

Finding Aid to the Jennifer Hawthorne Papers, 1971-1975, 2016

Collection Overview

Creator: Hawthorne, Jennifer (1947–)

Dates: 1971-1975, 2016

Extent: 0.4 Linear Feet (1 Box)

Language: English

Abstract: Jennifer Hawthorne joined the Peace Corps in 1971 and served in West Africa between 1971 and 1973 working primarily as a schoolteacher. Between 1973 and 1974 she travelled throughout Africa and Asia. This collection contains the paper correspondence and cassette tape correspondence created during the volunteer service and travels. The collection also contains postcards, photographs, and photographic slides created during the same period as the correspondence.

Preferred Citation: [item], Jennifer Hawthorne papers, American University Archives & Special Collections, Washington, D.C.

Custodial History

This collection was donated to the AU Archives & Special Collections in August 2023 by Jennifer Hawthorne as part of the Peace Corps Community Archive.

Processing Information

Collection was processed by JJ Kresky, Archives Student Assistant and completed in January 2025. During processing the original order was maintained as much as possible using donor provided documentation.

Related Materials

Related materials at AU Archives & Special Collections include other collections donated to the Peace Corps Community Archives.

Collection Access & Use Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

To the extent that they own copyright, the donor has assigned the copyright of this collection to American University. Contact AU Archives & Special Collections and Archives for more information.

Administrative Information

Finding Aid Date: 01-2025

Finding Aid Author: Finding aid created by JJ Kresky (January 2025).

Description Rules: Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Language of Description: English

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Jennifer Hawthorne graduated with a BA in Journalism from Louisiana State University and served as a volunteer in the Peace Corps between 1971 and 1973 in Dahomey, West Africa. During her time in the Peace Corps, she taught students in Porto Novo. After her service in the Peace Corps was completed, Hawthorne traveled throughout Africa and Asia between 1973 and 1974. When she returned to the United States, Hawthorne began her career in writing. She later became best-selling author and editor. She is also a respected motivational speaker and in 1993 she co-founded the Esteem Group, which she now directs as Jennifer Hawthorne Inc.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Jennifer Hawthorne papers include materials dating between 1971 and 1992 documenting Jennifer Hawthorne's experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa and during her time traveling to different countries following the completion of her service in the Peace Corps. The collection includes correspondence in the form of paper letters and audio cassette tapes created during Hawthorne's service in the Peace Corps and her trips after. The collection also contains postcards and photographs. The photographic slides in the collection follow her time in Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer and her later travels.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series following the original order:

Series 1: Audio Cassette Tape Letters, 1971-1972

Series 2: Correspondence and Letters, 1971-1975

Series 3: Photographs and Postcards, 1971-1972

Series 4: Photographic Slides, 1971-1975, 2016

Collection Contents

Series 1: Audio Cassette Tape Letters, 1971-1972.

The Audio Cassette Tape Letters series (1971-1972) contains four cassette tapes containing recorded correspondence between Jennifer Hawthorne and her family.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title
1	1	Cassette Tape Correspondence, 1971-1972

Series 2: Correspondence and Letters, 1971-1975

The Correspondence and Letters series (1971-1975) contains physical letters and correspondence between Jennifer Hawthorne and her family during her time in the Peace Corps in Africa. The letters in this series document Hawthorne's travels after she finished her service in the Peace Corps. This series is arranged chronologically.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title
1	2	Letter Correspondence, 1971
1	3	Letter Correspondence, 1971-1972
1	4	Letter Correspondence, 1972
1	5	Letter Correspondence, 1973
1	6	Letter Correspondence, 1973-1974
1	7	Letter Correspondence, 1974-1975

Series 3: Photographs and Postcards, 1971-1972

The Photographs and Postcards series (1971-1972) includes photographs that Jennifer Hawthorne took during her time in the Peace Corps and postcards she sent while travelling in different countries.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title
1	8	Photos and Postcards, 1971-1972

Series 4: Photographic Slides, 1971-1975, 2016

The Photographic Slides series (1971-1975) contains the 35 mm photographic slides taken by Jennifer Hawthorne and also includes a DVD containing digitized copies of the images. The images were originally digitized in approximately 2016.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title
1	9	Slides 1-9, 1971-1972
1	10	Slides 10-19, 1972-1974
1	11	Slides 20-22, 1974-1975
1	12	Peace Corps & Travels in Africa, India, Thailand, Sechelles, circa 1972-1974, [DVD – Digitized Photographic Slides, circa 2016]