

## Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock (1898-2001) Papers Finding Aid

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### Collection Summary

**Title:** Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock Papers

**Accession Numbers:** 2017.32

**Dates:** 1928-2001

**Bulk Dates:** 1935-1980

**Location:** East West Province Archives, Ipswich, MA

**Physical Description:** 2 manuscript boxes, 4 volumes.

**Abstract:** Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock was a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur for 82 years. She taught at several Massachusetts schools before being sent to Rome in 1937. She remained in Rome during WWII and harbored many fleeing the Nazis. She later served as the Congregation's General Treasurer. In 1982, she published a book, recounting her years in Rome and the work of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur while there under German occupation. The collection includes her journals, letters, handwritten memories of her years in Rome, a chronology of events during her mission at the Villa Certosa, notes she made in preparation for her book, In His Service: The Roman Mission of Notre Dame, 1931-1946, photographs, news clippings, articles and other papers collected by Sr. Therese Marguerite.

**Search Terms:**

Murdock, Therese Marguerite, 1898-2001

Murdock, Mary, 1898-2001

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

**Provenance:** The collection was transferred to the archives after Sr. Therese Marguerite's death in 2001.

**Processing:** The collection was arranged and processed in 2017.

**Conservation Work:** Rusty paperclips and staples removed. Pages unfolded. News clippings digitized and copied onto acid free paper.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on this collection.

**Biographical Information:** Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock was born Mary Murdock in Charlestown, MA on Aug. 29, 1898, the daughter of William and Mary (Coughlin) Murdock. She graduated from the NDA on the Fenway in 1916 and studied business at the Bryant and Stratton Business School. After working at Kidd Peabody stockbrokers in Boston, she entered the SNDs in 1919. In 1922, she took her first vows.

She taught high school at St. Charles in Woburn, St. John's in Peabody and served as the principal of the NDA in Boston. In 1928, she was sent to Namur, Belgium to make her perpetual vows.

In 1937, she was sent to Rome and became the Superior of the Villa Certosa, the SNDs first Roman apostolate where the Julie Billiart School for the poor was located. She remained in Rome during WWII, harboring many who were threatened by the Nazis. In 1946, she returned to the U.S., but went back to Rome in 1952 where she remained until 1976. Between 1963 and 1973, she served as the Congregations General Treasurer and Coordinator of Hospitality for the Generalate in Rome. After her return to the U.S. she went to Ipswich, MA and worked on the province's newsletters. She also ministered to the residents of many local nursing homes. She died in Worcester, MA on June 24, 2001.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock collection includes her journals, some that include notes taken during theology courses, letters, handwritten memories of her years in Rome, a chronology of events during her mission at the Villa Certosa, notes she made in preparation for her book, In His Service: The Roman Mission of Notre Dame, 1931-1946, photographs, news clippings, articles and other papers collected by Sr. Therese Marguerite.

The Province Papers contain her birth certificate, entrance papers, last will and testament and other papers collected by the province. Her prayers came from a small prayer journal she kept from 1930 until her death. The letters include those sent to Sr. Therese Marguerite, some regarding her book and her mission in Rome. The folders of memories were transcribed from interviews conducted with her, recalling her life and mission in Rome during WWII. The memories of Hilda revolve around a Jewish woman named Hilda who Sr. Therese Marguerite helped escape from the Nazis. These were used in preparation for the writing of her book, which was published in 1982. The Rome Chronicle was published by the sisters in Rome recounting their mission work there. The interview notes from 1995 are the transcript of an interview conducted by Sr. Susan Raymo with Sr. Therese Marguerite.

Box 02 contains papers collected by Sr. Therese Marguerite centered on the Beatification and Canonization of St. Julie Billiart. The collection also includes an English and Italian copy of her book, In His Service: The Roman Mission of Notre Dame, 1931-1946, written in 1982.

The remainder of the papers are of those Sr. Therese Marguerite collected, including notes from her pilgrimage, papers for a NDA reunion, notes and plays about Rome, news clippings, photographs and cards sent to her for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Organization and Container List

### Box 01

- Folder 01 Province Papers, 1898-1992.
- Folder 02 Prayers, 1930-2001.
- Folder 03 Letters, 1965-1997.
- Folder 04 Memories, 1978.
- Folder 05 Memories, 1978.
- Folder 06 Memories, Hilda, 1978.
- Folder 07 Memories, 1978.
- Folder 08 Talks, 1990.
- Folder 09 Rome Chronicle, 1937-1946.
- Folder 10 Interview Notes, 1995.
- Folder 11 Pilgrimage Album Notes, n.d.
- Folder 12 NDA Reunion Papers, 1985.
- Folder 13 Notes and Plays, n.d.
- Folder 14 Varia, 1928, n.d.
- Folder 15 News Clippings, Articles, 1947, 1997, n.d.
- Folder 16 Photographs, 1992, 1995.
- Folder 17 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cards, 1998.
- Folder 18 Death, 2001.

### Shelf

- Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock Journals, 1928-1994. [3 journals]
- Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock Prayer Journal, c. 1930.
- Sister Therese Marguerite Murdock Journal, c. 1951.
- The Saving of Rome During World War II by Pius XII* By Ralph Luise, 1961.

### Box 02

- St. Julie Billiart Beatification and Canonization Papers, 1906, 1969.

### Shelf

- In His Service: The Roman Mission of Notre Dame, 1931-1946
- Al Suo Servizio: Notre Dame a Roma, 1931-1946
- By Sr. Therese Marguerite Murdock