

Mary Vance Trent Papers

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Collection Summary

Title: Mary Vance Trent Papers

Span Dates: 1849-1998

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1959-1976)

ID No.: MSS84722

Creator: Trent, Mary Vance, 1914-1998

Extent: 3,500 items ; 10 containers plus 1 classified ; 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Foreign service officer and lecturer. Correspondence, memoranda, family papers, reports, speeches, writings, photographs, clippings, and printed matter relating primarily to Trent's career as a foreign service officer in the State Department and a lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution's travel program.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Deane, C. W.--Correspondence.

Green, Marshall.

Soeharto, 1921-2008.

Soekarno, 1901-1970.

Trent family.

Trent, Madeline--Correspondence.

Trent, Mary Vance, 1914-1998.

Trent, Ray S. (Ray Shearer)

Organizations

Our Chalet (Adelboden, Bern, Switzerland)

Smithsonian Institution.

United Nations.

United States. Dept. of State.--Officials and employees.

United States. Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations--Officials and employees.

Subjects

Anti-communist movements--Indonesia.

Christian Science.

Democracy--Micronesia (Federated States)

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Diplomats' spouses--Education--United States.

Equality before the law--United States.

Feminism--United States.

Girl Scouts.

Representative government and representation--Micronesia (Federated States)

Women--Legal status, laws, etc.

Women--Legal status, laws, etc.--Indonesia.

Places

Indonesia--Foreign relations--United States.

Indonesia--Politics and government--1950-1966.

Indonesia--Politics and government--1966-1998.

Micronesia (Federated States)--Foreign relations--United States.

Micronesia (Federated States)--Politics and government.

Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
New Zealand--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Indonesia.
United States--Foreign relations--Micronesia (Federated States)
United States--Foreign relations--New Zealand.

Titles

Christian Science monitor.

Occupations

Foreign service officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Mary Vance Trent, foreign service officer and Smithsonian Institution lecturer, were given to the Library of Congress by Carol Zachary in 2000.

Transfers

Four audiocassette tapes and a film have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some photographs of Trent and her family and photographs relating to her foreign service career have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Mary Vance Trent Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Mary Vance Trent in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Mary Vance Trent are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Mary Vance Trent Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1914, Nov. 20	Born, Madison, Wis.
1937	B.A., History and Political Science, Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.
1940-1944	Teacher, Principia Upper School, St. Louis, Mo.
1942	Worked for McDonnell Aircraft Corp., St. Louis, Mo.

1943 Postgraduate work, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

1944-1945 Public opinion analyst, State Department

1946 Member, United States delegation to the first session of the United Nations General Assembly, London, England

1946-1947 Member, UNESCO Preparatory Commission, London, England, and Paris, France

1947 Appointed United States foreign service officer

1947-1949 Economic officer and vice consul, American embassy, Oslo, Norway

1949-1950 Political officer, American embassy, Prague, Czechoslovakia

1950-1952 Political officer, American embassy, Paris, France

1952-1956 International relations officer, European affairs, State Department

1957-1958 Political officer, American embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia

1958 Married, Thomas Hague (divorced 1962)
Resigned from the State Department

1962 Reinstated as a United States foreign service officer

1962-1964 Instructor, Foreign Service Institute, State Department

1964 Recipient, Superior Service Award, State Department

1964-1967 Political officer, American embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia

1967-1968 International relations officer, Cambodian affairs, State Department\

1968 Liaison for East Asian affairs, United States delegation to United Nations

1969-1972 Head, Political Section, and occasionally deputy ambassador, American embassy, Wellington, New Zealand

1972-1974 Representative and political adviser for the State Department, Saipan, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

1974 Recipient, Meritorious Honor Award, State Department

1974-1977 Special advisor and director, Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations, (under the National Security Council), Washington, D.C.

1977 Retired from the foreign service, State Department

1981 Became lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution Travel Program, Washington, D.C.

1984-1987	International president, Society of Woman Geographers
1998, Oct.13	Died, Arlington, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mary Vance Trent (1914-1998) span the years 1849-1998, with the bulk of the material concentrated from 1959 to 1976. Most of the collection documents Trent's service as one of the first women foreign service officers in the United States, particularly her assignments in Indonesia, 1957-1958, 1964-1967; Wellington, New Zealand, 1969-1972; and Saipan, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia), 1972-1974. Because of her expertise in Micronesia, Trent was rehired two months after her mandatory retirement in August 1974 to direct the Micronesian status negotiations and to work with the Department of Interior in developing a plan of self-government for these islands. Also represented in the collection are family papers and travel files chronicling Trent's personal trips and her activities as a lecturer and guide for the Smithsonian Institution Travel Program. The papers reflect Trent's interest in the status of women in the countries she visited on official business or personal travel. The papers are organized in four series: [Family Papers](#), [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), and [Classified](#).

The [Family Papers](#), 1849-1983, consist chiefly of letters Trent wrote to her sister, Madeline Trent, women's page editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*. In these letters Trent discusses her work, religious faith (Christian Science), her social activities, and other interests. Trent frequently complimented her sister on the topics covered in the women's page of the *Christian Science Monitor*, particularly those about women's liberation and equal rights. Her letters also mention the unrest in Indonesia in 1965 during the anti-Communist uprising in that country when President Soekarno was forced from power during an anti-Communist uprising and replaced by General Soeharto. Included in the Family Papers are religious writings of Trent's father, Ray S. Trent, who was also a Christian Scientist, and short stories that he wrote for his daughters entitled "The Pony Stories: Two Little Girls on a Louisiana Sugar Plantation." The family material also contains a letter written from the Civil War battlefield at Wilson Creek, Missouri, by one of Trent's Confederate ancestors, C. W. Deane.

The [Correspondence](#) series, 1951-1997, consists of incoming correspondence to Trent chiefly from friends and colleagues detailing their interests and activities. Many of the letters include attachments such as photographs. Most of the letters and photographs from 1966 to 1968 are from friends who visited Trent in Indonesia or contain news of Indonesia after her departure in 1968.

The [Subject File](#), 1932-1998, consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, travel notes, background information, and printed matter documenting Trent's foreign service assignments, her activities as a lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution, and her personal travel. Most of the State Department files document Trent's service in Indonesia, New Zealand, and Micronesia and her activities as United States liaison for East Asian affairs to the United Nations and as advisor and director of the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations. Included in the Indonesia files are two bulletins pertaining to Indonesian women, one a Djakarta club list and the other relating to the women's movement in Indonesia. The Subject Files also contain an unpublished manuscript by Trent about the women of Indonesia entitled "Iron Butterflies." The manuscript, an enclosure accompanying a 1991 letter, is located in the file on Marshall Green, former ambassador to Indonesia.

The State Department subject files also contain material pertaining to a training course organized and directed by Trent in 1962 primarily for wives of diplomats. Trent taught the class from 1962 to 1964 at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C. In 1964 she received the Superior Honor Award for developing and teaching the course. The Foreign Service Institute files also contain two interview transcripts in 1988 in which Trent reflected on the training course and her State Department career. An additional transcript of an interview conducted by Carol Zachary in 1993 is located in the biographical file of the Subject File. In that interview Trent discussed her childhood, family, and career.

The [Subject File](#) also reflects Trent's interests in the Girl Scouts and her travel activities. In 1932 Trent was chosen as a delegate with three other United States girl scouts to attend the international inauguration of Our Chalet, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides headquarters in Adelboden, Switzerland. There are papers relating to this meeting and also to subsequent anniversary meetings in 1982 and 1992. Trent's travel files consist chiefly of notes and background material relating to the various places she visited on personal travel or as a tour lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Family Papers, 1849-1983](#)
- [Correspondence, 1951-1997](#)
- [Subject File, 1932-1998](#)
- [Classified, 1968-1973](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>Family Papers, 1849-1983</u> Correspondence, including attachments, writings, newspaper clippings, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.
BOX 3	<u>Correspondence, 1951-1997</u> Incoming correspondence, including attachments, primarily from Trent's friends and colleagues. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3-10	<u>Subject File, 1932-1998</u> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, travel notes, biographical material, an oral history transcript, interviews, speeches, photographs, certificates, background information, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX CL 1	<u>Classified, 1968-1973</u> Correspondence, memoranda, an airgram, and a questionnaire. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2	Family Papers, 1849-1983 Correspondence, including attachments, writings, newspaper clippings, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1849, 1861, 1872, 1885, 1900, 1926, 1970, undated
BOX 1	Trent, Madeline ("Nan") (sister)
BOX 1	1942, 1951, 1959-1969 (18 folders)
BOX 2	1970-1974, 1981-1983, undated (15 folders)
BOX 2	Trent, Ray S. (father), 1926, 1936, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1951-1997 Incoming correspondence, including attachments, primarily from Trent's friends and colleagues. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3	1951-1997, undated (10 folders)
BOX 3-10	Subject File, 1932-1998 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, travel notes, biographical material, an oral history transcript, interviews, speeches, photographs, certificates, background information, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 3	Academic file, 1933-1937, 1979, undated
BOX 3	Bali, 1992
BOX 3	Biographical file <i>For additional material see Container 8, Personnel file</i>
BOX 3	General, 1974-1995 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Oral history transcript, 1993 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Christian Science, 1968-1986, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	Girl Scouts
BOX 4	General, 1966-1969, 1978-1984, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Our Chalet, Adelboden, Switzerland
BOX 4	Anniversary, fiftieth, 1980-1982 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Falk Memorial Open Fund, 1979-1985
BOX 5	General, 1976, 1982-1986, 1992

Subject File, 1932-1998

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 5	Meeting, 1932
BOX 5	Green, Marshall, 1991
BOX 5	Havel, Vaclav, 1989-1991 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Hiss, Alger, 1995
BOX 5	Miscellany, 1969-1973, 1984-1991, 1997-1998
BOX 5	Orchard School, Indianapolis, Ind., 1972, 1979, 1988-1989, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Speech file, 1968, 1975-1987, 1993 <i>For additional material see Container 10, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation</i> (7 folders)
BOX 6	State Department
BOX 6	Foreign Service Institute, wives training course, 1961-1965, 1982, 1988, undated (7 folders)
BOX 6	Indonesia, 1961-1968, 1995, undated <i>For additional material see Container 5, Green, Marshall</i> (6 folders)
BOX 6	Lecture notes, 1963
BOX 7	Micronesia, 1960-1964, 1972-1991, undated (11 folders)
BOX 7	New Zealand
BOX 7	1965-1969 (2 folders)
BOX 8	1970-1973, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8	Personnel file, 1963-1978 <i>See also Classified</i> (5 folders)
BOX 8	Retirement, 1974-1977
BOX 8	United Nations, East Asian affairs, 1945, 1968-1969 <i>See also Classified</i> (5 folders)
BOX 8	Travel file
BOX 8	1959, Sept.-Oct., Asia and Europe
BOX 8	1963, May, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Tetons
BOX 9	1978, Sept. 20-Oct. 5, Europe
BOX 9	1979
BOX 9	Mar. 10-18, Morocco
BOX 9	Sept. 5-26, China
BOX 9	1981
BOX 9	Feb.5-Mar. 1, Micronesia (2 folders)
BOX 9	Apr. 21-May 6, Italy and France
BOX 9	1982, Dec. 14-1983, Jan. 9, Africa (2 folders)
BOX 9	1983, Mar. 23-Apr. 23, Indonesia
BOX 9	1984
BOX 9	Feb. 29-Mar. 31, Saudi Arabia and Yemen (2 folders)
BOX 10	(1 folder)

Subject File, 1932-1998

Container

Contents

BOX 10	Oct. 11-29, China cruise
BOX 10	1986, Feb. 2-22, Borneo, Spice Islands, and New Guinea
BOX 10	1989
BOX 10	May 25-June 10, Middle-East
BOX 10	Aug. 1-26, Southeast Asia
BOX 10	1990, Mar. 21-Apr. 4, France
BOX 10	1991, Feb. 19-Mar. 7, Indonesia
BOX 10	1991, Dec. 27-1992, Jan. 8, Africa
BOX 10	1992, July-Aug., Europe
BOX 10	1992, Dec. 29-1993, Jan. 7, Caribbean
BOX 10	1993, July, Turkey, Central Asia, and Russia
BOX 10	1994, Apr. 19-May 12, Greece
BOX 10	1996, Jan. 10-15, London, England
BOX 10	1997, Apr. 20-May 7, Greece
BOX 10	White House, 1982-1984
BOX 10	Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 1980-1981 (3 folders)
BOX 10	Writings, 1972
BOX CL 1	Classified, 1968-1973 Correspondence, memoranda, an airgram, and a questionnaire. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX CL 1	Subject File
BOX CL 1	State Department
BOX CL 1	Personnel file, 1968-1973 (Container 8)
BOX CL 1	United Nations, East Asian affairs, 1968-1969 (Container 8)