**The papers of Helena and Margaret Deneke **

Helena Clara Deneke [1878-1973] and her sister, the musicologist Margaret Deneke [1882-1969] were connected with Lady Margaret Hall for nearly 60 years, living in the large Gunfield House on Norham Gardens. Helena Deneke was Tutor in German at LMH from 1913-1938 and Fellow from 1926, her sister gave music recitals in the USA to raise funds for the construction of the Deneke Building, named after their mother Clara.

The memoirs are a rich resource; covering LMH life in the Wars, building projects, descriptions of SCR and domestic staff, alongside photographs and sketches. Music in the College Chapel and their friendships with notables such as Albert Einstein, Albert Schweitzer, Grace Hadow and Donald Tovey are also covered. Other interesting topics covered include the dismissal of Cecily Ady at St. Hugh’s Hall, Helena Deneke’s work in post war Germany and Margaret Deneke’s social care work at Barnett House.

The as yet uncatalogued correspondence files include letters with LMH Principal Dame Lucy Sutherland, plans for an air raid shelter at their Gunfield residence and student correspondence with Margaret Deneke. Please do contact the Archivist if you require any further information about these files.

**Sections:**

**MMP 3 A Memoirs**

**MMP3 D Photographs**

**MPP 3 F Theatrical booklets**

**Selected uncatalogued papers: Correspondence, newspaper cuttings, plans and drawings**

**MMP 3A: Memoirs**

**MPP 3 A 1 Helena Clara Deneke Memoir :**

**MPP 3 A 1/1 'What I remember' [Vol. 1] c. 1960**

This annotated typescript covers her memories of her childhood, It discusses her relationship with her father Philip Maurice Deneke, mother Clara Sophie Deneke and brother W Charles Deneke. Further topics include the purchasing of Gunfield in 1916 and visiting her mother’s home ' Hans Letmathe' in Germany. Individuals mentioned include visits by Clara Schumman [p.21] and musicians Ernest Walker [p.28], Donald Tovey and Marie Roeger-Soldat [p.25]. The final section includes transcripts of obituaries to her mother Clara Deneke [c. 1933]. The Memoir includes photographs and sketches.

**MPP 3 A 1/2 'What I remember' [Vol. 2] c. 1959**

This volume covers her memories of St. Hugh's Hall where she studied as a student and was Librarian and then Tutor of German until 1913. Topics covered include her memories of Principal Miss [Annie] Moberly [ p.83], her relationship with Vice-Principal Eleanor Frances Jourdain and unhappiness over the 1911 pamphlet ' The Adventure' [ p.109] and her resignation from St. Hugh's Hall [p. 119] . The dismissal of Cecily Ady from her tutorship in 1923 and subsequent fall out is also discussed [ p. 119]. The memoir includes sketches of her room in college. Of further interest includes mention of her travelling to Dublin to pick up her degree at Trinity College in 1907 ['steamboat ladies’].

**MPP 3 A 1/3: ‘What I remember' [Vol. 3] c. 1960**

This volume discusses her memories of Lady Margaret Hall, the First and Second World Wars, the influenza epidemic of 1918 [ p.166], prominent individuals in the Hall and the buildings. Stories include participating in the 1913 Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage in Oxford [p.127], the 1928 LMH Jubilee celebrations [p.200], visits to Elizabeth Wordsworth on her 90th birthday in 1930, the gardens during the war, student war work and a chapter by Margaret Deneke on music in the chapel [p.213], with reference to the organ and visits by Donald Tovey. The volume includes sketches, annotations and photographs of the college site and SCR.

**MPP 3 A 1/4 'Women's Institutes 1920-1959' [Vol. 4] c. 1959-1960**

This annotated typescript covers her career with the women's institutes. Subjects covered include helping to set up the Federation of Women's Institutes in Oxfordshire with Grace Hadow [ p.225] Institutes mentioned include Elsfield and Spelsbury. Activities include the campaign for a public circulating Library and securing grants from the L.E.A in the early 1920s [p.2245], the role of the women's Institute in influencing the governments education policy in 1944 and the establishment of Denham College in Abingdon in 1948 [p.247] . The final chapters focus on her retirement in June 1938, travels to Canada with Susie Tweedsmuir, her return to Oxford and meeting Grace Hadow, Principal of the Oxford Home Students and her meetings with E.Blochmann and Professor Nohl [p.266].

**MPP 3 A 1/5 'Work in Germany 1946- approx 1952' [Vol. 5] c. 1959-1960**

This volume covers her work in post-war Germany, helping the development of women's organisations. Subjects include the experience of arriving in Germany as part of an occupying force [p298], the problems facing women in post-war Germany [p316], the conditions in post-war Germany [p330] including the plight of refugees [p339], the problems involved in setting up women’s organisations [p326] and the changes she witnessed over the five years [p.373].

**[MPP 3 A 2]: Margaret Clara Adèle Deneke Memoir:**

**MPP 3 A 2/1‘What I Remember’ [Vol 1] c. 1966**

This volume mentions Queen Victoria's Jubilee, Mathilde Verne, Madame Schumann, singer Miss Marie Fillunger, Gertrude Rollo Russell, niece of violinist Joachim, Harold Joachim [ Fellow of Merton], Joseph Joachim [ p. 28]. Beethoven Festival at Bonn [c.1899], Marie Soldat [ p. 29], Fanny Davies, Leonard Borwick [p.31], music coaching with Grace Hadow [p.32], death of brother [p.33], visit to Ruskin's home [p.35], Chapter: ' Donald Francis Tovey', includes transcripts of correspondence [ pp. 37-48]. TS of article about Ernest Walker [OUP, 1951]

**MPP 3 A 2/2: ‘What I Remember’ [Vol 2] c.1966**

This second volume discusses her time as Secretary at Barnett House, where she was appointed on request by Sydney Ball. It explores her relationship with Miss Annie Rogers, Mr Mansbridge and her resignation as Secretary. The volume also mentions her friendship with Dame Henrietta Barnett, Grace Hadow's work at Barnett House and Charlbury Women's Institute. It recalls Dame Millicent Fawcett and her sister Rhoda Garrett attending the LMH Jubilee celebrations in 1928. Includes TS of article: ' *Paul Victor Mendelssohn Benecke 1868-1944’* [ 1954]

**[MPP 3 D]: Photographs**

**MPP 3 D/1 Photograph Album: Postcard views of LMH buildings 1911? [not dated]**

Views of Wordsworth Buidling, Old Hall, view of Talbot from the grounds, Chapel, Library, Old Hall Common Room, Wordsworth Buidling Common Room, Dining Hall.

[MPP 3 D/2] Photographs of family members [10 photographs]

**[MPP 3 F]: Theatrical booklets:**

**[MPP 3 F 1-7] Printed texts of Second Year’s plays at LMH; 1914, 1915, 1916, 1919**

**‘Press criticisms of Lyl’s Campaspe,, LMH 1908’;** an Elizabethan comedy staged to raise funds for the Library, scrapbook of photographs and newspaper reviews c. 1908-1909 (1 vol.)

[7 items]

**Selected Uncatalogued papers**

**Correspondence:**

**Papers regarding costs of building the Sir Giles Gilbert Scott Deneke Building c. June 1932 ( 6 items)**

1 telegram, dated 25th May 1933 from Paul Wittgenstein, accepting an invitation to Deneke to perform. [Written in German.]

1 letter, dated 29th September 1939 from Slater, Moberly and Uren architects to Helena Deneke concerning the standard sizes of air raid shelters.

Letters from Margaret Deneke to Oxford ladies Musical Society and from the Women’s Institute and Denman College for talks she has given c. 1958-1962 (3 items)

Correspondence with Dame Lucy Sutherland c. 1964-1969; including Helena Deneke’s reminiscences about St. Hugh’s and remarks her sisters contribution to LMH (33 items)

Several pieces of personal correspondence, seasonal greetings and telegrams dated between 1st June 1933 and 12th 1967.

Student Reminiscences of the Deneke sisters c. 1940s-1960s, letters.

**Newspaper cuttings:**

Copies of an article about the retirement of Ms. Emily Sherlock, Lady Margaret Hall Housekeeper for 46 years. Dated 22nd June 1946.

**Plans and drawings:**

3 drawings for buildings at Gunfield.

1 plan for an air-raid shelter dated 20th July 1939

Plan of College site c. 1926

**Further Deneke material:**

**The Brown Book:** obituaries [December 1969, December 1973]

**Material held at The Bodleian Library:**

**Papers of Clara Sophie Deneke:** [**http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/modern/deneke/deneke.html**](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/modern/deneke/deneke.html)

*A full list of materials transferred to the Bodleian in 1995 is available in the Archive.*

**Further reading: D. Philips Dictionary of National Biography entry:** [**http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/56938**](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/56938)