

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA



The University Archives
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A Guide to the
Karl Greenwood Miller Papers
1913-1968 (bulk 1930-1944)

0.5 Cubic feet

UPT 50 M649

Prepared by Timothy H. Horning

June 2012

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PROVENANCE

The collection was donated to the University by the estate of Karl Greenwood Miller in 1987 (accession number 1987: 19).

ARRANGEMENT

The folders of this small collection are arranged alphabetically. The materials are arranged chronologically within each folder.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Karl Greenwood Miller was born on May 25, 1893 in Salem, Virginia to Mary Sherman Miller and Charles Armand Miller, then Assistant Professor of Greek and Pastor of the College Church at Roanoke College. Graduated from the High School of Charleston, South Carolina in 1911,

Miller completed his freshman year with honors at the College of Charleston. He transferred to the University of Pennsylvania in 1912 as a member of the Class of 1915.

After earning his bachelor's degree, Miller served as an Assistant Instructor of Psychology (1915-1917) and Instructor of Psychology (1917-1921) while earning his Master's (1918) and Doctorate (1921) in Psychology. Dr. Miller served as the University's Assistant Director of Admissions (1921-1926) and Director of Admissions (1926-1936) while simultaneously serving as Assistant Professor of Psychology (1921-1927) and later as Professor of Psychology (1937-1960). In 1936 Provost Josiah H. Penniman appointed Miller to succeed Dr. Merle Odgers as Dean of the recently founded (1933) College of Liberal Arts for Women. Dr. Miller served as dean of the school (1936-1960) while continuing on in his position in the faculty of the Department of Psychology until his retirement in 1960.

Unlike other Ivy League universities which had established separate women's colleges complete with their own faculties, Penn's College of Liberal Arts for Women instead drew the faculty from the ranks of the university's current standing faculty. In the early years of the College, the female students were taught in segregated classrooms from their male counterparts. Special sections of established classes were reserved for women. Dean Miller regularly surveyed class composition and notified departments when they did not maintain an adequate number of sections for women. Only when it was deemed essential for her major and there were not enough interested women to establish a women's section would a women be allowed to take instruction with the men. World War II brought change to the College of Liberal Arts for Women; admissions rose from about 500 students to over 700 and the number of women majoring in fields such as chemistry, economics, mathematics, political science, psychology, and sociology grew, a trend that Dean Miller encouraged.

Dr. Miller earned accolades and awards throughout his professional life. He served as the secretary of his Class of 1915 and was awarded the University General Alumni Society's Award of Merit in 1950 for his outstanding continued service to the University. He was given the spring semester of the 1924-25 academic year to organize Penn alumni in the Rocky Mountain and West Coast areas in connection with the University Fund campaign, Penn's first attempt at a modern fundraising campaign. He also remained dedicated to Penn athletics, and in 1958 was awarded the Varsity Club's Award of Merit for being "Penn's Number 1 Sports Fan". It was reported at the time that Miller had been a season ticket holder ever since he began his undergraduate studies at Penn in 1912, missing only the year 1918, for an incredible 46 seasons. Dr. Miller also helped established the Father's Trophy, which is awarded annually to a senior girl who shows excellence in athletics,

scholarship, and service. A longtime supporter and fan of the Mask and Wig Club, Miller was made a [board?] member in 1957.

Dr. Miller also held a number of prominent positions outside his roles at Penn. He spent the year 1918 serving as a Second Lieutenant in the Psychological Department of the U.S. Army Air Service (forerunner of the modern U.S. Air Force), served as secretary (1933-53) and later president (1954-55) of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, was a member of the national selection committee for Fulbright Scholarships, and served as a chairman of the College Entrance Examination Board 1942-1945. He was a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Association of University Professors, the Franklin Inn Club of Philadelphia, and the Lenape Club of Philadelphia. He was also a trustee of the Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia, the Agnes Irwin School, and the White-Williams Foundation.

Dr. Karl Miller played an integral part of the formative years of the College of Liberal Arts for Women. His dedication and leadership earned him the respect and admiration of students, administrators, and faculty alike. Upon his resignation, then president Gaylord P. Harnwell credited Dr. Miller with turning the College of Liberal Arts for Women into "one of the most outstanding schools of the University."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The majority of the documents within this collection were generated during Miller's time as a member of the faculty of the Psychology Department and as a University administrator. The first folder of correspondence pertains to Miller's honorary degrees conferred upon him by Muhlenberg College and Beaver College. The folder of miscellaneous correspondence mostly pertains to Miller's resignation and retirement from the University. The record book and two folders of lectures were all generated as a result of Miller's faculty position. There is also a large document called the Resolution of the Class of 1915. This document is not dated but seems to have been given to Miller by his Class of 1915 classmates decades after their graduation.

Two pieces of material that date from Miller's time as an undergraduate student are included in this collection. One piece is his Class Day 1915 booklet. The other piece is a rather large scrapbook of photos, athletic schedules and tickets, event brochures and programs, and illustrations of various University buildings. There is also a small amount of memorabilia pertaining to Miller's one year spent at the College of Charleston included in the scrapbook.

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INVENTORY

PAPERS	Box	Folder
Class Day ceremony booklet, 1915	1	1
Correspondence: Honorary Degrees and Varsity Club award, 1953, 1958, 1960	1	2
Correspondence: Miscellaneous, 1913-1968	1	3
Graduate School Record Book, 1915-1918	1	4
Lectures, 1925-1934	1	5
Lectures, 1931-1944	1	6
Photographs, c. 1925, c. 1936, n.d.	1	7
Publication: American Scholar, Spring 1956	1	8
Publication: Analytical Psychology, Lightner Witmer, 1902	1	9
Resolution of the Class of 1915, n.d.	OS 1	1
Scrapbook, n.d.	OS 1	1