

**University of Oklahoma Libraries
Western History Collections**

Betty Kirk Collection

Kirk, Betty (1904–1984). Papers, ca. 1940–1970. 10 feet.

Journalist. Manuscripts of articles; correspondence; research notes; and reprints (all ca. 1940–1970) used by Elizabeth Mahala Kirk Boyer, who wrote under the name Betty Kirk, in writing her articles and books concerning U.S. politics, Mexico, and international relations.

Biographical Note:

Betty Kirk lived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1928, majoring in English and journalism. Her career was varied in that she was an Oklahoma City news reporter, publicity director for the Oklahoma University Press, youngest newspaper woman in New York City and a *Cosmopolitan* contributor. She also wrote for *Life*, *Variety*, *Chicago Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and many other newspapers and magazines.

Betty Kirk moved to Mexico in 1936 and became one of the original founders of the Foreign Correspondence Association in Mexico. She published a book in 1942 titled, *Covering the Mexican Front*. Kirk was married in 1943 and moved to Philadelphia and did not publish for the next five years. She was divorced in 1948 and moved to Santa Fe. Kirk then started to write "Finding a Faith" in 1949. She moved back to Mexico in 1950 and there she started to work on various projects including those that are in this collection, which span from 1934 to 1973. Betty Kirk died March 6, 1984 in Mexico City, Mexico.

Series #1

Series one consists of Kirk's biographical information, personal diaries, photographs, correspondence with friends and publishers, short stories and articles written by Betty Kirk. A copy of her book, *Covering the Mexican Front*, is also included.

Box 1

Folder:

1. Biographical information
2. Personal diary, 1949-56.
3. Notes - personal life and events in Mexico.
4. Daily personal journal, 1973.
5. Personal photos and publicity - Mexico
6. Correspondence and personal notes

7. Correspondence with Joseph A. Brandt, 1969-71.
8. Correspondence - Foreign (friends) photos.
9. Correspondence with magazines editors, 1954.
10. Correspondence with publishers, agents, etc.
11. Correspondence with Josephus Daniels, 1942-47.
12. Correspondence and articles during and about WW II, 1938-42.
13. Correspondence and notes - Philadelphia, 1944.
14. Correspondence with OU press and Henry Holt & Co. Re: Mexican Front (Book), 1942-46.
15. Correspondence - Movie and ballet premise.
16. Correspondence with editorial boards - magazine ideas, 1959-60.
17. Notebook (shortstories) westerns, 1934-35.
18. Stories and sketches of ideas.
19. Short stories/rewrites/westerns
20. Articles and notes, 1967.
21. Articles and notes.
22. Verse by Betty Kirk and others.
23. Notebook: premise for a novel and several short stories.
24. Short stories (4) Re: Mexico.
25. Article - Chamber of Commerce Text (Mexico), 1963.

Box 2

Folder:

1. Guestbook people signed when visiting Kirk in Santa Fe, 1960-65, 1969.
2. *Covering the Mexican Front* - book used to prepare for a revised edition.
3. Holy Bible - gift from Betty Kirk's parents.

Series #2

Series two consists of a collection of notes, magazine articles, and newsclippings on U.S. presidents from 1953-65; also Adlai Stevenson. All used in various writing projects in this collection.

Box 2**Folder:**

4. Eisenhower - domestic, 1953-60.
5. Eisenhower - after regime (end).
6. Kennedy - domestic, 1961-63.
7. Kennedy - Latin American policy and effect, Jan. 1961-Nov. 22, 1963.
8. Research - JFK.
9. Research - Kennedy (foreign except Latin America)
10. Alliance for Progress: JFK and LBJ.
11. Research - LBJ, Nov. 22, 1963 to Election '64.
12. LBJ: Latin America-Economics and politics.
13. Elections, 1964.
14. LBJ-State of the Union/Inaugural, Jan. 1965.
15. LBJ: Foreign policy and economics (except Latin America).
16. U.S. policies: Latin America-IKE-Dulles-Hector-Humphrey-LBJ-JFK.
17. Adlai Stevenson

Series #3

Series #3 consists of Betty Kirk's research on politics and governments from all over the world. This collection of articles, newsclippings and notes were used for all the manuscripts and articles in this collection.

Box 3**Folder:**

1. USA - General, 1964-67.
2. Research - Notes used.

3. Research - misc.
4. Copy and notes - Faith and Socialism.
5. Developmental Corporations.
6. International Chambers of Commerce.
7. Moral decade.
8. Big business and politics.
9. "Counter-revolution" - Sinarquismo.
10. "Counter-revolution"
11. "Counter-revolution" - military.
12. "Counter-revolution" - US economics.
13. "Counter-revolution" - foreign policy.
14. "Counter-revolution" - politics U.S.
15. Revolution.
16. Quotes used/not used.
17. Mexico coverage - extra clippings.
18. The Overseas Press (bulletins), 1965.
19. News articles and pamphlets found in Betty Kirk's books.
20. Projects: Olympics, teachers, University of Americas, Mexico.
21. News articles of Mexico hosting Olympics, 1968.

Series #4

Research, notes, revisions and part of an unfinished manuscript called "Finding a Faith". Some of the notes and research in this series are also used for others in this collection.

Box 4

Folder:

1. "Finding a Faith" (Book started not finished), 1949.

2. Organization and plan.
3. Notes.
4. Dedication/preface/introduction.
5. Born believing.
6. Chap. 1 "Que Viva La Revolucion!"
7. Chap. 2: Best of All Worlds.
8. Chap. 3: Roots of Revolution.
9. Section 2: Finding New Faith.
10. Chap. 4: Great Teachers.
11. Chap. 5: They Found the Revolution.
12. Chap. 6: Turning Point: Socialism...
13. Chap. 7: War and Return "My Country Right"
14. Section 3: Death of Illusion.
15. Chap. 8: Un-American Century Begins: 1948-58.
16. Chap. 9: Latin America Looking Glass - Anvil vs. Foreign Policy.
17. Chap. 10: Counter-revolution.
18. Chap. 11: Foreign Corrs., Embassy and personal history.

Box 4

Folder:

19. Section 4: Pilot Light.
20. Chap. 12: Perspectives from Peak.
21. Chap. 13: On the record (domestic).
22. Chap. 14: One-Eyed Man (ICC).
23. Chap. 15: Mexico's mission (foreign).
24. Chap. 16: Art as Prophet.

25. Chap. 17: Juan Bosch Day of Decision.
26. Rough draft/research.
27. Waging peace in the hemisphere: 1933-35.
28. Research/notes - Faith (Chap. 8).
29. Russians take over GNP.
30. "Pilot Light"
31. Outline - "Pilot Light".
32. Notes/copy - School for Revolution.
33. Notes - Chap. 1 (Okla).
34. Control/Duplicate copies of research and manuscripts.
35. Socialism.
36. Return of nature - Philadelphia.

Series #5

Series five consist of notes, articles, newsclippings and an unfinished manuscript called "Journey into Chaos". Some of the notes and articles used in this manuscript are also used in the other manuscripts and articles in this collection. Chaos overlaps into "The Titanic Challenge".

Box 5

Folder:

1. "Chaos" - manuscript (Chap. 1)
2. "People and patterns" (Chap. 2)
3. Chaos (Chap. 4).
4. "Good" neighbor vs. "Good" partner (Chap. 7).
5. Captive continent.
6. Draft for Oxford Press.
7. Notes - economic warfare.
8. "Journey into Chaos" - U.S.

9. Chaos - Used.
10. Copies of chaos before revision.
11. Manuscripts/notes - conclusion.

Series #6

Series six consist of notes, newsclippings and an unfinished manuscript titled, "The Titanic Challenge". Some of these notes and research material were also used for other manuscripts and articles written by Betty Kirk in this collection.

Box 5

Folder:

12. "The Titanic Challenge" - manuscript, 1960.
13. Notes/outline (chap. 1-6).
14. Mare Nostrum (chap. 3).
15. Monroism (chap. 4).
16. "B.B. Era" (chap. 5) (Brown Brother).
17. Chaos (chap. 6).
18. Saving civil war - Mexico (chap. 7).
19. Back to first principles.
20. End dark decade.
21. Cuban challenge.
22. Challenge.
23. Resistance movements/church/GNP.

Series #7

Series #7 consist of notes, newsclippings, magazine articles used to write the following unfinished manuscripts: "Revolution, Mexican Style"; "To Liberate the World"; "Xavier-Artist Who Says No!"; and a art history book (Kirk's experiences in collecting Chinese art).

Box 6

Folder:

1. Original notes - "Revolution-Mexican Style".
2. Mexico in transition.
3. Research: Subject-America North 1958-64 (Argument #1).
4. Research: Subject-America South 1958-64 (Argument #2).
5. Research: Subject-Mexico's New Era 1958-64 (Argument #4).
6. Research: Subject-Domestic 1958-64 (Argument #5).
7. Research: Subject-Foreign 1958-64 (Argument #6).
8. Research Notes Subject: Summary Revolution and New Era (Argument #7).
9. Manuscript: "To Liberate the World", 1947.
10. Chap 2 - Revolt classes - notes used.
11. Notes: "A New Kind of Man" (end civil war).
12. Notes: The Sum of the Good: Government.
13. Revolt of the classes 1810-1910 (Liberate the World).
14. Notes: Between the Yogi and the Commisar (chap. 7).
15. First half notes: "A Brightness in the Room"
16. Second half notes: "A Brightness in the Room" (atom-Japan).
17. Manuscript - "Xavier - Artist Who Says No!"
18. Xavier 1960-70 (notes).
19. Xavier, 1970- (notes).
20. Hector Xavier.
21. Art history Book - introduction (from Kirk's experiences).
22. Book No. 2 Drawings/Quotes and articles - Oriental art and collections quotes and controls/Oriental objects and correspondence - books.

23. 1 Pursuit of the Flying Finn / 2 Bonanza's - Santa Fe / 3 Odyssey and Discovery (art).
24. 4 Open a New Window / 5 Sung, Ming, Ching? / 6 Better than bridge / 7 Gamesmanship - Friend and Foe / 8 Tally-Oh!.
25. Book on drawings.
26. Art history book.
27. "Art in Mexico" (article).

Series #8

Series eight consist of notes, newsclippings and magazine articles and an unfinished novel titled, "1964". Some of the notes and research material used for this novel was used for other manuscripts and articles written by Kirk in this collection.

Box 7

Folder:

1. "1964" - Manuscript.
2. Outline/notes.
3. Introduction/research.
4. Arabella - Patricia - Colonel (chap. 1).
5. Night Lift N.E. - research - Fred (chap. 3).
6. Day Life N.E. - research - Fred (chap. 3).
7. First enemy Hugo (chap. 4).
8. First day memoirs (chap 5a).
9. Enter Peter - Dinner that night (chap. 5b).
10. Second day memoirs (chap. 6a).
11. Kennels - Tower - Kay Professor (chap. 6b).
12. Third day memoirs - blindfold and target - operation cold war (chap. 7).
13. Dogs shipped - plot - caves (chap. 7b).
14. Fourth day memoirs-operation springtime-Laos laughs-tidy up - Peking (chap. 8).

15. Colonel vs. Peter for Arabella (chap. 8b).
16. Last day memoirs-operation peace-Brave Old World (chap 9a).
17. Hugo dies - fight between Peter and Colonel-Alliance (chap. 9b).
18. Evacuation-explosion-Peter and Colonel to New York (chap. 10).
19. Fred joins-seize towers-inject wakeup (chap. 11).
20. Government in power-broadcast memories (chap. 12).
21. Peace (chap. 13).
22. Socialism vaporized-London-New Delhi-Mexico City 14.
23. Sino-soviets-Exit K. Peking-Berlin Pact - World Unity - The Empire 15.
25. Who what why (M.A.) 1
26. TATT-Right Hand-Left Hand-CIA 2.
27. Organization-threat of peace M. Plan 3.
28. Propaganda-Blindfall-intellectuals 5.
29. Target USA-Economics to John Birch 6.
30. Cold war-area to Cuba-Basic Democracies 7.
31. Cuba and Captive continent 8.
32. Propaganda Offensive 9.
33. Arabs - Mediterranean - oil, 1960-61.
34. Economics - markets - Authority - NATO - Western Unity 11.
35. Laos-May Day, 1961.
36. Korea-Conga-UN-Tidy up 13, 1961.
37. Research-operation springtime.
38. Character study, 1964 novel.
39. Press-communications-censorship.

40. A need for brotherliness...
41. Research-Kennedy-The Last President-Eye off the ball.
42. Research Subject: C. Univ. State: ideality.
43. Research: Democratic Revolution.
44. Research: Resistance Movements.
45. Corporationism.
46. US Good neighbor policy, 1953.
47. Research-Subjects: paper curtain, recession/economics.
48. Research/notes.

Box 8

Folder:

1. Season programs of ballets / Mexican, American, Russian Ballets used for novel "1964", 1939-41, 1944-47, 1951, 1961.

Series #9

Series nine is a collection of Betty Kirk's published works in scrapbook form. Includes photos and letters.

Box 9

Two scrapbooks of Betty Kirk's published articles in newspapers and magazines.