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# Catherine Manning Papers and Documents

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## FINDING GUIDE

Prepared by

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*Catherine Lemmon Manning (1881-1957)*  
*Curator of National Philatelic Collection (1922-1951)*



Smithsonian  
National Postal Museum

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Access is by appointment only. Currently the Catherine Manning Papers and Documents are housed in the office of the Chair of the Philately Department, Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

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## COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

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The Catherine Manning Papers and Documents consist of twelve file boxes of material including manuscripts, exhibit pages, photographs of stamp sources, and correspondence. Catherine “Kate” Manning was a thirty-year curator of the National Philatelic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. Her papers preserve the history of the Smithsonian’s National Philatelic Collection for several decades as well as the philatelic history in the United States and for women stamp collectors.

Newspaper clippings contained material that is readily available today in several sources, that was not so at the time Manning assembled this material. It was clear from the selection of clippings that she was not only interested in stamp designs but corresponded with authors and philatelic scholars about this topic, including F.L. Ellis and George B. Sloane who wrote for *Stamps*. Her personal collecting interests had a great range including mint and used stamps – U.S. and world, saved correspondence envelopes and postcards, greeting cards, poster labels (also known as cinderellas), stamp exhibition souvenirs, special event covers for anniversaries and local events during her lifetime, first day covers, women on stamps, and especially the sources that inspired stamp designs. Some of her personal collection has been accessioned into the Smithsonian National Postal Museum’s permanent collection as part of the National Philatelic Collection. In addition, literature from Manning’s estate was donated to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum Library.

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## PROVENANCE

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Ruby Lee Robertson, Catherine Manning’s daughter-in-law, donated Manning’s philatelic estate to the National Postal Museum from 2006 to 2008. The collection was sorted and organized in four phases. The first three sorts were done by Cheryl Ganz, Chief Curator of Philately; Marvin Murray, Assistant Curator of Philately; and Katie Burke, Museum Specialist in Philately. The final box and folder organization was prepared by Marilyn Barth, National Postal Museum Behind-the-Scenes volunteer.

Several objects from this collection have been exhibited in NPM exhibitions including *Delivering Hope: FDR and the Great Depression*, *Collecting History*, and the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery.

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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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Catherine Lemmon Manning (1881-1957), the first woman outside the sciences to achieve the title “Assistant Curator” at the Smithsonian, tended the National Philatelic Collection for nearly thirty years. During her tenure, she organized the collection, processed thousands of specimens received from the Universal Postal Union and the Bureau of Engraving and

Printing, published articles, exhibited, and participated widely in the philatelic community. Throughout her life she received many honors, including being the first woman elected to office in the American Philatelic Society (vice president, 1935-1937). She was a charter member of the American Philatelic Congress and in 1936 received its award for service to philately. In 1938, Manning served on the committee that selected Elaine Rawlinson's design for the 1938 Presidential definitive series. According to her daughter-in-law Ruby Lee Robertson, Manning met numerous times at the White House with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a fellow philatelist. She was a charter member of the board of directors of the privately-run National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia and received its 1949 silver trophy for achievement in philately. The American Philatelic Society inducted her into its Hall of Fame in 1990.



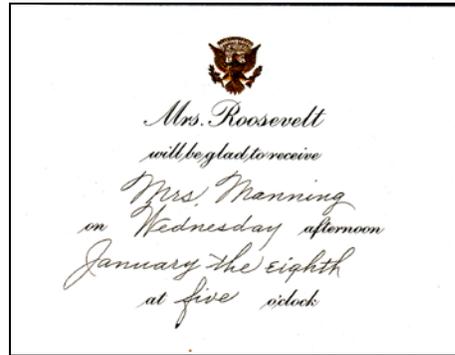
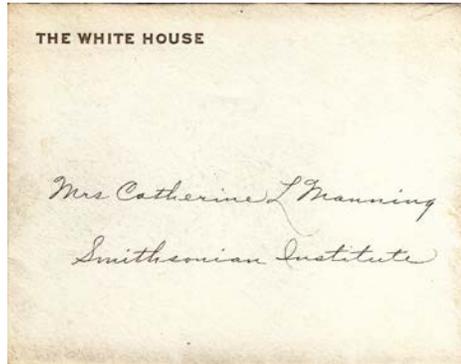
*Catherine Manning with the National Philatelic Museum (Philadelphia) silver trophy for achievement in philately, 1949  
This trophy is on display in the National Stamp Salon of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.*

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INVENTORY

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**Box 1      Biographical Materials and Documents**



*White House envelope and enclosure invitation, 1936  
Box 1, Folder 8*

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Ruby Lee Robertson interview, 8/30/2007 cassette tape |
| Folder 2 | Family history  |
| Folder 3 | Family correspondence                                 |
| Folder 4 | Personal documents                                    |
| Folder 5 | Stationery  |
| Folder 6 | Writing; quilt design                                 |
| Folder 7 | Photographs   |
| Folder 8 | White House invitations                               |
- First Ladies Eleanor Roosevelt and Bess Truman invited Smithsonian philatelic curator Catherine Manning to events at the White House on numerous occasions. Invitations include:
- From Eleanor Roosevelt:*
- Tuesday, December 12, 1933/39 at 5 – 6 pm
  - Thursday, May 17, 1934 at 4 pm; garden party; tea for women executives in federal government
  - Wednesday, January 9, 1935 at 5 – 6 pm; tea for women executives in federal government
  - Saturday, May 18, 1935 at 4 pm; garden party - women executives in federal government
  - Wednesday, January 8, 1936 at 5 pm; tea for women executives in federal government
  - Monday, December 14, 1936 at 5 pm; event for wives of department officials (Note that Manning was not the wife of a department official nor married at the time, but invited. FDR was at the White House that day so perhaps she met with him to discuss philately.)
  - Saturday, May 15, 1937 at 4 pm; garden party

- Tuesday, December 7, 1937 at 5 pm; two parties of guests visit White House
  - Thursday, May 12, 1938 at 4 pm; garden party
  - Wednesday, May 24, 1939 at 4 pm; garden party
- From Bess Truman:*
- Thursday, June 26, 1947 at 5 pm; garden party
  - Tuesday, May 4, 1948 at 4:30 pm; garden party

Folder 9	Manning in newspaper and magazine clippings
Folder 10	Manning in newspaper and magazine clippings
Folder 11	Membership cards for philatelic organizations
Folder 12	Certificates and awards
Folder 13	Philatelic badges
Folder 14	Obituary and tributes

**Box 2 Diaries and Notebooks, 1930-1957**

**Box 3 Manning Employment: H.F. Colman and Smithsonian Institution (SI); Bureau of Engraving and Printing Material and Stamp Mailing Envelopes**

Folder 1	H.F. Colman, Stamp Dealer in Washington DC materials
Folder 2	SI employment and personnel material
Folder 3	SI Manning efficiency ratings
Folder 4	SI job related correspondence, including with Edward Stern of Economist Stamp Co., Colonel Hans Langerloef, Adrien Boutrelle, United Air Lines, Mr. DeAtley, and H.L. Lindquist
Folder 5	SI drafts, notes, copies of correspondence
Folder 6	Correspondence with Theodore T. Belote
Folder 7	Manning and Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. correspondence
Folder 8	Correspondence with A.P. Rasmussen
Folder 9	Correspondence regarding SI marking stamps, including with curator Alice S. Mulford of Oakland (CA) Public Museum and SI assistant secretary A. Wetmore
Folder 10	“List of Philatelic Books/Reference Material in Philatelic Library/Index to Articles in Magazines – m./Date of Issue”
Folder 11	Manning retirement
Folder 12	Post-retirement
Folder 13	SI United States National Museum Bulletin 105; Joseph B. Leavey, <i>Catalogue of the Postage Stamps and Stamped Envelopes of the United States and Possessions, Issued Prior to January 1, 1919</i>
Folder 14	SI Centennial, 1946
Folder 15	SI misc.
Folder 16	Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) material
Folder 17	BEP large mailing envelopes

## Box 4 Philatelic Organizations



*APS Vice President Manning cover, 1937  
Box 4, Folder 3a*

- Folder 1 American Philatelic Congress, including correspondence with Jere. Hess Barr, (Mrs Conway) Helen Zirkle, George T. Turner, James Waldo Fawcett, Bernard Davis, and James B. Shaner, Sr.
- Folder 2 American Philatelic Congress' *Congress Comments*
- Folder 3 American Philatelic Society
- Folder 4 Bureau Issues Association, including correspondence with Sol Glass and Edward S. Conger
- Folder 5 Bureau of Engraving and Printing, including Alvin R. Meissner documents
- Folder 6 The Collectors Club, New York, including correspondence with Sidney F. Barrett, John J. Britt, and W. Lloyd Heath
- Folder 7 The Collectors Club of Washington, D.C.
- Folder 8-10 National Philatelic Museum, including correspondence with (Mrs. Conway) Helen Zirkle, Freida B. Bulger, Bernard Davis, Helen Moore, Alvin T. Hall, and Dr. Gustave A. von Gross – *see also Box 6 "Women in Philately" exhibition*
- Folder 11 Pentagon Stamp Club including correspondence with Gaylord P. Haas
- Folder 12 Philatelic Library Association
- Folder 13 Precancel Stamp Society
- Folder 14 Society of Philatelic Americans
- Folder 15 Washington Philatelic Society, including correspondence with Albert F. Kunze, Samuel M. Burgess II, James T. DeVoss, and Maurice S. Petty
- Folder 16 *Washington Philatelic Society Bulletin*, 1949-1953
- Folder 17 Philatelic organizations misc.

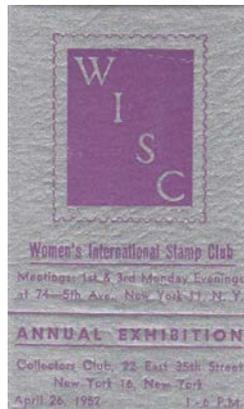
## Box 5 Philatelic, Non-Philatelic, and First Day of Issue Events

- Folder 1 Sesquicentennial International Exposition, 1926, *A Guide to the United States Government Exhibits* includes information on Owney, railway mail cars, and the BEP stamp printing equipment

Folder 2	District of Columbia George Washington Bicentennial/Festival of Youth/Postage Stamp Exhibit, 1932
Folder 3	TIPEX, the Third International Philatelic Exhibition, 1936
Folder 4	Postage Stamp Centenary, 1940 including Manning's "Consolation" regarding first use of mail-o-mat cancellation
Folder 5	CIPEX, the Centenary Philatelic Exhibition, 1947
Folder 6	GSA (General Services Administration) Garden and Hobby Show, 1949-50 where Manning was a judge
Folder 7	CAPEX, the Canadian International Philatelic Exhibition, 1951
Folder 8	HAPEX, the Hawaiian Centennial Philatelic Exhibition, 1951
Folder 9	FIPEX, the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, 1956
Folder 10	CSC (Civil Service Commission) Art, Hobby and Photo Show where Manning was a judge
Folder 11	Other philatelic and non-philatelic events
Folder 12	First day of issue events

Note: For NAPEX exhibition materials see Box 1, Folder 11; Box 4, Folder 8; and Box 11, Folder 4.

### Box 6 Women in Philately and Women on Postage Stamps



*Women's International Stamp Club cinderella label, 1952  
Box 6, Folder 5*

Folder 1	Women's Stamp Clubs, cinderella labels
Folder 2	Philadelphia Women's Stamp Club, <i>Women on Stamps, In Memory of Mary Garretson Cook</i> , 1953
Folder 3	McCluer, Margaret N. <i>Women as Presented on United States Stamps</i> , 1936
Folder 4	"Women in Philately" exhibition Dec. 11, 1953-Jan. 9, 1954, including correspondence with Elizabeth R. Sharpless and National Philatelic Museum; Philadelphia Women's Stamp Club
Folder 5	Women's International Stamp Club, including correspondence with Agnes Burlingame and Meta Haas
Folder 6	Women's International Stamp Club bulletin <i>The Letter</i>
Folder 7	Women's Philatelic Society of New York

- Folder 8 Women's Philatelic Society of New York bulletin *Philatelette*
- Folder 9 Woodin, Virginia, President of General Services Administration Stamp Club
- Folder 10 Women's clubs souvenir cachets and covers

**Box 7 Stamp Source Material: Documents, Lists, Correspondence; Stamp Catalogs and Stamp Dealers**

- Folder 1 Original subjects for stamps – lists
- Folder 2 Original subjects for stamps – lists
- Folder 3 SI photographs of original designs used on U.S. postage stamps – lists
- Folder 4 Post Office Department (POD) list of essays by Clarence Wilson Brazer
- Folder 5 Stamp sources – notes and clippings
- Folder 6 Source art correspondence, mostly 1936
- Folder 7 "United States Commemorative Notes," *The Sun*, 1934-35
- Folder 8 Philatelic clippings
- Folder 9 Albert F. Kunze's *Stamp Romances/The Lore and Legend Associated with the 1934 National Park Series of Stamps*
- Folder 10 List of Argentine Republic stamps and covers in Manning collection
- Folder 11 Clippings and lists related to Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln Memorial, including "Philatelic Items Picturing Abraham Lincoln," "Numismatic Items Picturing Abraham Lincoln," lists compiled by Frank Rossi, Illinois State Historical Library, 1942
- Folder 12 Susan B. Anthony documents and clippings
- Folder 13 Stamp designs literature
- Folder 14 Stamp catalogs and stamp dealers

**Box 8 Stamp Source Material: Images**

- Folder 1 Stamp source material annotated
- Folder 2 Stamp source material annotated including Army-Navy series
- Folder 3 Stamp source material images
- Folder 4 Stamp source material images
- Folder 5 Stamp source material photographs and postcards
- Folder 6 Stamp source material images photographs
- Folder 7 Stamp source material
- Folder 8 Stamp source material art – airmail
- Folder 9 Stamp source material art – duck stamps

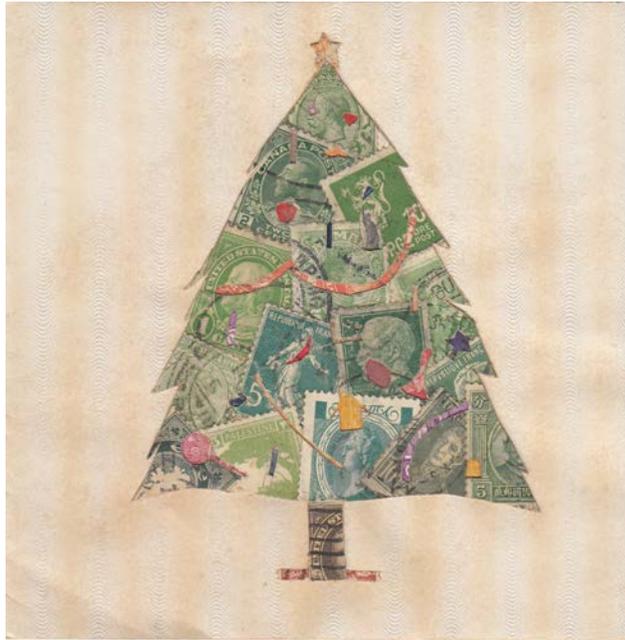
**Box 9 Post Office Department Material; Copies of Manning Documents in SI Archives**

Folder 1	Lists of photos and paintings of post offices and mail carriers
Folder 2	Proposed Post Office Department stamp museum
Folder 3	List of stamped paper for sale
Folder 4-6	Information Service Releases, 1952-1954
Folder 7	Postal documents
Folder 8	<i>Description of United States Stamps</i> booklets
Folder 9	Copies of Manning sources and material in SI Archives

**Box 10 Individual and Organization Correspondence (A-Z)**

Folder 1	American Airlines system
Folder 2	Anderson, Frank L. (New Zealand)
Folder 3	August, Leo (The Washington Press)
Folder 4	Blampied, Captain E. John (South Africa)
Folder 5	Blum, Herman; Blumhaven Library
Folder 6	Bruns, F.R. ( <i>The Sun</i> )
Folder 7	Crotzer, Thomas
Folder 8	Diamant, Freddie (Mrs. Henry A. Diamant)
Folder 9	Downing, Robert L. (Manning's "soldier friend")
Folder 10-11	Ellis, F.L. ( <i>Stamps</i> )
Folder 12	Fawcett, James Waldo ( <i>Evening Star, Sunday Star</i> )
Folder 13	Fisher, Edith "Dee" ( <i>Covers, Bergen Evening Record, Newark News</i> )
Folder 14	Frelinghusen, Senator Joseph Sherman "J.S."
Folder 15	Grau, Sergio Perez ( <i>El Mundo</i> , Puerto Rico)
Folder 16	Griffin, H.H. (St. Petersburg Stamp Club, Florida)
Folder 17	Heath, D.R.
Folder 18	Horn, Reverend Aloysius S.
Folder 19	Johl, Max G.
Folder 20	Kelly, Denwood N.
Folder 21	Kunze, Albert F. (Philatelic Division, Pan American Union, Organization of American States)
Folder 22	Lancaster, Oscar E.
Folder 23	Lederer, Howard A.
Folder 24	Lidman, David ( <i>Philately</i> )
Folder 25	MacGregor, Malcolm
Folder 26	<i>Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News</i> (Warren J. Turner)
Folder 27	Okuda, Masaru (Japan)
Folder 28	Saint-Gaudens, Homer (Augustus Saint-Gaudens Memorial)
Folder 29	Schneckenburger, Martin G. (photographer)
Folder 30	Sharpless, Elizabeth R. "Lily"
Folder 31	Sloane, George B. ( <i>Stamps</i> )
Folder 32	Thatcher, Allan M.
Folder 33	Ward, Philip H., Jr. including correspondence with Denwood Kelly

**Box 11    General Correspondence (A-Z); Holiday Cards; Panoramic Photographs**



*Holiday card with collage postage stamps from around the world  
Box 11, Folder 6*

- Folder 1            General correspondence A-F
  - Folder 2            General correspondence G-L
  - Folder 3            General correspondence M-R
  - Folder 4            General correspondence S-Z
  - Folder 5            General correspondence unidentified
  - Folder 6            Holiday cards
  - Folder 7            Panoramic photographs
- 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, American Philatelic Society – Boston  
Mass – August 12-16, 1930
- 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, American Philatelic Society – Atlantic  
City – August 27-31, 1934

Note: See Box 7, Folder 6 for correspondence regarding stamp source material.

**Box 12    Manning's *Little Women* Stamp Exhibit; *Scott Catalogue* 1944**

- Folder 1 "*Little Women*" Shown on Postage Stamps of the United States and Photographs of  
Original Source Material stamp exhibit
- Folder 2 *Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume 1, 1944*