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## KATHERINE KENNEDY COOPER COLLECTION

### INTRODUCTION

Katherine Kennedy was born in 1894, the daughter of Michael and Mary Kennedy of Lafayette. Ca. 1910 she performed with the Otis Oliver Stock Company, a touring vaudeville troupe which gave performances at the Family Theater in Lafayette.

During WWI she served as an Overseas Entertainer in Europe, ca. 1919. Following the war she worked as stage director for the Purdue Harlequin Club's theatrical productions, ca. 1921-26. She was also employed by the Dennison Paper Company promoting its arts and crafts department.

In 1927 Katherine Kennedy married Waller Carlisle Cooper of Henderson, Kentucky; the marriage took place at St. Mary's Rectory in Lafayette.

The papers in the collection dating from ca. 1930 to 1981 (she died in 1981) refer to her life and activities in Henderson, Kentucky.

The collection includes letters written from Europe during WWI, and also items re the Purdue Harlequin Club. Included are two letters written by George Ade to Kennedy re request for letter of introduction.

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

2 Hollinger document boxes  
1 1/2-size document box  
1 flat file folder

(See Separation List attached to Inventory.)

### CONTAINER LIST

#### KATHERINE KENNEDY (COOPER), 189[?]-1981. PRE-1930 PAPERS

##### BOX 1

##### FOLDER

1. Biographical, personal. Newsclippings (photocopies). Also includes marriage certificate: Katherine Frances Kennedy to Waller Carlisle Cooper, 29 January 1927, Lafayette, Indiana.

2. Letters, hotel bills, 1915-18.

3. Otis Oliver Stock Company, ca. 1916-17. Newsclippings (photocopies). KKC performed with this vaudeville troupe which gave performances at the Family Theater in Lafayette.

4. World War I. Letters, March to August 1919. Includes letters written by KKC to her mother and other family members relating experiences in Europe as an Overseas Entertainer. Includes also notes from servicemen of USS "Buffalo"; the notes were stuffed into hollowed-out potatoes and thrown onto the deck of "Venezia," Fabre Line, which carried KKC and other entertainers to Europe.

5. World War I (cont.). Miscellaneous items, including certificate of release from AEF-YMCA, 8 August 1919; mess ticket, etc.

6. World War I (cont.). Poems, song lyrics with wartime themes. Includes lyrics of songs probably sung at Purdue, 4 pp.

7. Diary. Entries from 1914 to [1919?].

8. Publications.

"Entertaining the American Army: The American Stage and Lyceum in the World War" by James W. Evans and Captain Gardner L. Harding, 1921. 259 pp.

"The New Testament." Special edition for the Army and Navy. Published by the National Catholic War Council, 1918.

9. Letters, 1920-29. Includes letters (2) from George Ade to Katherine Kennedy (Cooper), 1921; also includes letters relating to positions inquired about and accepted by KKC, mostly in theater work. Also included is program for memorial service honoring local war dead held in Family Theater, Lafayette, 22 February 1920.

10. USS "Relief" (hospital ship), 1921. Letter, ship publication: "Antidote" (2 issues), 1921.

11. Harlequin Club (Purdue drama club, 1907- ). Letters, 1922-26. Also contracts from Harlequin Club employing KKC as stage director for yearly dramatic production, 1922, 1925, 1926. References to George Ade in letter, 2 September 1922.

12. Harlequin Club (cont.). Programs, newsclippings for the following productions: "The Aristocratic Co-ed," 1921; "The College Prince," 1922; "George Washington, Jr.," 1923; "Two Little Girls in Blue," 1924; Irene," 1925; "Sally," 1926. See also flat file folder for poster, "George Washington, Jr.," Harlequin Club production.

13. Diaries (2). Entries from 1920 to 1929. Also tour schedule [?], 1920-21.

KATHERINE KENNEDY COOPER, HENDERSON, KENTUCKY. PAPERS,  
1930...1981.

BOX 2

FOLDER

1. Letters, 1930s.
2. Letters, 1940s.

Folders 1 and 2 contain letters (2) re the "Scrap Iron Jazzerinos," a World War I jazz group, 1930, 1949.

3. Letters, 1950s.
4. Letters, 1960s.
5. Letters 1970s, 1981.

Folders 4 and 5 contain many letters to KKC from her sister, Mary C. Kennedy, Lafayette.

6. Diaries. Entries from 1931 to 1935.
7. American Women's Overseas League. Letters, 1922...1949.
8. American Seeds for British Soil (project sponsored by the National Federation of Women's Institutes to send vegetable seeds and fertilizer to Great Britain). Letters, 1941, 1942; flyers.
9. Luther Skaggs, Henderson, Kentucky, (World War II Congressional Medal of Honor recipient). Letters, newsclippings (photocopies), 1945.
10. Letters; drafts of letters, undated.
11. Miscellaneous items. Includes place cards, name cards, etc.

KATHERINE KENNEDY COOPER. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

BOX 3

FOLDER

1. Items related to theatrical productions. Includes flyers, brochures, catalogues, etc.

## VOLUMES

Published scripts of the following plays:

“The Family Upstairs: A Comedy of Home Life” by Harry Delf. ca. 1924; 1926.

“Candle-light: A Comedy in Three Acts” by Siegfried Geyer, adapted by P. G. Wodehouse. ca. 1927; 1929; 1934.

“Adam the Creator: A Comedy in Six Scenes and an Epilogue” by Karel and Josef Capek. 1929.

“There’s Always Juliet: A Comedy in Three Acts” by John van Druten. 1934.

“Night Must Fall: A Play in Three Acts” by Emlyn Williams. ca. 1935.

## KATHERINE KENNEDY (COOPER). PHOTOGRAPHS

### BOX 4

### FOLDER

1. KKC, snapshots, portraits. Also portrait of W. C. Cooper.
2. World War I-related, snapshots, portraits.
3. Michael Hewitt Kennedy family and relatives, snapshots, portraits.
4. Miscellaneous. Includes portrait of George Ade and Antoineta Dvorak. Also snapshots re Oliver Otis Players[?].
5. Mostly unidentified or subjects unknown.

### FLAT FILE

### FOLDER CONTENTS

Certificates (2). To Katherine Kennedy, Lafayette, Indiana, from the National War Work Council of the Young Men’s Christian Assn. of the United States for serving as Entertainer in France, Belgium, Holland. and Germany and as Entertainment Secretary in France from 2 April 1919 to 21 August 1919.

Flyer. International War Work Council of the YMCA of the United States re service pin and certificate. (See above.)

Artwork. Small watercolor on silk, mounted. Written on back: “From Lt. Edward Sydney Rothchild, 8<sup>th</sup> Div. AEF to a real “Buddie.” Aug. 12, 1919. U.S. “Kitty” Kennedy.

Poster. "Marines on Mt. Suribache, Iwo Jima, Feb. 23, 1945." Associated Press newsphoto by Joe Rosenthal.

Flyer. "Our army men need scrap..."

Certificates of appointment.

KKC to The Board of Adjustment of Henderson, Kentucky, 24 February 1962 to 24 February 1965.

KKC to Kentucky Clean-up and Beautification Committee of the Kentucky Dept. of Natural Resources. (n.d.)

KKC as Aide-de-camp on the staff of the Governor (of Kentucky) with the rank and grade of Colonel. 15 November 1950.

KKC to the Committee for the Celebration of the President's birthday for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and Chairman of Henderson County, Kentucky, 2 December 1941.

Poster. "Fight polio; prevention, treatment. Join the March of Dimes," The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Certificate of membership. KKC, a member of the American Horticultural Society.

Printed note. Harry Truman to KKC for volunteer work for the Office of Price Administration.

Poster. Harlequin Club (of Purdue) production of "George Washington, Jr.," 26, 27, 28 April [1923] (damaged).

## SEPARATION LIST

Brochure. "Now – Then – 1811: 'On the Indiana Trail'," Monon Route advertising brochure. Illustrated by John McCutcheon; written by George Ade. (Railroad Collections)

Greeting cards, place cards. 12 items. (Ephemera Collections)

Photographs. 13 items. (Placed in the following files in the Photo Archives: Houses, Exteriors; Celebrations; Rivers, Waterways; Parks; Public Property: Courthouse; Education: Purdue; Libraries; Religion)

Newsletter. "Legion Aire," Vol. 3, No. 8. Published Lafayette, Indiana, January 1949. (Military Collections)

Booklets of poetry. "Over and Back" by H. Published Battle Creek, Michigan, 1919.  
"With the "Twenty-Third in France" by H. Published Menasha, Wisconsin, 1919. Poems  
of WWI theme. (Military Collections)

#### PEOPLE

Cooper, Katherine Kennedy  
Cooper, Waller Carlisle  
Kennedy, Michael  
Kennedy, Mary  
Ade, George  
Kennedy, Mary C.

#### CLASSIFICATION

Wars/World War I  
Entertainment  
Correspondence

#### SUBJECTS

Correspondence  
Music  
Theater  
Wars – World War I

#### SEARCH TERMS

Harlequin Club  
Family Theater  
YMCA