

Merci Train - Gift to LongwoodLU.441

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1949



Title Statement

Merci Train - Gift to LongwoodLU.441

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Greenwood Library Archives and Special Collections

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August 9, 2021

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:52:01 -0400.

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

LU.441

Unit Date

1949

Mixed Materials [1000524297]

01 of 01 (box)

Language

French .

Creator

Longwood College,

Extent

.75 Linear Feet 1 archival flat box

Repository

Greenwood Library Archives and Special Collections

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

There are no restrictions to access or use for research purposes.

Biographical sketch

The Merci Train was a gift from the nation of France, sent in gratitude for 40 million dollars of food and aid given to them by the United States in 1947. The gift consisted of 49 boxcars each filled with gifts donated by the citizens of France. When the train arrived in the United States in February 1949, one boxcar was sent to each state, with Hawaii and the District of Columbia sharing the 49th car. The Commonwealth of Virginia made the decision to divide the contents of their boxcar among state institutions and specific dignitaries and organized a committee tasked with accomplishing that goal. Longwood College received two items from the Merci Train, several yards of handmade lace and a pair of carved wooden clogs. The wooden clogs include an inscription on the sole of each shoe as well as a business card that includes information regarding the artist who crafted them.

Scope and content

This collection consists of a pair of hand-carved, small wooden clogs.

Keywords

French Gratitude Train.

Coudeville, Marc

Ownership and Custodial History

The hand-carved wooden clogs in this collection, which were crafted by Marc Coudeville of Roubaix, France, were included in the 1949 Merci Train boxcar sent to the Commonwealth of Virginia and were subsequently given to then-Longwood College by a state committee tasked with dividing the gifts. It is unknown when this collection was transferred to the Greenwood Library Archives.

General Note

The current location of the handmade lace, originally part of this gift, is unknown

Description of Subordinate Components

Wooden clogs

Mixed Materials [1000524297] 01 of 01 (box)

Language French.

Extent 1 ObjectHand-carved wooden clogs Inscribed on bottom of both shoes: "Monsieur et Madame Marc Coudeville, Ingenieur Arts et Metiers, 30 Boulevard de Strasbourg, Roubaix Nord, Reconnaissance."

Extent 1