

Bridgewater State University

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**Amelia E. Leconte Collection,
1931-2019
MSS-051**

*Finding Aid Compiled by
Olivia Englehart, 2024*

Last Updated March 26, 2024

Volume: 1.25 Linear feet (2 document boxes, 4 containers of slides, 2 oversized folders)

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Biographical Sketch

Amelia Eugenia Leconte, born in Acushnet, MA, in 1931, to a French father and Portuguese mother. In 1949, she embarked on her academic pursuit of French at the Bridgewater State Teachers College (now Bridgewater State University). Her time away from home was marked by a vibrant correspondence with her mother. During her senior year, Amelia received a Fulbright Scholarship through the US Department of Education. Successfully awarded the scholarship, she ventured to Romans, France, where she served as a teaching assistant at the College Modern de Jeunes Filles. Upon her return, fueled by her passion for the French language, she furthered her studies at Middlebury College in Vermont, earning a Master of Arts in French in 1954. Her dedication to education led her to a remarkable 35-year teaching career in French at Barnstable High School, retiring in 1990.

Amelia's teaching journey included a sabbatical in Morocco in 1959, where she became the first person to teach English to French-speaking Moroccans. Embracing the experience, she extended her sabbatical for a second year, returning home in 1961. Upon her return, Amelia resumed her teaching at Barnstable High and became the Foreign Language Department Head.

Amelia's love for languages extended beyond French, encompassing Spanish and German. In addition to her linguistic pursuits, Amelia had a deep appreciation for music. She composed lyrical songs, played both the piano and Victorian pump organ, and engaged in poetic expression. Amelia, a woman of diverse talents and passions, passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 88 in her Laconia, New Hampshire home, where she had resided for her final four years.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is organized into two series, each offering a comprehensive glimpse into the life and accomplishments of Amelia Leconte. The first series encompasses a rich assortment of documentation, photographs, and correspondence stemming from Amelia's teaching in Oujda, Morocco. Within this series are documents such as her USA Grant Award Letters, a congratulatory telegram from John F. Kennedy while he was a Massachusetts senator, travel documents, a meticulously kept notebook containing lesson notes and grades, a curated selection of publications on Morocco and notable travel destinations, and speeches delivered upon her return to various high schools. The second series delves into Amelia's academic pursuits, highlighting her poetic publications, acquisition of both a bachelor's and master's degree in French, a prestigious Fulbright scholarship that allowed her to teach English in France, and her remarkable 35-year tenure as a high school French teacher in Barnstable. Noteworthy within this series are newspaper clippings chronicling Amelia's academic and scholarship achievements, elevating her to the status of a local celebrity in South Shore Massachusetts. Additionally, the series includes multiple folders of photographs capturing pivotal moments such as her graduation from Bridgewater State Teachers College (BSU), BSU Alumni events for her graduating class, her college yearbook, and portrait headshots spanning various stages of Amelia's life. A unique aspect of this series is the correspondence exchanged between Amelia and her mother during her global travels, accompanied by a stamp collection from each country she visited. Accompanying both series are multiple tin boxes containing photographic film slides of Amelia's time teaching in both France and Morocco.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Teaching in Morocco, 1959-1961

1 box, arranged by subject

The first series comprises a diverse array of records, pictures, and communications originating from Amelia's influential teaching period in Oujda, Morocco. Notable items in this series include a USA Grant Award, a congratulatory telegram from John F. Kennedy, travel-related paperwork, a meticulously organized notebook housing lesson notes and grades, a carefully chosen assortment of local history and tourist publications on Morocco and noteworthy travel spots, and speeches delivered upon her reentry to the United State to different high schools and organizations. This series also includes two cases of 35mm color slides from Amelia's two years of teaching in Morocco.

Series 2: Education, Teaching, Fullbright, 1948-2019

1 box, arranged by subject

The second collection delves into Amelia's academic journey, showcasing her poetic publications, attainment of both a bachelor's and master's degree in French, a prestigious Fulbright scholarship enabling her to teach English in France, and her impressive 35-year tenure as a high school French teacher in Barnstable, MA. Notable in this set are newspaper clippings documenting Amelia's academic and scholarship accomplishments, propelling her to local celebrity status in South Shore Massachusetts. Moreover, the collection features several folders of photographs capturing pivotal moments such as her graduation from State Teachers College (BSU), BSU Alumni events for her graduating class, her college yearbook, and portrait headshots spanning various stages of Amelia's life. A distinctive element of this series is the exchange of correspondence between Amelia and her mother during her global travels, accompanied by a stamp collection from each country she visited. This series also includes two cases of 35mm color slides from Amelia's year of teaching in France. At the end of the series are two oversized folders with certificates and corresponding material.

Box and Folder List**Series 1: Teaching in Morocco, 1959-1961****Box 1****Folder**

1. Morocco: USA Government Grant Authorization Award Letters, 1960
2. Congratulatory Telegram from John F. Kennedy to Leconte on her Grant to Teach English in Morocco, May 12, 1959
3. Morocco: Registration Certificate (VISA), 1959-1961
4. Two Notebooks: Teaching in Morocco (1959-1961), Music Composition and Poetry (1949-1953)
5. Publications from Morocco Collected by Amelia, 1959-1961
6. Newspaper and Magazine Articles on Morocco, 1962, 1973, undated
7. Morocco Slide Show Speech: Yarmouth High School, c. 1961
8. Morocco Slide Show Speech: Barnstable High School, c. 1961
9. Morocco Slide Show Speech: Rotary Club and Photograph, September 9, 1960
 - Container 1: 35mm color slides from Morocco
 - Container 2: 35mm color slides from Morocco

Series 2: Education, Teaching, Fullbright, 1948-2019**Box 2****Folder**

1. "Songs of Youth" National Poetry Association: *To a Snowflake by Amelia Leconte*, pg. 78, 1948
2. Bridgewater State Teachers College (BSU), 1949-1952

3. Letters to Amelia at Bridgewater State Teachers College (BSU) and at Home (Acushnet), Misc. Letters, 1948, 1949, 2000
4. ALPHA, State Teachers College (BSU) Senior Yearbook with Signatures and Well-wishes by Leconte's Classmates and Teachers, 1952
5. Bridgewater State Teachers College (BSU), Graduation Photographs, 1952
6. BSU Alumni Events, class of 1952
7. Edith H. Frost, Obituary (BSU Prof. 1919-1955), March 27, 1980
8. French Gov. Assistantship at College Moderne de Jeunes Filles, Romans, FR (Fulbright Scholarship) 1952-1953
9. Letters to Mrs. Octave E. Leconte (Amelia's Mother) from Amelia, Romans France, 1952-1953
10. Middlebury College, 1954-1957
11. Barnstable Public Schools, 1957-1990
12. Newspaper Articles about Teaching Abroad, Awards and Obituary, 1946-2019
13. Postage Stamps and Envelopes with Postage Stamps: USA, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Algeria, Tunisia
14. Passports and International Driving Permit, 1952,1959,1967, 1971, 1973-1978, 1983-1993, 2006-2016
15. Certificates, Diplomas, Applications, 1948-1996
16. Large Portraits, 1944-2006
 - Container 1: 35mm color slides from France
 - Container 2: 35mm color slides from France

Oversized Material

- 2 certificates from University of Grenoble, 1953
- 2 transcripts of records from University of Grenoble, 1953