



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Margaret B. Klapthor Papers, circa 1952-1982

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Historical Note.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Descriptive Entry.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Margaret B. Klapthor Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7466
Date:	circa 1952-1982
Extent:	5 cu. ft. (5 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Klapthor, Margaret Brown
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7466, Margaret B. Klapthor Papers

Historical Note

Margaret B. Klapthor (1922-1994) was born in Henderson, Kentucky. She graduated from the University of Maryland, B.A., 1943, and shortly thereafter was employed by the Smithsonian Institution as a scientific aide in the Civil Section of the Division of History, United States National Museum. Klapthor was assigned to restoring the First Ladies' dresses, the collection of White House gowns, which eventually became the First Ladies Hall exhibition at the Museum of History and Technology in 1964. Her positions later included Assistant Curator, 1947-1948, in the Section of Civil History, Division of History; Assistant Curator, 1949-1951, and Associate Curator, 1952-1957, in the Division of Civil History; and Associate Curator, 1957-1970, Curator, 1971-1983, and Curator Emeritus, 1984-1994, in the Division of Political History. Klapthor published many articles and several books during her tenure, including *The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House* and *Official White House China: 1789 to the Present*.

Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry

These papers consist of exhibition scripts for the Hall of Political History; correspondence pertaining to publications, lectures, educational activities, and planning of the First Ladies Hall; research notes and drafts to the publications *Official White House China: 1789 to the Present*, *The First Ladies Cook Book*:

Favorite Recipes of All the Presidents of the United States, and *The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House*; photographs of Klapthor; annual reports for the Division of Political History; published articles by Klapthor; and biographical information on the First Ladies.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- First ladies
- Museum curators
- Museum exhibits
- White House china

Names:

- Klapthor, Margaret Brown
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). First Ladies Hall
- National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.) Hall of Political History
- National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Division of Civil History
- National Museum of History and Technology (U.S.). Division of Political History
- United States National Museum. Division of History
- University of Maryland at College Park

Geographic Names:

- United States -- History

Preferred Titles:

- Official White House China: 1789 to the Present (Monograph : 1975)*
- The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House (Monograph :1952)*
- The First Ladies Cook Book: Favorite Recipes of All the Presidents of the United States (Monograph : 1965)*

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 5 Curator's Association Exhibition Committee, 1977
- Box 1 of 5 Care of the First Ladies Hall, 1964-1974
- Box 1 of 5 Care of the First Ladies Hall, 1975-1979
- Box 1 of 5 Budget, 1978
- Box 1 of 5 Exhibition Security at the National Museum of American History (NMAH), 1982
- Box 1 of 5 Exhibition Planning, 1969-1977
- Box 1 of 5 "Indian Visitors to Washington" exhibition, 1971-1972
- Box 1 of 5 "Presidential China" exhibition scripts, 1975-1976 (2 folders)
- Box 1 of 5 Exhibition Planning for the National Museum of History and Technology (NMHT), 1978-1979
- Box 1 of 5 "National Treasures" exhibition proposal, 1982
- Box 1 of 5 *Connoisseur* article, 1976
- Box 1 of 5 Publications, 1967-1982
- Box 1 of 5 Publications, 1972-1973
- Box 1 of 5 Publications, 1975-1976
- Box 1 of 5 Publications, 1975-1978
- Box 1 of 5 Publications, 1978-1979
- Box 1 of 5 Publications, miscellaneous
- Box 1 of 5 White House Toys, 1973
- Box 1 of 5 White House Historical Association, 1972-1973
- Box 1 of 5 Research, 1976-1979
- Box 1 of 5 Public Affairs, 1974-1975
- Box 1 of 5 Memoranda, 1960-1972
- Box 1 of 5 Annual Report: Division of Political History, 1978

- Box 1 of 5 Association of Curators, 1968-1970
- Box 1 of 5 Technician Positions, 1962-1970
- Box 1 of 5 CHM's Secretary, 1975
- Box 1 of 5 Job Applicants, 1976
- Box 1 of 5 Personnel - Recruitment, 1973-1975
- Box 1 of 5 Research Assistants, 1967-1975
- Box 1 of 5 Annual Reports: Division of Political History, 1971-1981
- Box 1 of 5 Professional Visitors, 1972-1973
- Box 1 of 5 Lectures, 1977
- Box 1 of 5 Lectures, 1980
- Box 1 of 5 Maryland Library Association Lecture, September 20, 1979
- Box 1 of 5 Smithsonian Associates, 1978
- Box 1 of 5 Educational Activities, 1975-1982 (2 folders)
- Box 2
- Box 2 of 5 Lecture
- Box 2 of 5 Docents, 1972-1980
- Box 2 of 5 American Political Symbols Tour, Constance Potter
- Box 2 of 5 Political Science Seminar, 1978
- Box 2 of 5 Charles County Community College, 1976
- Box 2 of 5 Educational Activities, 1975-1981
- Box 2 of 5 Docents, 1980-1981
- Box 2 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret B.: "Dolly Madison and Benjamin Latrobe Redecorate the White House, 1809-1811" (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 Declaration of Independence Desk, 1977-1981 (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 Bedini, Silvio A.: "Relic of Revolution: Thomas Jefferson's Lap Desk"
- Box 2 of 5 "Jefferson Desk" notes and essays, 1952-1970

- Box 2 of 5 "Declaration of Independence Desk" notes, 1970-1977 (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 "Declaration of Independence Desk" correspondence, 1952-1977 (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 Constantine Desk and Chair, 1963-1980 (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 Charles County History, 1965, 1976
- Box 2 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret B.: "A First Lady and a New Frontier, 1800"
- Box 2 of 5 Truman Supplement, 1953-1954
- Box 2 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret B.: "Maryland's Presidential First Ladies - Mrs. Zachary Taylor and Mrs. John Quincy Adams" (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 George Washington Funeral Medal, 1953-1972 (includes photographs) (2 folders)
- Box 2 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret B.: *The Dresses of the First Ladies of the White House*, 1952
- Box 2 of 5 Encyclopedia Britannica Publications, 1960
- Box 2 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret B.: "A Catalog of Presentation Silver in the Collection of the U.S. National Museum" (includes photographs)
- Box 2 of 5 Correspondence pertaining to publications, 1965-1976
- Box 2 of 5 Ford Recipes, 1974
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, 1968
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Introduction
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, George Washington
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, James Madison
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, James K. Polk
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, John Adams
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Thomas Jefferson
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, James Monroe
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, John Quincy Adams
- Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Andrew Jackson

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Zachary Taylor

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Martin Van Buren

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, William Henry Harrison

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, John Tyler

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Franklin Pierce

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Millard Fillmore

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, James Buchanan

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Abraham Lincoln

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Andrew Johnson

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Ulysses S. Grant

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Rutherford B. Hayes

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, James A. Garfield

Box 2 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Chester A. Arthur

Box 3

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Grover Cleveland

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Benjamin Harrison

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, William McKinley

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Theodore Roosevelt

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Harry S. Truman

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, William H. Taft

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Woodrow Wilson

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Warren G. Harding

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Calvin Coolidge

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Herbert C. Hoover

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Franklin D. Roosevelt

Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, John F. Kennedy

- Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Lyndon B. Johnson
- Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Richard M. Nixon
- Box 3 of 5 *First Ladies Cookbook*, Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Box 3 of 5 Klapthor, Margaret B.: *Official White House China, 1789 to the Present*, Correspondence
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Permission Letters
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Notes
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Correspondence and Notes
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Drafts (3 folders)
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Notes for additions to publications
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Draft
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Photographs
- Box 3 of 5 *Official White House China*, Lenox
- Box 3 of 5 The First Ladies Hall, Brochures
- Box 3 of 5 *The First Ladies*, Correspondence, Clippings and Notes
- Box 3 of 5 Political News Clippings
- Box 3 of 5 *The First Ladies*, Proofs
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Abigail Adams, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Cleveland, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Martha Jefferson Randolph, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Dolly Madison, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Elizabeth Monroe, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Louisa C. Adams, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Jackson Administration, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Angelica Van Buren, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Anna Harrison, NGS, 1975

- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Tyler Administration, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Sarah Polk, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Zachary Taylor Administration, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Abigail Fillmore, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Jane Pierce, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Harriet Lane, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Mary Lincoln, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Andrew Johnson Administration, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Julia Grant, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Lucy Hayes, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Lucretia Garfield, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Chester Arthur Administration, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Caroline Harrison, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Ida McKinley, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Edith Roosevelt, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Helen Taft, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Ellen Wilson, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Edith Wilson, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Florence Harding, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Grace Coolidge, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Lou Henry Hoover, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Eleanor Roosevelt, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Bess Truman, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Mamie Eisenhower, NGS, 1975
- Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Jacqueline Kennedy, NGS, 1975

Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Lady Bird Johnson, NGS, 1975
Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Patricia Nixon, NGS, 1975
Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Betty Ford, NGS, 1975
Box 3 of 5 First Ladies, Biographical Information: Rosalyn Carter, Supplement
Box 3 of 5 National Geographic Society, *The White House Guide Book*, 1972

Box 4

Box 4 of 5 *The Living White House* (3 folders)
Box 4 of 5 National Geographic Society, *The White House Guide Book*, 1973 (2 folders)
Box 4 of 5 Document Collections Program, 1978
Box 4 of 5 Collections Committee, 1972-1973
Box 4 of 5 Collections Committee, 1968-1978
Box 4 of 5 Care of Collections at NMHT, 1978-1979
Box 4 of 5 Marine Commandant's House Committee, 1972-1973
Box 4 of 5 Director Search Committee (MHT), 1973
Box 4 of 5 Klapthor - Miscellaneous
Box 4 of 5 Lectures, 1954-1963
Box 4 of 5 Suggestions for Museum Cataloging, 1954-1978
Box 4 of 5 Correspondence, 1963-1964
Box 4 of 5 Annual Report for the U.S. National Museum, 1963
Box 4 of 5 Annual Report for the U.S. National Museum, 1968
Box 4 of 5 Annual Report for the U.S. National Museum, 1966
Box 4 of 5 Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1965
Box 4 of 5 Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1966
Box 4 of 5 Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1967
Box 4 of 5 Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1968
Box 4 of 5 Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1969

Box 4 of 5	Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1970
Box 4 of 5	Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1971
Box 4 of 5	Plan of Operations for the Division of Political History, 1971-1972
Box 4 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1961-1964
Box 4 of 5	Lectures and Judging, 1963-1964
Box 4 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1955-1966
Box 4 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1964-1965
Box 4 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1965
Box 4 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1966-1967
Box 4 of 5	Presentation Silver Lecture, 1966-1967
Box 5	
Box 5 of 5	Lectures and Publicity, 1966
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1967-1968
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1968-1970
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1969-1971
Box 5 of 5	Ninth Annual Tennessee Conference on Historic Preservation, 1970
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1970-1971 (2 folders)
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1972-1973
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1973-1974
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1974-1975
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1973-1975
Box 5 of 5	Lectures Correspondence, 1974-1976
Box 5 of 5	Educational Activities, 1970-1972
Box 5 of 5	Educational Activities, 1969-1971
Box 5 of 5	Educational Activities, 1973-1977
Box 5 of 5	National Council of the Arts, 1965-1966

Box 5 of 5	"We the People" Course, 1976
Box 5 of 5	Visitors, 1964-1966
Box 5 of 5	Publicity, 1961-1965
Box 5 of 5	Bicentennial Celebration Commemorating the Birth of James Smithson, 1965
Box 5 of 5	<i>Smithsonian Journal of History</i>
Box 5 of 5	Miscellany - Completed
Box 5 of 5	Credit Union
Box 5 of 5	America Bicentennial Celebration