Lila Marguerite Cabaniss papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Creator: Cabaniss, Lila Marguerite, 1875-1969.
Title: Lila Marguerite Cabaniss papers
Dates: 1848-1969
Extent: 2.1 cubic feet (4 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Identification: MS 0116

Biographical/Historical Note

Lila Marguerite Cabaniss (1875-1969) was a high school English teacher and art teacher whose career spanned from 1892 to 1947. She worked to bring art into the public school curriculum in Savannah. Cabaniss was a founding member of the Savannah Art Club and a noted artist in her own right.

Her parents were Elbridge Gerry Cabaniss (1846-1913), a Confederate veteran, and Florence LaRoche (1852-1895), a member of a prominent Savannah family. She had two brothers, Elbridge Gerry, Jr. and Oliver Harley, and two sisters, Mary and Sara Louise.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of papers and photographs pertaining to the Cabaniss family and the educational and artistic career of Lila Marguerite Cabaniss. They are arranged by subject, including Cabaniss family correspondence; Lila Cabaniss' correspondence with people outside of her family, including students and fellow artists; Christmas and birthday cards; exhibition catalogues and lists of paintings sold; certificates issued to Lila Cabaniss from schools and universities; material showing Lila's participation in various organizations; Cabaniss family history and genealogy; newspaper clippings about Lila Cabaniss and Mary Cabaniss; papers and exhibition catalogues related to the Savannah Art Club, Southern States Art League, and other professional artist associations; documents related to Lila Cabaniss' teaching career; personal essays and journals devoted to Lila Cabaniss' trips to Mexico and Europe; embroidered signatures; and a folder pertaining to the Copp family (including a letter from a slave); and short stories by Gordon Saussy and George Wilson. Within these categories, the items are arranged in chronological order. Also included are photographs of paintings; Lila Marguerite Cabaniss and her immediate and extended family; unidentified family and friends; Lila Cabaniss and fellow artists and friends; Lila and Mary Cabaniss' paintings and an original sketch by Lila Cabaniss; Lila Cabaniss and her high school students; antique furniture and ceramics; and an unidentified woman. The collection also contains photograph albums from circa 1903, an article from a magazine, and an original drawing by George Laurence Nelson.

The box and folder containing photographs and the drawing are noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

Index Terms

Cabaniss family--Genealogy.
Cabaniss, Lila Marguerite, 1875-1969.
Certificates.
Clippings (information artifacts)
Copp family.
Drawings (visual works)
Exhibition catalogs.
Genealogies (histories)
Journals (accounts)
Letters (correspondence)
Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from creator.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Lila Marguerite Cabaniss papers, MS 116, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information


Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Box folders

1 1-3 Cabaniss family correspondence, 1873-1963 and undated (48.0 items.)
Correspondents include Lila Cabaniss, Mary Cabaniss, Oliver Harley Cabaniss, Elbridge Gerry Cabaniss, Jr., Elbridge Gerry Cabaniss, Sr., Florence La Roche Cabaniss (Mrs. Elbridge Gerry Cabaniss, Sr.), Lila La Roche, Mary E. La Roche, Aunt Lula (Kingsberry?), Cousin Gene, E.H. Cabaniss, Eliza Peeples, W.W. Wash, W.W. Landrum, Anderson M. Scruggs, Lillian Lowe (Mrs. Frank Wood). Among these letters are ones to and from Mrs. and Mr. E.G. Cabaniss, Sr., who was in Atlanta; a letter of condolence written upon the death of Mrs. E.G. Cabaniss, Sr. in 1895 to Mr. E.G. Cabaniss form his sister Eliza Peeples; letters from Oliver Harley Cabaniss written from France in 1919; letters to Mary Cabaniss from various artists; letters to Lila Cabaniss from various relatives including one from her brother Elbridge Gerry Cabaniss, Jr.; envelopes, without letters, to Mary Cabaniss and Mary La Roche from Little America Base., Second Antarctic Expedition, 1934.

4-8 Personal correspondence, 1900-1965 and undated (127.0 items.)
Letters to Lila Cabaniss from people other than her family. These papers contain letters from pupils, including World War II letters; from artists George Laurence Nelson, Linwood Taft., Lamar Dodd, Ralph Avery, Edward S. Shorter, Annie May Holliday and others; from Conrad Aiken, 1936; from Ursula and Charlotte Auerswald, Germany, 1950-1952; from George B. Cutten, 1953; from a Korean orphanage, 1959-1964; from friends, art dealers, and buyers.

9  Christmas and other cards with original art work, most undated (33.0 items.)
   Includes cards with art work of pupils and friends. Some of the artists are Ralph Avery, Ted Waters, Raiford S. Wood, Annie May Holliday, Christopher P.H. Murphy, Margaret Murphy, Helen Hatch Inglesby, Leonora Quarterman, and Charles Du Bose.

10- 90th Birthday cards, October-November 1964 (45.0 items.)
11
   Includes cards and letters from former students and friends upon the 90th birthday of Lila Cabaniss, November 5, 1964. Also one note written upon her 91st birthday.

**Box Fl dr**

2  12 Certificates from schools (21.0 items.)
   Includes certificates from Savannah public schools, universities, and other records of attendance in art schools.

13 Memberships (22.0 items.)
   Includes material showing Lila Cabaniss's membership in various organizations, not art related, and biographical information.

14 Family history (43.0 items.)
   Includes photocopies of newspaper clippings about family members, obituaries, wedding invitations, a few business records, and genealogical material on the Cabaniss and La Roche families.

14a Original newspaper clippings from folder 14

15- Photocopies of newspaper clippings about Lila Cabaniss, 1909-1969 and undated (83.0 items.)
16
15a- Original newspaper clippings from folders 15 and 16
16a

17 Photocopies of newspaper clippings about Mary Cabaniss, 1929-1938 and undated (9.0 items.)

18 Photocopies of newspaper clippings about Lila and Mary Cabaniss, 1922-1953 and undated (26.0 items.)

18a Original newspaper clippings from folders 17 and 18
19- Professional associations, Savannah Art Club, 1922-1965 and undated (49.0 items.)

Includes papers relating to Lila Cabaniss's membership in and exhibiting with the Savannah Art Club, later the Savannah Art Association.

20 Professional associations, Association of Georgia Artists, 1929-1964 (17.0 items.)

Includes exhibition catalogs of and correspondence regarding Lila Cabaniss's membership in the Association of Georgia Artists.

21 Professional associations, Southern States Art League, 1925-1940 and undated (18.0 items.)

Includes exhibition catalogs of and correspondence regarding Lila Cabaniss's membership in the Southern States Art League.

Box Fl dr

3 23 Professional associations, American Artists Professional League and Washington Water
Color Club, 1930-1941 (18.0 items.)

Includes exhibition catalogs of and correspondence regarding Lila Cabaniss's membership in the American Artists Professional League, 1930-1941 and the Washington Water Color Club, 1931-1940.

24 Miscellaneous exhibition catalogs, and list of paintings sold, 1926-1954, 1954-1962 (18.0 items.)


25 Teaching career, 1914-1965 and undated (22.0 items.)

Includes letters of application for jobs, teaching certificates, and correspondence regarding retirement.

26 Students and students' work, 1919-1946 (23.0 items.)

Includes letters regarding prize winning posters done by students at Savannah High School, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1944; other correspondence, regarding awards won by pupils, list of graduates enrolled in art classes, and graduation programs of Savannah High School.

27- Writings (29.0 items.)

Includes diary, 1891-1892; journal of trip to Mexico, 1935; journal of trip to Europe, 1937; an undated piece of short fiction, and writings on Chautauqua, Victor Hugo, and teaching art.

28 Embroidered signatures (2.0 items.)

Two pieces of cloth with embroidered signatures, including the signature of Lila Cabaniss.
Letter from teacher to his pupil, Mary Copp, Savannah, Georgia, December 14, 1848, 1 p. ALS. Letter from Feriba Burney (a slave) to My Dear Husband (Emanuel Jenkins), Forsyth, Georgia, April 8, 1853, regarding family matters. Letter from Charles J. Copp to his sister, Camp Mercer, Tybee, Georgia, August 28, 1861, regarding life in C.S. Army camp. Mentions seeing ships of blockade fleet. Short stories by Gordon Saussy and George Wilson. Miscellaneous business records.

vm_box Fldr

1  1 Items 413 and 418: These are photographs of paintings by Lila Marguerite Cabaniss that were accepted by the Southern States Art League's Exhibitions, 1929 and 1932. Included are photocopied letters of acceptance.

vm_box Fldr

1  2 Items 536-544: Photographs of Lila Marguerite Cabaniss. One is dated 1904, the rest are undated, but they appear to be from the late 19th century to the 1940s.

vm_box Fldr


vm_box Fldr

1  4 Items 566-577: Photographs of Florence La Roche, Mary La Roche, and Mary Cabaniss alone and with friends and family, 1895, 1912, 1913, and undated.

vm_box Fldr

1  5 Items 578-590: Photographs of Oliver Harley Cabaniss as a young man and in a World War I officer's uniform, undated. Some photographs show O.H. Cabaniss with his sister Lila or father E.G. Cabaniss, Sr.

vm_box Fldr

1  6 Items 591-595: Photographs and album of Elbridge Gerry Cabaniss, Jr. Includes an 1893 clipping and photograph about his participation in the University of Georgia' Symphony Club. The album contains a group photo of the family with E.G. Jr., and clippings.
on his death from appendicitis in 1908

vm_box Fldr

1  7  Items 596-613: Lila Cabaniss' cousin Olive Kingsberry Bartlett, Lila's uncle Joseph Kingsberry, an unidentified Confederate veteran, group photograph of Lila Cabaniss' immediate family, group photographs of unidentified people, and individual photographs of unidentified men and women

vm_box Fldr

1  8  Items 615-633: Photographs of Lila and Mary Cabaniss as children and adolescents, a photograph of carriages in the mountains surrounded by pine trees, Lila Cabaniss with friends, one dated Waynesville, North Carolina, 1923, Lila Cabaniss painting, a group of Confederate veterans, and photographs of artist Walter Thompson, undated

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1  9  Items 634-655: Photographs of Lila Cabaniss' and Mary Cabaniss' paintings and an original sketch by Lila Cabaniss, undated

vm_box Fldr

1  10  Items 656-674: Photographs of Lila Cabaniss with the Savannah High School Art Club, pictures of high school students working in class and outside, and photographs of a group of artists painting out on a marsh, undated

vm_box Fldr

1  11  Items 675-692: Photographs of antique furniture and ceramics, undated

vm_volume

1-2  Items 534-535: Photograph albums, 1903, 1904

  The photographs are of Lila Cabaniss, family, and unidentified persons at Tybee Island, Warsaw Island, Waynesville, North Carolina, and unidentified locations.

vm_oversize_folder

1  Photograph of an unidentified woman; article; original drawing, 1893-1929

  Photograph is dated 1893; the article is from Country Life magazine, June 1929, illustrated by George Lawrence Nelson (one of Lila's teachers); Original drawing of Nelson's that was reproduced in the magazine.