

**Guide to the Coleman Kent Letters and Photographs,
1944-1945
MS0043**

The Mariners' Museum Library

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Coleman Kent Letters and Photographs

Inclusive Dates: 1944-1945

Bulk Dates: 1944-1945

Catalog number: MS0043

Physical Characteristics: Consists of 40 items which are letters (correspondence), envelopes, and photographs.

Language: English

Creator: Kent, Coleman W. (Coleman Woodson), 1919-1988.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Coleman Woodson Kent was born 18 December 1919 in Richmond, Virginia to Emmet L. and Mable C. Kent. Prior to World War II, he worked as a clerk. Kent enlisted in the Navy in November 1942. After basic training, he became a Yeoman, 2nd Class, and was stationed on the island of Oahu, Hawaii from 1944-45. According to Navy muster rolls from early February, 1944, Kent served aboard the destroyer escort USS *Steele* (DE-8). He was discharged in January 1946. He married Velma Carder of Charles City County, Virginia in 1946. Kent died on 9 July 1988 in Chesterfield County, Virginia.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains letters written by Yeoman 2nd Class Coleman W. Kent to Marguerite H. Davis from Hawaii between February 1944 and October 1945. Although he addresses Marguerite as "Sis" in numerous letters, it does not appear that they were related. The majority of the letters do not speak of his military service, but rather about travel and sightseeing in the Hawaiian Islands in the abundant free time that he had. Stationed on Oahu, presumably at Pearl Harbor, he had frequent opportunity to travel to Honolulu. He writes of U.S.O. dances, the arrival of W.A.V.E.S. (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the women's naval auxiliary), and describes the end of war celebrations in Pearl Harbor and Honolulu. He also writes of finding part time work in his off hours, comments on the weather, and enquires about people at home. He often asks about his mother and Marguerite's daughter, Audrey Lee. Also included in the collection are two photographs of Kent in uniform.

The collection is organized into folders by material type and arranged chronologically.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Number

CK137

Accession Date

1996

Restrictions

The collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

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Processing Information

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Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

FILE GUIDE

BOX 1

- Folder 1** Correspondence, 1944.
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1945.
Folder 3 Photographs, c. 1944.

SOURCES CONSULTED

U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007. "Audrey Lee Davis [1927-1955, SSN: 225424561]." Accessed August 29, 2016. Ancestry.com.

———. "Coleman Woodson Kent [1919-1988, SSN: 228105013]." Accessed August 29, 2016. Ancestry.com.

U.S. Navy World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949. "Muster Roll of the USS Steele DE-8, February 9, 1944." Accessed October 27, 2016. Fold3.

Virginia, Death Records, 1912-2014. "Marguerite Henley Davis [1911-1981]." Accessed August 29, 2016. Ancestry.com

SUBJECTS

Kent, Coleman W. (Coleman Woodson), 1919-1988.
Davis, Marguerite H. (Marguerite Henley), 1911-1981.
Davis, Audrey Lee, 1927-1995.
World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, American.
Sailors—Recreation—Hawaii.

Hawaii—Description and travel.
United States. Naval Reserve. Women's Reserve.