

Pamela Melcher Papers

CMS.101

Finding aid prepared by Mary Elizabeth Brown

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	Melcher, Pamela
Title	Pamela Melcher Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1939-1945
Date [inclusive]	1939-1945
Extent	0.5 Linear feet One half-size document box.
Language	English

Language of Materials note Materials are in English.

Abstract CMS 101 documents through newspapers clippings, correspondence, diaries, poems, and photographs a portion of the life of painter and poet Pamela Melcher, during the period 1939-1945, when she was in her adolescence and spending time at 209 Flagg Place, Staten Island, New York, the estate of her maternal grandfather, Ernest Flagg.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Pamela Melcher Papers (CMS 101); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

Pamela Melcher was born in New York City April 14, 1927, the daughter of John Stevens Melcher, Jr., and Betsy Flagg Melcher, and, on her mother's side, the granddaughter of architect Ernest Flagg and Margaret Elizabeth Bonnell Flagg. Educated at Saint Timothy in Baltimore and at Columbia University in New York City, she spent her adolescence in part at Flagg's Staten Island estate, whence this collection came, and worked briefly for her grandfather. She spent her adult life with her life partner Lyman Spire King in Maine; she died in Mount Desert Island in October 12, 2005, and is buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in Northeast Harbor, where her mother died. As an adult she was known as a poet, and she also painted, as had her mother, a well-known miniaturist, before her.

Scope and Contents note

CMS 101 contains clippings, correspondence, diaries, photographs and poetry documenting the years in the mid 1940s when the adolescent Pamela Melcher, granddaughter of architect Ernest Flagg, spent time at Flagg's estate at 209 Flagg Place, Staten Island, New York 10304. The collection focused on Pamela's interior life and on her family, with some attention to larger events on Staten Island.

Arrangement note

CMS 101 is arranged in one box with 17 folders. Folders 12-17 are actually photo envelopes.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies February 5, 2003

Revision Description

Mary Brown updated it in Archivists' Toolkit using Describing Archives: A Content Standard November 1, 2013. Edited by Nicole Greenhouse. November 1, 2013

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Ernest Flagg built 209 Flagg Place on Staten Island land owned by the family of his wife, the former Margaret Elizabeth Bonner. His granddaughter Pamela Melcher spent time there during her adolescence in the mid 1940s. Mr. Flagg died in 1947, and Mrs. Flagg sold the estate the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians to use as a seminary. In 1964, the Scalabrinians incorporated the Center for Migration Studies, which included an archive devoted to immigration. Because it was an archive, items found about the former Flagg estate were brought there, and organized into this collection.

Processing Information note

In 2013, this collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS and folder descriptions were simplified from the original print finding aid. (The original finding aid is available in print upon request). Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Staten Island (New York, N.Y.)
- Staten Island (New York, N.Y.) Buildings, structures, etc.

Personal Name(s)

- Flagg, Ernest, 1957-1947
- Flagg, Margaret Elizabeth Bonnell, 1882-1978

- Melcher, Betsy Flagg, 1900-1991
- Melcher, John Stevens, Jr., 1895-1956

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Clippings by and about Ernest Flagg	1	1
Diaries of Pamela Melcher 1940-1941 (Bulk, 1940-1941)	1	2
Drawings by Pamela Melcher	1	3
Letters to Pamela Melcher from Ernest and Margaret Elizabeth (Bonnell) Flagg 1942 (Bulk, 1942)	1	4
Letters to Pamela Melcher from Betsy Flagg Melcher	1	5
Letters to Pamela Melcher from John Melcher 1943-1944 (Bulk, 1943-1944)	1	6
Letters from Pamela Melcher to "Tidy" and "Dada" 1944-1945 (Bulk, 1944-1945)	1	7
Letters from Ursula Melcher	1	8
Newspaper clippings about the Melcher sisters 1933, 1945 (Bulk, 1933-1945)	1	9
Poems by Pamela Melcher	1	10

School assignments by Pamela Melcher	1	11
Photograph of John Melcher, age 21 1919 (Bulk, 1919)	1	12
Photograph of John Melcher undated	1	13
Photograph of John Melcher with (left to right) daughter Ursula, wife Betsy and daughter Pamela	1	14
Photograph of Betsy Flagg Melcher	1	15
Photograph of Pamela Melcher 1939 (Bulk, 1939)	1	16
Photograph of Helen Lamb	1	17