

**Guide to Joyce Root Correspondence  
1939-1945 (Bulk 1942-1945)**



*Courtesy of the Mills Crest, 1945, p. 92*

Joyce Virginia (Root) Barnier  
Born October 23, 1926

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## GUIDE TO JOYCE ROOT CORRESPONDENCE

### Administrative Information

**Provenance:** The Joyce Root Correspondence collection was given to Mills College by Dr. Catherine Perz from San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Perz, a collector of World War II ephemera, purchased the letters from an individual in Shelton, Washington via ebay in 2013. Because Joyce Root attended Mills College in the mid-1940s, Dr. Perz generously donated the letters to Mills College Special Collections in 2017.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:** Though this collection is the physical property of Mills College Special Collections, copyright belongs to the authors or creators of the works or their legal representatives. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested in writing from the Special Collections Curator.

**Preferred Citation:** [Item]. Joyce Root Correspondence. Special Collections, F. W. Olin Library, Mills College.

### Descriptive Summary

**Abstract:** This collection primarily contains correspondence between Joyce Root, her family, and friends from 1942 to 1945, as Joyce pursued her undergraduate education at Mills College. The subject matter of the correspondence ranges from life as a student to World War II.

**Extent:** Approximately 1.3 linear feet (3 document boxes)

**Language:** English

**Indexing Terms:** Mills College.  
Mills College -- Students.  
Mills College -- Alumni and alumnae.  
Women college students -- United States -- Social life and customs.  
World War II, 1939-1945.

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### Scope and Content:

The papers in the Joyce Root Correspondence collection primarily span the years that Joyce Root pursued her undergraduate education at Mills College in Oakland, California: 1942 through 1945.

Included among the papers are mostly correspondence between Joyce, her family members, and friends. Many of the letters were sent from Joyce to her father, Dr. George Fields Root (“Doc”), and mother, Ethel (“Moms”), in Seattle, Washington. Also included is correspondence with Joyce’s sister, Leola, and Leola’s husband Don.

The content of the letters is often filled with a sense of humor and reports of personal news. Some letters contain sketches of outfits, grade reports, announcements, and news clippings. Joyce’s accounts paint a picture of a student’s experience at Mills College during the mid-1940s.

Items of note include an announcement of Cleveland High School’s Commencement Exercises in June 1942; letters from brother-in-law Don and Joyce’s romantic interest, Jerome Barnier (“Jerry”), who described life in the military during World War II; and news of Jerry’s marriage proposal in October 1945 (first alluded to in a conspiratorial letter from Jerry to Mrs. Root on August 26, 1945).

This collection abruptly ends in December 1945, leaving the final semester of Joyce’s senior year at Mills a mystery. Joyce’s photograph can be found in the Mills Crest yearbook in 1943, 1944, and 1945, but she is not pictured in 1946, though she is listed in the index.

More recently, reports of Joyce’s activities can be found in Mills Quarterly’s Spring 2014 issue when she donated to “Mills’ Greatest Need” and in Spring 2015, when she created the Joyce Root Barnier Scholarship in the Division of Natural Sciences.

### Container List

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| Box 1 | March 21, 1939 – June 7, 1943                                    |
| Box 2 | June 12, 1943 – March 28, 1944                                   |
| Box 3 | April 3, 1944 – December 5, 1945 (one folder with undated items) |