DORIS LYONS HOOVER PAPERS

Arranged and described by Camille Ivey
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Special Collections and University Archives
Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
419 21st Avenue South
Nashville, TN  37203-2427
Biographical Note

Doris M. Lyons was born in 1928 in Fort Payne, Alabama to Wilburn and Marion Lyons. She grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee and attended the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, graduating with an art (painting) degree in the late 1940s. She married Jack L. Hoover in 1949, moved to California in 1952, and they have three daughters.

Doris Lyons Hoover is a retired textile/fabric artist, writer, and teacher. She is especially known for her quilts, tassels, and potholders. She is the author and illustrator of “Too Hot to Handle: Potholders and How to Make Them” (1993), and co-author of “Tassels” (1978). She also taught a variety of classes including creativity seminars and fiber arts workshops. In the 1960s she co-founded the Peninsula Stitchery Guild and later served as its president.

Scope and Content Note

The papers are contained in five Hollinger boxes and measures 1.66 linear feet. They are comprised of personal correspondence, newspaper clippings and articles about Doris Hoover, a CD of hundreds of photos of her creative works, as well as copies of the books she wrote. Her personal correspondence includes letters and postcards from other well-known artists such as Bets Ramsey and Jean Ray Laury. Bets Ramsey is an award-winning quilter, lecturer, and author. She was the founder and director of the Southern Quilt Symposium and curated major annual quilt exhibits for many (17) years. Jean Ray Laury was an influential early modern American quilter, freelance designer, lecturer, and author of several books. Of special interest are the Hoover family Christmas cards, dating from the 1950s through the 1980s, all designed by Doris.

Container List

Box 1

Correspondence – Incoming

1. Iris Bell, January 6, 1984 - March 5, 1985
2. Iris Bell, April 14, 1985 - August 15, 1985
3. Iris Bell, February 12, 1986 - February 17, 1986
5. Iris Bell, October 18, 1989
6. Iris Bell, November 1, 1989 - January ?, 1990
7. Iris Bell, March 30, 1990
8. Iris Bell, November 26, 1990 - December 16, 1991
9. Iris Bell, January, 1993- December 27, 1994
10. Iris Bell, January 9, 1995 - December 18, 1997
11. Iris Bell, January 19, 1998 - January 3, 2000
12. Iris Bell, undated
13. Iris Bell, undated
14. Iris Bell, undated
15. Iris Bell, undated
16. Iris Bell, undated
17. Iris Bell, undated
18. Iris Bell, undated
19. Iris Bell, undated
20. Iris Bell, undated
21. Iris Bell, undated
22. Iris Bell, undated
23. Iris Bell, undated
24. Iris Bell, undated

Box 2

Correspondence – Incoming

1. Phyllis Dukes, February 17, 1973 - December 1973
2. Phyllis Dukes, January 16, 1974 - December 4, 1974
3. Phyllis Dukes, February 7, 1975 - April 27, 1975
15. Phyllis Dukes, June 22, 1997 - May 8, 1999
17. Phyllis Dukes, September 2, 2000 - May 14, 2001
18. Phyllis Dukes, undated
19. Marilyn Green, November 29, 1990 - February 17, 1995
20. Marilyn Green, July 12, 1995 - October 28, 2005
21. Marilyn Green, undated
23. Gerry Kehm, August 1, 1979 - February 10, 1982
25. Gerry Kehm, undated
27. Jean Ray Laury, September 27, 1977 - December 12, 1989
28. Jean Ray Laury, undated
29. Jean Ray Laury, undated
30. Jean Ray Laury, undated
31. Jean Ray Laury, undated

Box 3

Correspondence – Incoming

5. Jane McElroy, March 6, 1991 - October 18, 1993
8. Jane McElroy, undated
9. Miscellaneous Correspondence, February 21, 1976 - September 25, 1986
10. Miscellaneous Correspondence, October, 8, 1987 - November 6, 1994
11. Miscellaneous, March 6, 1995 - July 5, 1995
12. Miscellaneous Correspondence, July 16, 1995 - November 28, 1995
14. Miscellaneous Correspondence, February 6, 1997 - November 2, 1997
15. Miscellaneous Correspondence, January 4, 1998 - July 30, 1999
16. Miscellaneous Correspondence, August 10, 1999 - December 27, 1999
17. Miscellaneous Correspondence, February 10, 2000 - July 10, 2003
18. Miscellaneous Correspondence, undated
19. Miscellaneous, undated
20. Miscellaneous, undated
21. Miscellaneous, undated

Box 4

Correspondence – Incoming

5. Bets Ramsey, June 16, 1993 - December 1, 1993
15. Bets Ramsey, October 1, 2000 - June 1, 2001
16. Bets Ramsey, January 5, 2002 - December 3, 2002
22. Beryl Self, undated

Box 5

Writings, Photographs and Creations

1. Articles About Doris Hoover
2. Article by Doris Hoover
3. Correspondence Re: Ideas for Religious Textiles Book
4. Fabric Art CD
5. Fabric Art Photos/Negatives
6. Workshop Photos
7. Museum Exhibits
8. Newspaper Clippings
9. Publications
10. Richmond Art Center Exhibit
11. UT Chattanooga Quilt Exhibit
12. Hoover Family Christmas Cards – created by Doris, early 1950s
15. Hoover Family Christmas Cards – created by Doris, 1963 - 1966
17. Hoover Family Christmas Cards – created by Doris, 1971 - 1974