

Frances McClelland Mayfarth, (1955—1962)

Archives, Wheelock College Library
Boston, MA 02215

Title: Records of the Office of the President.

Date: 1955-1994

Term of Office: 1955-1962

Quantity: .5 cubic feet, [11 folders]

Collection ID Number: 1C

Biography

Frances McClelland Mayfarth was the third President of Wheelock College. Mayfarth was born in Greenfield, Illinois on December 9, 1901. After finishing Decatur High School in 1920 she began to teach in a variety of school settings across Illinois. Mayfarth received a Bachelor's degree from James Millikin University, and her Master's and Doctorate in Education from Columbia University, in addition to an honorary degree from the National College of Education. For sixteen years, she was editor of *Childhood Education*, the official journal of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). She served as assistant to the director of the Child Development Institute at Columbia and as Associate Professor of Education at NYU prior to her appointment as President of Wheelock in 1955. Enrollment at Wheelock grew during the post-war years in response to the baby boom, and under Mayfarth's administration the number of faculty increased and the Elizabeth Peabody dormitory opened. In 1962 Mayfarth resigned her position at Wheelock College and moved to Cape Cod to teach at Nauset Regional High School. She later retired to Illinois, and died on July 30, 1994.

Scope and Content

The Mayfarth Collection in the Records of the Office of the President documents the life and professional work of Frances McClelland Mayfarth, third President of Wheelock College. The collection consists of biographical materials, writings and lectures, and administrative records relating to Mayfarth's office of President at Wheelock College. The bulk of the collection contains Annual Reports of the President, 1955-1961. The collection is organized in two series:

- I. Biographical
 - II. Professional Work
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Restrictions

Access:

Access to the collection is unlimited. Researchers are allowed to view all pieces of the collection. The archives is open by appointment only. Call the Reference Librarian at (617) 879-2222 to make an appointment.

Copyright:

Requests to publish material from the collection should be submitted to the Library Director.

Cataloging Entries

The following catalog entries provide controlled subject access to the collection. All these entries are searchable in the Wheelock College Library's online catalog to find materials of related interest.

Mayfarth, Frances, 1901-
Mayfarth, William.
Wheelock College -- History
Early childhood education -- History

Administrative Information

Acquisition:

The collection was the donation of Wheelock faculty and staff.

Processing Information:

The collection was re-processed by Jill Snyder in April of 2002. The collection was initially organized by Laura Reade and Judy Ceven. The collection was rearranged based on archival principles. Accession correspondence as well as inquiries into information from the archives was removed from the collection. Acidic materials such as newsprint were photocopied onto acid-free paper and then discarded unless the original had some intrinsic value.

Series Description

Series I:

Biographical, 1955-1994

Contains newspaper clippings, a short biographical sketch published in *Childhood Education*, and a memorandum from President Bakken notifying the Wheelock community of Mayfarth's death in 1994. Also includes an undated photograph of Mayfarth and her husband, the pianist William Mayfarth.

Series II

Professional Work, 1956-1961

Documents Mayfarth's work at Wheelock College. Includes an article and parent newsletter authored by Mayfarth, information on a 1956 Ford Foundation grant to increase faculty salary, a report regarding a proposed move of the College, and Annual Reports of the President, 1955-1961.

Check the Wheelock College Library Catalog at <http://www.wheelock.edu/library> for other writings by Mayfarth.

Container List

Series I: Biographical

- Biographical Material, 1955-1994, Box 10

Series II: Professional Work

- "Expanding Life Space," *Childhood Education*, vol. 33 no. 2 (October 1956), Box 10
- "Notes to Parents," October 1958, box 10
- Ford Foundation Grant, 1956, box 10
- College Location Report, 1958, box 10
- Annual Report of the President, 1955, Box 10
- Annual Report of the President, 1956-1957, Box 10
- Annual Report of the President, 1957-1958, Box 10
- Annual Report of the President, 1958-1959, Box 10
- Annual Report of the President, 1959-1960, Box 10
- Annual Report of the President, 1960-1961, Box 10