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# Blaine, May Margaret 61

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Blaine, May Margaret (1889–1973) correspondence
<b>ID:</b>	HIBDARC.61
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1929–1964
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.5 Linear Feet 3 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## May Margaret Blaine

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May Margaret Blaine (christened Mary Margaret Blaine, 1889–1973) worked for 37 years (7 February 1918–27 April 1955) as secretary to successive heads (i.e., David G. Fairchild, Beverly T. Galloway, [Frederick] Wilson Popenoe, John A. Stevenson, Roland McKee, Knowles A. Ryerson, Benjamin Y. Morrison and Carl O. Erlanson) of the Section of Plant Introduction (SPI) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In a 17 February 1955 letter F. P. Cullinan, chief of branch at the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Horticultural Crops Research Branch, Beltsville, Maryland, wrote to Blaine regarding her upcoming retirement:

I can think of no clerical position within any administrative unit more important than that of assisting the Head...since, when properly carried out, it can relieve him [sic] of a large part of the burden of his duties from day to day and allow him leisure to undertake research and other creative work. Certainly the ease with which each new head has been able to assume the responsibilities of his position and understand the scope and policies of the unit must largely depend upon the secretary carried over from the preceding incumbent.

Many of the plant explorers' letters and archival collections held at Hunt Institute are here through her urging. Blaine was also a doll collector, and her extensive personal collection of correspondence (from 1929 to 1964) records hardships during World War II, gender politics of the SPI, and the devotion that the explorers felt toward her — which was often expressed in gifts of dolls.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists mainly of personal letters to Blaine and some copies of her replies, discussing the correspondents' work, travel and families and the dolls they purchased for her throughout the world. Correspondents include William Andrew Archer (1894–1973), Harley H. Bartlett (1886–1960), Alan Beetle (1913–2003), Heber Loran Blood (1900–1948), Nina Floy Bracelin (also Mrs. H. P. Bracelin, 1890–1973), Thakur Rup Chand (1902–1994), Winifred Chapin, Carl O. Erlanson (1901–1975), David G. Fairchild (1869–1954), Marian Fairchild (also Mrs. David G. Fairchild, 1886–1962), Beverly T. Galloway (1863–1938), Howard Hyland (1907–1997), Walter Koelz (1895–1989), Atherton Lee (1894–[1960]), Harold F. Loomis (1896–1976), Floyd A. McClure (1897–1970), Ynes Enriquetta Julietta Mexia (1870–1938), Benjamin Y. Morrison (1891–1966; 5 April 1936 letter from W. A. Archer), Katherine Muller (1909–1995), Dorothy Popenoe (also Mrs. [Frederick] Wilson Popenoe, 1899–1932), [Frederick] Wilson Popenoe (1892–1975), Percy L. Ricker (1878–1973), Paul G. Russell (1889–1963), Knowles A. Ryerson (1892–1990), James L. Stephens (1902–1982), Charles F. Swingle (1899–1978) and Harvey L. Westover (1879–1942).

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Archives

### Processing Information

This collection was digitized by G. Boardman in 2016.

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## Collection Inventory

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### Letters, 1929–1964

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters, A–B, 1936–1963	box 1	folder 1

Digital Object: [https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61\\_Blaine\\_Bx1FF1r.pdf](https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61_Blaine_Bx1FF1r.pdf)

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Letters, Chand, 1951–1953

box 1

folder 2

Digital Object: [https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61\\_Blaine\\_Bx1FF2r.pdf](https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61_Blaine_Bx1FF2r.pdf)

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Letters, C–H, 1929–1964

box 1

folder 3

Digital Object: [https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61\\_Blaine\\_Bx1FF3r.pdf](https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61_Blaine_Bx1FF3r.pdf)

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Letters, Koelz, 1953

box 2

folder 1

Digital Object: [https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61\\_Blaine\\_Bx2FF1r.pdf](https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61_Blaine_Bx2FF1r.pdf)

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Letters, L–W, 1930–1963

box 3

folder 1

Digital Object: [https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61\\_Blaine\\_Bx3FF1r.pdf](https://huntbot.org/hibdarc/collections/61/61_Blaine_Bx3FF1r.pdf)

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