of 14	Interior - Plumbing, Light, etc.

Box 4 of 14	Elevators
Box 4 of 14	Mantels
Box 4 of 14	Miscellaneous Furnishings and Fixtures
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Furniture Makers• Drapery and Upholstery• Miscellaneous Furniture• Clocks• Mirrors• Wallpapers
Box 4 of 14	Other Furnishings Collections
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presidential Homes• Dealers• The White House• Other Presidential Mansions
Box 4 of 14	White House Furnishings Survey - 1966
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negative Replies• Miscellaneous Correspondence• Additional References
Box 4 of 14	Completed Forms A-Z
Box 4 of 14	Continuing Correspondence A-Z
Box 4 of 14	Rugs
Box 4 of 14	Bookcases
Box 4 of 14	Art
Box 4 of 14	Light Fixtures
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chandeliers• Lamps
Box 4 of 14	Delano Files
	White House Furnishings
Box 4 of 14	White House Tables
Box 4 of 14	White House Chairs
Box 4 of 14	White House Desks
Box 4 of 14	White House Musical Instruments
Box 4 of 14	Life in the White House in the 19th. Century - Betty Monkman

Box 4 of 14 The Living White House

Box 4 of 14 White House Descriptions - General

Box 5

Box 5 of 14 "Nightingales" at the White House

Box 5 of 14 Labrobe's Inventory of White House

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1800-1814

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1815-1825

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1825-1828

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1829-1841

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Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1933-1944

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1945-1953

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1954-1960

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1961-1963

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1964-1968

Box 5 of 14 White House Descriptions 1969-1973

Box 5 of 14 The White House Replicas

Box 5 of 14 Redecoration White House 1969-1972 and Acquisitions

FIRST LADIES

Box 5 of 14 Martha Washington

	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Martha Washington - N.G.S. 1975• Note• Mt. Vernon Manuscripts
Box 5 of 14	Abigail Smith Adams	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Notes• Abigail Adams Publications-Articles
Box 5 of 14	Martha Jefferson Randolph	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Notes
	Box 6	
	FIRST LADIES	
Box 6 of 14	Dolley Madison	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes• Dolley Madison - S.I. Magazine, November 1979• Correspondence• Estate of Dolley Madison (3)
Box 6 of 14	Dolley Madison - Mrs. Bivens' Files	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Compiled List of Madison Possessions and Houses• Brochures, Copies, Pictures, Etc.• Newspaper Articles
Box 6 of 14	Dolley Madison - Bivens' File	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence Relating to Division (See 3x5 cards)• For Your Information
Box 6 of 14	Dolley Madison Card File	
Box 6 of 14	Louisa Catherine Adams	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence• Notes
Box 6 of 14	Elizabeth K. Monroe	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Notes
Box 6 of 14	Maria Monroe Gouverneur	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Notes
Box 6 of 14	Adams-Clement Collection	
	Box 7	
	FIRST LADIES	
Box 7 of 14	Sarah Polk	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence
Box 7 of 14	Emily Donelson	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes
Box 7 of 14	Sarah York Jackson	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes• Andrew Jackson
Box 7 of 14	Sarah Angelica Van Buren	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes
Box 7 of 14	Julia Gardiner Tyler	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence• Notes
Box 7 of 14	Abigail Powers Fillmore	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs
Box 7 of 14	Jane Irwin Findlay	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence• Notes

- Box 7 of 14 Betty Taylor Bliss Dandridge
 Note:
 - Correspondence
 - Notes
- Box 7 of 14 Jane Appleton Pierce
 Note:
 - Notes
 - Correspondence
 - Articles and Photographs
- Box 7 of 14 Harriet Lane Johnston
 Note:
 - Notes
 - Correspondence
 - Copy of Will
 - Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, "Harriet Lane Johnston: Founder of St. Albans School for Boys" by Homer T. Rosenberger, Vol. 76 No. 3 1972
 - Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, "The Passing of a Great Lady: Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston: by Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger, Vol. 75 No. 1 1971
 - Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, "Harriet Lane Johnston: Pioneer Advocate of Special Care for Children with Chronic Diseases" by Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger, Vol. 76 No. 1 1972
 - Homer T. Rosenberger Correspondence
 - The Bulletin, U. S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, "Harriet Lane: Great Ship, Great Lady" by Paul Johnson, Vol. 44 No. 5, September/October 1982
 - Harriet Lane Bibliography
 - Historical Papers and Addresses of the Lancaster County Historical Society, "Harriet Lane" by Ida L. K. Hostetter, Volume XXXIII, 1929 (copy)
 - Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D. C., 1966-1968, "Harriet Lane, First Lady: Hostess Extraordinary in Difficult Times" by Homer T. Rosenberger (copy)
- Box 7 of 14 Mary Todd Lincoln
 Note:
 - Articles and Photographs
 - Correspondence
 - Notes
 - Lincoln-Hoes Paper

Box 8

FIRST LADIES

Box 8 of 14	Martha Johnson Patterson	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs
Box 8 of 14	Varina Howell Davis		
Box 8 of 14	Julia Dent Grant	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs
Box 8 of 14	Lucretia Rudolph Garfield	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes• The James Abram Garfield Presidential Window, National City Christian Church, Washington, D. C. (two copies)
Box 8 of 14	Lucy Webb Hayes	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes
Box 8 of 14	Rose Elizabeth Cleveland	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes
Box 8 of 14	Frances Folsom Cleveland	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs
Box 8 of 14	Caroline Scott Harrison	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence
Box 8 of 14	Mary Harrison McKee	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mary Harrison McKee• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs
Box 8 of 14	Mary Arthur McElroy	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Ellen Herndon Arthur |
| Box 8 of 14 | Ida Saxton McKinley | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence• Notes |
| Box 8 of 14 | Edith Carow Roosevelt | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes |
| Box 8 of 14 | Helen Herron Taft | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Notes• Correspondence |
| Box 8 of 14 | Ellen Axson Wilson | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Notes• Correspondence |
| Box 8 of 14 | Edith Bolling Galt Wilson | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Wilson House - Mrs. Wilson's Room Inventory |

Box 9

FIRST LADIES

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--|
| Box 9 of 14 | Lou Henry Hoover | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and Photographs• Correspondence• Notes |
| Box 9 of 14 | Florence Kling Harding | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs |
| Box 9 of 14 | Grace Goodhue Coolidge | |
| | Note: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Articles and Photographs• Notes• Bedspread/Lincoln Room by Coolidge |

- Box 9 of 14 Eleanor Roosevelt
Note:
- Notes
 - Correspondence
 - Articles and Photographs
 - Research of Carl Sferrazza on Eleanor Roosevelt (**restricted for general public use of publication without permission**)
- Box 9 of 14 Bess Wallace Truman
Note:
- Correspondence
 - Notes
 - Articles and Photographs
- Box 9 of 14 Mamie Doud Eisenhower
Note:
- Correspondence
 - Articles and Photographs
 - Notes
- Box 9 of 14 Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy
Note:
- General Notes
 - Dress and Installation Ceremony
 - Articles and Photographs (Prior to November, 1963)
 - Kennedy Children
 - Notes (For S.I. Book supplement)
 - General Correspondence
 - Articles and Photographs (following November, 1963)
 - White House Tour by Mrs. Kennedy
- Box 9 of 14 Claudia Taylor (Ladybird) Johnson
Note:
- Articles and Photographs
 - Correspondence
 - Press Releases and Speeches
 - Notes
- Box 9 of 14 Installation of Mrs. Johnson's Gown
Note:
- Invitation
 - Preparation of Hall and Dress
 - Ceremony
 - Subsequent Correspondence
- Box 9 of 14 Thelma Catherine "Pat" Ryan Nixon
Note:
- Opening Ceremonies 1/14/70
 - Correspondence
 - Articles
 - Notes
- Box 9 of 14 Elizabeth Bloomer Ford
Note:
- Mrs. Ford's Dress Presentation

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ford
Box 9 of 14	Rosalynn Carter	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carter• Carter• MBK-Carter
	Box 10	
	FIRST LADIES	
Box 10 of 14	Nancy Reagan	
Box 10 of 14	Tours and Lectures	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White House Dresses - Bernice Hoover - January 15, 1940• Copies of First Ladies Dresses• Junior League Tour - 1954• Junior League Tour - 1955• Correspondence - Lectures - SR• Draft Script - First Ladies Slide Presentation• Slide Lecture - Museum Service 1965
Box 10 of 14	Slide Lectures	
Box 10 of 14	Loan Lecture on the First Ladies Hall	
	Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MBK Lecture April 1962
	White House China	
Box 10 of 14	National Park Service	
Box 10 of 14	Mrs. Klamkin	
Box 10 of 14	Fellers Correspondence	
Box 10 of 14	Eagle	
Box 10 of 14	White House China Auction Prices	
Box 10 of 14	Articles	
Box 10 of 14	China Articles from D. C. Library	
Box 10 of 14	White House Collection - Eisenhower Administration	
Box 10 of 14	Dicken's Collection - Returned	
Box 10 of 14	Specimens Not Identified	

Box 10 of 14	Collectors and Collections
	Box 11
Box 11 of 14	White House China - Loans
Box 11 of 14	White House China - Old China Labels
Box 11 of 14	First Ladies Cookbook
Box 11 of 14	Miscellaneous Notes and Publications
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laces• Early Lists of Gowns• The White House Children• American Costume• Dress Materials• Dress Designers• White House Weddings• Early Lectures Correspondence• Sarah Taft Contracts 1969• State Gifts• Presidential Descendants• Policy Statements - FLH
Box 11 of 14	Related Shows and Exhibits in Smithsonian
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History of the First Ladies Hall• First Ladies Hall Anniversary• White House Ladies' Fashion Show• Presidential Deaths, etc.• Permanent Dress Collections• Mrs. Eberly• Role of First Lady• White House Toys Story - Life• Children of the Presidents Show - April 30, 1959
Box 11 of 14	Objects
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portraits• First Ladies Gloves• Belter Furniture
Box 11 of 14	Trips Abroad - Nixon
Box 11 of 14	Trips Abroad - Kennedy
Box 11 of 14	Trips Abroad - E. Roosevelt
Box 11 of 14	Trips Abroad - First Ladies General
Box 11 of 14	Published Articles (General)
	Note:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postcards

- Newspaper Clippings
- Smithsonian - Art Schofield

Box 12

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Other Collections

Note:

- Paper Dolls
- Dolls
- Magazine Articles
- Coloring Book 1983
- ?
- First Ladies Dolls - Sirkis
- Quilt - FL
- Elspeth Originals

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Papers relating to "Washington Salutes Washington" exhibit (MBK consultant)

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MBK Vita

Box 12 of 14

MBK Oral History Project

Box 12 of 14

File - Miscellaneous Correspondence

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Index Cards - White House China

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MBK - Admin. of Division

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Antiques - White House and General

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Newspaper clippings

Box 12 of 14

E. R.

Box 12 of 14

G. W. Exhibit

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Washington Exhibit in Maryland

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Address Book and personal notes

Box 13

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UT and Catalog

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Director's Meetings

Box 13 of 14

Director's Meetings

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Washington Exhibit

Box 13 of 14

Presidential China Research Notes (4 folders)

- Box 13 of 14 National Portrait Gallery "Symposium of the Art of Biography" The Record, "Southern Maryland During the War of 1812" by Margaret Brown Klaphor, April 1965 (two copies)
- Box 13 of 14 Midwest Antiques Forum Lecture: "Silver Presents American History, Margaret Klaphor, 1966
- Box 13 of 14 Calvert County Historical Society Annual Banquet, May 20, 1966
- Box 13 of 14 Miscellaneous Correspondence
- Box 13 of 14 Research Manuscripts
- Box 14
- Lecture Notes
- Box 14 of 14 Archives Lecture May 8
- Box 14 of 14 First Ladies Jewelry & Accessories, March 1977
- Box 14 of 14 Woodlawn Lecture - Nellie Custis - Lewis and the Lewis Collection
- Box 14 of 14 Lecture at Wilson House, May 22, 1983 on Edith Boiling Wilson
- Box 14 of 14 Fashion Lecture
- Box 14 of 14 "We the People" lecture
- Box 14 of 14 Inaugural Lecture, 1969
- Box 14 of 14 Washington Collection lecture
- Box 14 of 14 China returned to White House lecture
- Box 14 of 14 Presentation Silver lecture
- Box 14 of 14 Tennessee Lecture, 1970
- Box 14 of 14 George Washington, Virginia Gentleman, May 5, 1982, Kenmore Association, Fredericksburg, Virginia
- Box 14 of 14 Neighbor Washington, Charles County Historical Society, February 1982
- Box 14 of 14 Abigail Smith Adams and Abigail Adams Smith
- Box 14 of 14 Dedicatory Address at the Dolley Madison Birthplace Memorial Dedication, May 20, 1974
- Box 14 of 14 First Ladies

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Hayes China Lecture

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Presidential Social Customs