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University of Memphis Libraries
Preservation and Special Collections Department

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Lawrence and Sarah Wynn collection

Title: Lawrence and Sarah Wynn collection
Collection No: MSS.474
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1934-1979 and undated

Abstract: The collection contains artifacts, documents, and photographs belonging to the family of former Memphis State University English professor, Lawrence Wynn (1915-1995), and his wife, Sarah Joiner Wynn (1912-2006).

Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, July 2015.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Lawrence and Sarah Wynn collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: July 2015

Biographical information

Lawrence Wynn was born on November 8, 1915, the son of William T. Wynn. He earned a B.A. at Emory University, a M.A. at Duke University and a second masters and a PhD from Princeton University. Wynn became professor of English at Memphis State University (MSU) in 1950 and earned a second PhD from Tulane University in 1973. He received the Distinguished Teacher Award from MSU in 1981. He died in Memphis on May 29, 1995.

Wynn married Sarah Benton Joiner (1912-2006), the daughter of Annie Estelle Yarbrough Joiner (circa 1886-1963) and William Wortez Joiner (1877-1943). She was born in Helena-McRae, Georgia, but the family later moved to Savannah. William Joiner worked for the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company. Sarah earned a B.A. from the University of Georgia and an M.A. from Duke University. In 1967, she graduated with a Bachelor of Music from Memphis State University and went on to obtain a M.M. She also wrote *The Emergence of the Music Critic in Late 18th Century London: Composers, Performers, Reporters* (2001).

In 2006, the Lawrence and Sarah J. Wynn Collection of Romantic and Victorian literature was donated to the Special Collections Department of the University of Memphis Libraries.

Scope and contents

The collection contains artifacts belonging to the mother and grandmother of Sarah Joiner Wynn, including gloves, a handkerchief and a purse. A locket contains the photographs of Sarah's parents. There are also documents, photographs, and a copy of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* published by Robert K. Hass, circa 1920.

Subject terms

Wynn, Lawrence, 1915-1995.

Wynn, Sarah B., 1912-2006.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Miscellaneous documents: Letter: Father to daughter (William W. Joiner to Sarah Joiner), 1934 June 17; Resolution on death of William W. Joiner by Order of Railway Conductors, 1943 October; photograph: Lawrence and Sarah Wynn, undated; Gordon Osing to Lawrence Wynn, 19?? February 22; Osing note, 1979 September 20.
- 2 Book: Dickens, Charles, *A Christmas Carol*, New York: Robert K. Hass, Inc., circa 1920.
- 3 Pamphlet: Howell, Elmo, *The Meaning of "Snopesism"*, 1966.

Unfolded

Artifacts:

Purse: belonged to Beulah Davis Yarbrough, grandmother of Sarah Wynn, circa 1884.

Gloves and handkerchief: belonged to Annie Yarbrough Joiner, circa 1911.

Locket: Contains photographs of William and Annie Joiner.

Fans: Unknown material with pierced design (2).

OS Photograph: Lawrence and Sarah Wynn, undated.