

The Douglas M. Black Dwight D. Eisenhower Collection
MSS #113
4 linear feet

Background:

Dwight David “Ike” Eisenhower (1890-1969) served as the 34th president of the United States from 1953-1961. Eisenhower was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II and a five-star Army general. In this role he was responsible for planning and execution of Allied invasions of France and Germany which led to the end of the war in Europe. Following WWII, Eisenhower served as supreme commander of the newly-created North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Eisenhower is generally regarded as one of the greatest presidents in U.S. history. Under his leadership, negotiations with China ended U.S. involvement in the Korean conflict and the U.S. kept pace with the Soviets as the Cold War intensified. Domestically, Eisenhower signed legislation creating the interstate highway system and the St. Lawrence Seaway, expanded social security and removed Sen. Joseph McCarthy from power.

Douglas M. Black was president of the publisher Doubleday and Co., which published Eisenhower’s four autobiographical books. Eisenhower and wife Maime became close friends with Black and his family over the course of some 20 years.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains personal and business-related correspondence consisting of over 200 typed and handwritten notes and letters covering the years 1947-1968. Many of the letters and notes acknowledge gifts of books given to the President by Mr. Black, while a few discuss political issues policy questions. Also included are correspondence to the Blacks from Eisenhower’s White House staff, contracts, inauguration programs and other Eisenhower ephemera. Numerous copies of Eisenhower’s book *Crusade in Europe*, written in 1948, many of which are translated into Arabic, Hebrew, Danish, Polish and other languages, are included in the collection.

Organization:

The collection is divided into four series:

- Series 1—letters to the Black family from Mamie Eisenhower
- Series 2—Letters to Douglas Black and Maude Black from Dwight Eisenhower
- Series 3--Letters to the Blacks from members of Eisenhower’s staff
- Series 4—Eisenhower and Black ephemera
- Series 5--Books

Provenance:

The collection was acquired in 1998 from a bequest of Virginia B. Black (SLU ’51) in honor of her father, Douglas M. Black.

Series 1—Correspondence from Mamie Eisenhower to the Blacks

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1	1	1952-60	7 Christmas Cards, various years
	2	1948	Thank you note to Maude Black
	3	1949	2 letters to Maude
	4	1950	3 hand-written letters to Maude
	5	1951	2 hand-written letters to Maude
	6	1952	10 letters & notes
	7	1953	6 notes and letters
	8	1954	8 letters & notes
	9	1955	7 letters & notes
	10	1956	3 thank you notes
	11	1957	4 thank you notes
	12	1958	4 thank you notes
	13	1959	4 thank you notes
	14	1960	4 thank you notes
	15	1961	1 letter
	16	1962	3 thank you notes
	16a	1964	1 thank you note
	17	1966	1 note
	18	undated	one note

Series 2—Correspondence from Dwight Eisenhower to the Blacks (most to Douglas)

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1	19	1947	one letter concerning signing copies of his memoir
	20	1948	12 letters and notes—discusses publishing & Columbia Univ. business
	21	1949	11 letters—University business & person correspondence
	22	1950	9 letters and notes—personal thank yous and other correspondence

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1	23	1951	8 letters—thank you notes, Univ. issues.
	24	1952	15 letters and notes—personal; book-related; appreciation for political support
	25	1953	14 letters—much on White House letterhead; thank you's and personal; Discussion of books & publishing
	26	1954	8 letters—personal correspondence; some discussion of political issues
	27	1955	personal notes and correspondence; one discusses a new foreign language translation of one of Eisenhower's books
	28	1956	14 letters—personal and thank you notes; appreciation for political support
	29	1957	18 letters—personal correspondence, thank yous for books; discussion of <i>Crusade in Europe</i>
	30	1958	19 letters--personal correspondence; discussion of Defense Department issue; Discusses political issues
	31	1959	14 letters—personal notes; discusses Black's approval of a Housing bill veto; Mentions meeting with Khrushchev; discussion of publishing new edition of CRUSADE
	32	1960	18 letters—personal correspondence, political issues, discussion of future Eisenhower writings; copy of a letter to another publisher turning down an offer to publish future writings
	33	1961	12 letters—personal correspondence; last letter to Black on White House stationary
	34	1962	16 letters—personal; expresses thanks to Black for supporting Eisenhower's Presidential Library
	35	1963	2 letters—thank you notes
	36	1964	4 letters—personal
	37	1965	one note to Maude Black
	38	1966	4 letters and thank you notes

Series 3-- Letters to the Blacks from members of Eisenhower's staff and others

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>	
	39	1952 & 55	Notes and a Christmas card to Maude Black from Elvira Doud
	40	1951, 54, 61	three letters from Barbara Eisenhower to Maude Black
	41	1957	one letter to Mary Jane McCaffery to Mrs. Black
	42	1960	one note from Anne Whitman to Mr. Black

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>
43	1960	one thank you note from Gwen King to Mr. Black
44	1953	one letter from Robert Schultz to Mr. Black
45	1952	letter from Augusta National Golf Club concerning Eisenhower visit
46	1963	one letter from Rusty Brown to Mr. Black
47	undated	Telegram from Ike to Mr. Black
48	1953	Letter from Len Leyler to Mr. Black
49	1961-69	6 letters recovered that were believed to be stolen from the collection Includes a thank you note from 1969 following Ike's death.

Series 4—Eisenhower Ephemera

1	50	1959	program for White House dinner & concert by Fred Waring & Pennsylvanians
	51	1968; 1971	invitation to Nixon/Eisenhower wedding; announcement of Eisenhower/ Bradshaw wedding
	52	1948; 1961	Offer from Doubleday to purchase manuscript; License agreement between Eisenhower and Doubleday
	53	1954; 1966	two envelopes
	54	1959	facsimiles of "Golf controversy" letters
	55	1953; 1957	Inauguration materials (both years)
	56	various	invitations to White House functions, etc.
	57	1952	First Annual Report of Supreme Allied Commander in Europe
	58	1960	White House dinner menu
	59	1960	New Year greeting card from Soviet Ambassador Menshikov
	60	1957	Program from concert in honor of Queen Elizabeth's state visit
	61	1956	Booklet from "Salute to Eisenhower" dinners
	62	1952	This is Ike picture book
	63	1957 (?)	"Eisenhower at Gettysburg" picture book
	64	1959	Eisenhower Museum booklet
	65	1969	9 copies of "Twenty Years in Review" brochure published by Doubleday Recording of "D-Day Order of the Day" and "The Guildhall Speech"

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Description</u>
66	undated	photographs –9 copies of Ike w/ Douglas Black Photos of Eisenhower contingent at Normandy Cemetery & Memorial Photos of Mrs. Eisenhower at Normandy Cemetery & Memorial Normandy Cemetery & Memorial main statue
67	1962	5/1/62 Edition of <i>Abeleine Chronicle</i> w/ front pg. story on dedication of Eisenhower Presidential Library
68	1940	10/23/40 edition of <i>New York Times</i>
69	1917	8/10/17 edition of <i>New York World</i>
70	1827	7/4/1827 edition of <i>Zion's Herald</i> Methodist-Episcopal Church newspaper
71	1954	page from 3/17/54 <i>Tatler</i> society page
72	undated	spread sheet

Series 5—Books

2 - 3	n/a	37 copies of <i>Crusade in Europe</i> translated into various languages
4	n/a	12 copies of <i>Crusade in Europe</i> in English; 2 uncorrected proofs of the book; 1 copy <i>White House Cookbook</i> ; one copy <i>Waging Peace</i>