

Cassie Connor Collection
A Register – 1934-1969, No Date

Creator: Cassie Connor

Collection Number: Mss 286

Title: Cassie Connor Collection

Abstract: This material was collected by Cassie Connor, longtime secretary of James F. Byrnes, which gives additional insight into the work of the former Senator, advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Supreme Court Justice, Secretary of State under President Harry Truman, and Governor of South Carolina.

Quantity: .65 cubic feet consisting of 10 folders, three bound volumes and 128 photographs in 3 boxes.

Scope and Content Note

The papers include correspondence, photographs, postcards, shorthand notes, travel documents, and bound material.

The correspondence in this collection is divided into two subsets. The first includes items received by James F. Byrnes between the years 1934-1958. Among these items are letters from political figures such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill. In addition, there are letters from notable Hollywood figures such as Spencer Tracy and Clark Gable. The second set of correspondence contains material that Cassie Connor either sent or received. These include received items from relatives stationed overseas during World War II as well as letters from Bernard Baruch.

There are 128 photographs that depict Byrnes, Connor, and members of various U.S. delegations and political figures that accompanied them on diplomatic missions such as Potsdam in 1945 and the Paris Peace Conference in 1946.

Of note are six postcards addressed to Hermann Göring from German well-wishers concerning the birth of his daughter Edda in 1938. These were found in the book *Hermann Göring Redun und Aufsätze* from this collection. It is unknown how Connor came into possession of these particular materials.

Included in this collection are three pages of shorthand notes by Byrnes that were taken on July 4, 1946 [it should be noted that Byrnes used Pittman shorthand].

Connor's travel documents include a certificate of vaccination (1966), a diary (years 1959, 1961, and 1966), three passports, and an undated travel itinerary.

There are three bound items within this collection. The first is a March 1947 edition of *South Carolina Magazine* which features an article entitled “Mister Justice: James F. Byrnes of South Carolina.” The second and third items are related to the formation of the United Nations. One contains interim arrangements agreed upon in 1945 while the other is a bound copy of the charter itself.

Additional Collection Information

Cite as: [description of item such as “Correspondence – Byrnes -- Received 1934, 1936-39, 1946, 1948, 1958, no date] box number, folder number, Mss 286, Cassie Connor Collection, Special collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC

Biographical Note

Cassie Connor, born in Franklin, North Carolina on August 13, 1899, was the longtime personal secretary to James F. Byrnes throughout his career in public service.

After attending Palmer Business College, she first joined Byrnes as a secretary when he was elected to the United States Senate in 1931. During the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration, she followed Byrnes as he served on both the Supreme Court and as Director of War Mobilization. When Byrnes became Secretary of State for the Truman Administration, Connor moved with him to the State Department in the role of Special Assistant. She accompanied Byrnes to pivotal meetings of state such as the Potsdam and Paris Peace Conferences, as well as the foundation of the United Nations in 1945. She became private secretary to Byrnes after he was elected Governor of South Carolina in 1951. After Byrnes left office, Connor assisted with the operation of the James F. Byrnes Foundation. She died in January 1969.

Related Items

Mss 90 James F. Byrnes Papers

Hermann Göring Redun und Aufsätze: Gritzbach, Eric; DD247 .G67 A342

Collection Item Indexed Terms

Byrnes, James Francis, 1879-1972

World War, 1939-1945—Peace

Paris Peace Conference (1946)

Potsdam Conference (1945)

Europe—Description and travel

United Nations. Charter

United States—Foreign Relations—20th Century

Added Names

Connor, Cassie, 1899-1969

Administrative Information:

Acquired from:

William McClanahan on May 5 and September 2, 1982

Martha McClanahan on October 13, 1997 and July 10, 2008

Originally accessioned as 82-8, 82-26, 97-134, and 08-73

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Carl Redd, Project Archivist, in 2006.

Detailed Description

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
		Correspondence
1	1	Byrnes – Received -- 1934, 1936-39, 1946, 1948, 1958, no date
	2	Connor – Sent/Received -- 1943, 1945, 1953, 1967, 1969, no date
		Invitation
	3	Inauguration of James F. Byrnes as Governor of SC - January 16, 1951
		Picturebook/Brochure
	4	<i>Memories of Yalta</i> , 1945
		Postcards (6)
	5	Addressed to Herman Göring – Congratulations Concerning the Birth of His Daughter Edda in 1938 [originally found in book <i>Hermann Göring Redun und Aufsätze</i> by Dr. Erich Gritzbach, 1939]
		Shorthand Notes
	6	Byrnes Shorthand Notes – July 4, 1946
		Travel Documents
	7	Connor’s Certificate of Vaccination – 1966
	8	Connor’s Diary -- Documenting Trips During Years 1959, 1961, and 1966
	9	Passports -- 1945, 1959, and 1966
	10	Travel Itinerary – no date
		Oversized Bound Material
2	1	South Carolina Magazine -- March 1947
	2	United Nations – Interim Arrangements, 1945
	3	United Nations – <i>Charter</i> , 1945

Separation List

Photographs (vault)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
1	1	1945 - scenes of Berlin, Potsdam Conference, Byrnes sworn in as Secretary of State (autographed by Byrnes and Truman), Byrnes meeting with King George VI of England
	2	1946 - Paris Peace Conference, Foreign Ministers Conference in Moscow, UNO meeting in London, England
	3	1950s - Byrnes as Governor of SC, Dwight D. Eisenhower (signed)
	4	undated photos - scenes of postwar Germany, including Kelsteinhaus
	5	miscellaneous - no date - Byrnes and General Patton, Byrnes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Byrnes and Bernard Baruch, Connor and unidentified females
	6	oversized photographs - no date
	7	oversized photographs - Mr. and Mrs. Byrnes