

## Harriet Boyer Papers 1910-1918

### HARRIET BOYER PAPERS

Collection: NAB-052-053  
Size: approximately .75 cubic feet  
Accession number:  
Location: NCCROW

### SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

Purchased from Joseph Cohen

### PROCESSOR:

Sarah J. Griffin, Newcomb '93

### ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENT:

Papers have been removed from plastic sleeves and placed in acid-free folders, then interleaved with acid-free paper. The folder titles have been taken from the approximate organization of the letters as they were received.

### FINDING AIDS:

Inventory available in the repository.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Harriet Boyer was an assistant professor of Domestic Science at Newcomb College in the period of this collection (1910-1918). Ms. Boyer's discipline focused on the study and teaching of the many aspects of food preparation, from purchasing to canning to choosing of proper equipment. Her study was highly scientific and serious, as evidenced by her correspondences with various federal and state offices, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Justice. However, she was equally personable, and her students were quite fond of her. This balance is particularly evident in a collection of letters responding to Ms. Boyer's inquiry into the state of Domestic Science in Louisiana's secondary schools. Although these letters offer detailed information, they are often candid and betray a fondness and a respect for Ms. Boyer, for Newcomb College, and for the practical stuff of domestic science.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection consists entirely of letters received by Ms. Boyer. With the exception of a few personal letters (perhaps from former students), the papers contain mostly business letters from various government agencies or consultants in Domestic Science, such as Claudia Quigley Murphy, responses to requests for specific information on, say, canning or food dehydrating. Ms. Boyer was active in soliciting food product samples and new equipment for preliminary testing in her classroom. Her papers include her standard business goings-on--committees, meetings, organizations, subscriptions, class lists and lists of equipment manufacturers.

As a college professor of domestic science, Ms. Boyer follows a tradition for household efficiency associated with Catherine Beecher in the late nineteenth century, a movement emphasizing the importance of household work for women and for society as a whole. In the second decade of the twentieth century, one finds Ms. Boyer concerned with the beginnings of modernization of the household--the increased mechanization of the kitchen and the standardization of electricity in the household. Her collection provides insight into the general attitude toward domestic science in the state of Louisiana as well as the practical stuff of these classes.

**Box 1 of 1**

**NAB-052**

- Books, Subscriptions, Equipment
- Committees, Meetings, Organizations
- Class Lists, 1910-1911
- Cooking Information, Questions
- Inquiry on domestic science in Louisiana high schools, 1917
- Correspondence with Louisiana Department of Education, 1912-1914
- Correspondence with Louisiana School Work journal, 1915
- Correspondence with Louisiana State University, 1912-1918
- Miscellaneous correspondence
- Letters from Claudia Quigley Murphy, 1913-1917
- Correspondence with National Canner Company
- Product Sample Letters
- Recommendations and Job Offers, 1914-1918
- Correspondence with U. S. Department of Agriculture
- Correspondence with U. S. Department of the Interior
- Correspondence with U. S. Department of Justice
- Correspondence with U. S. Food Administration

**Box 2 of 2**

**Addendum**

**NAB-053**

- American Home Economics Association
- Class Visits
- Classroom Supplies
- Cooking Information/Questions
- Domestic Science in Louisiana
- Domestic Science Outside Louisiana
- Equipment Information/Testing
- Information from University Archives
- Job Offers/Information
- Miscellaneous Correspondence
- Personal Correspondence
- Product Information/Testing
- References
- Report of Committee of Home Economics
- Requests for Information on Domestic Science Program at Newcomb
- Ellen H. Richards Memorial Fund
- Summer School
- Teachers Agencies
- Visitors to Newcomb Domestic Science Department
- Writings on Domestic Science