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Guide to the Saint Thomas More Library Gift collection

Julia T. Metcalf

San Diego College for Women

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Saint Thomas More Library Gift collection

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University of San Diego Special Collections

Copley Library

5998 Alcalá Park

San Diego, CA 92110-2492

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Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | University of San Diego Special Collections |
| Creator: | Metcalf, Julia T., Dr. |
| Source: | Hill, Rosalie Clifton, Mother, 1879-1964 |
| Creator: | San Diego College for Women |
| Title: | Guide to the Saint Thomas More Library Gift collection |
| ID: | USDSC.016 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1953-1993 |
| Physical Description: | 0.25 Linear Feet 1 letter size document box |
| Language of the Material: | English . |
| Abstract: | This collection contains a bound book and original records detailing the donation of the Saint Thomas More Library to the San Diego College for Women by Dr. Julia Metcalf. The book and records include an account of the founding of Saint Thomas More Library, correspondence, telegrams, board of directors' meeting minutes and resolutions, affidavit of service by mail, and a list of books in the collection. |

Preferred Citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Saint Thomas More Library Gift collection, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

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Biographical / Historical

Julia Metcalf was one of nine children born in Massachusetts circa 1875. In 1914, she migrated to California with her sister Sarah and brother Theodore. The siblings traveled back east soon after arriving in California to provide medical support to France during World War I. Julia and Sarah returned to California in June 1919 and inspired by letters childhood friend from Pauline Willis, decided to establish a Catholic library to inspire people to join the Catholic

faith. After facing difficulties securing a rent-free office space to house the collection, and receiving word from the Chancery Office that they should give up on the dream of a Catholic library, the sisters chose to set up the library in their Los Angeles home in 1935.

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Biographical / Historical

The Saint Thomas More Library, as it was blessed on March 25, 1935, contained thousands of liberal Catholic books and hosted lectures each Monday with prominent Catholic thinkers. The library became a nonprofit corporation in 1941. Membership grew to include new converts, high school and college students, and movie studios. When Sarah died in 1941, Julia continued to manage the library with the help of assistants until failing health prompted her to transfer ownership of the collection to a trusted organization. Because of Julia's fond memories of her Convent of the Sacred Heart education, she chose to give the collection to the San Diego College for Women, operated by the Religious of the Sacred Heart, in June 1953.

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Biographical / Historical

The San Diego College for Women was established in 1949 by Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill to educate young women in the Religious of the Sacred Heart tradition. The college shared a campus with the San Diego College for Men and the School of Law but operated as a separate higher education institution until the 1960s when it began integrating courses and student organizations with the men's college. In 1972, the San Diego College for Women merged with the San Diego College for Men and the School of Law to become the University of San Diego.

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Scope and Contents

This collection includes original records relating to the donation of the Saint Thomas More Library collection to the San Diego College for Women. The records include correspondence between Julia Metcalf and Mother Rosalie Hill, correspondence between Daniel G. Marshall and Mother Rosalie Hill regarding the gift, canonical opinion on the gift of the collection to the college, board of directors' minutes and resolutions, and an affidavit of service by mail for the

shipping of the collection to San Diego. The bound book contains typed copies of the records above as well as a list of all the books transferred to the San Diego College for Women. There is also correspondence between Mother Rosalie Hill and close friends of Julia Metcalf as she lived out her final days and after her passing.

In addition to the records related to the gift, there are requests for information from scholars in 1959 and 1993 about Julia Metcalf and records pertaining to her gift to the San Diego College for Women. Other records include internal memos about the collection's status in the Copley Library, an article written by a Saint Thomas More Library patron in 1940, and an obituary of Julia Metcalf's friend, Pauline Willis, from 1957.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

University of San Diego Special Collections

Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492
spcoll@sandiego.edu

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Saint Thomas More Library Gift collection is the physical property of the University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections. Copyright, except in cases where material has passed into the public domain, belongs to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Julia T. Metcalf in June 1953. The bound book was created by the San Diego College for Women in 1954.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Shavonne Munnlyn in 2022.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Saint Thomas More Library (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- Catholic libraries
- Catholic Church. Archdiocese of Los Angeles (Calif.)
- Book donations
- Hill, Rosalie Clifton, Mother, 1879-1964

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Saint Thomas More Library Gift of Dr. Julia Metcalf to San Diego College for Women, 1954 | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Saint Thomas More Library Gift records (1 of 2), 1953-1954 | box 1 | folder 2 |
| Saint Thomas More Library Gift records (2 of 2), 1953-1954 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Scholar correspondence, 1959 February 24, 1992 December 28-1993 May | box 1 | folder 4 |
| Internal memos, 1965 March 3, 1989 February-1991 March | box 1 | folder 5 |
| Newspaper articles, 1940 February 10, 1957 May-June | box 1 | folder 6 |