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[Martha Teach Gnudi Diary-Letter, 1945-1946](#)

GNUDI, MARTHA TEACH, 1908-1976.

Martha Teach Gnudi diary-letter, 1945 December 18 – 1946 March 15.

1 item (12 p.)

M-0078

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Librarian and historian of science. Gnudi was born Martha Teach in Sycamore, IL in 1908 and was raised in Southern California. She received her B.A. in classics and history from the University of Southern California in 1929; in 1931 she was awarded the doctorate in *belle lettere* from the University of Bologna.

While in Bologna she met Dr. Jerome P. Webster, an American plastic surgeon who was investigating the life of Gaspare Tagliacozzi (1545-1599), the University of Bologna faculty member whose 1597 *De Curtorum Chirurgia per Insitionem* was the first published book on plastic surgery. Together they discovered key documents in Italian archives relating to Tagliacozzi.

Upon Gnudi's return to the US, Webster hired her as his research assistant and librarian. Together they wrote *Documenti Inediti Intorno alla Vita di Gaspare Tagliacozzi* (1935), a biographical sketch of Tagliacozzi based on the documents they had unearthed. They followed this with *The Life and Times of Gaspare Tagliacozzi, Surgeon of Bologna, 1545-1599: With a Documented Study of the Scientific and Cultural Life of Bologna in the Sixteenth Century* (New York: Reichner, 1950). It received the 1954 William H. Welch Medal of the American Association for the History of Medicine for a book "of outstanding scholarly merit in the field of medical history."

In 1963, Gnudi received her MLS from the Columbia University School of Library Service. The next year she was appointed the first head of special collections at UCLA's Biomedical Sciences Library, which she quickly established as one of the country's outstanding history of medicine rare book collections.

Gnudi married Dante Gnudi, an Italian who later became an American citizen, in 1933; she died April 30, 1976.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: A letter in diary format, Dec. 1945-March 1946. The first part recounts Gnudi's voyage from New York to Italy to join her husband, Dante Gnudi. Later, she writes of their life in Milan where Dante Gnudi was Director of the United States Information Service.

Besides describing her fellow passengers and shipboard life, Gnudi also presents a vivid picture of life in Italy in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.

Though not addressed to anyone specifically, the document was found in the papers of Martha Carlson Merriam, who worked with Martha Teach Gnudi in Dr. Jerome Webster's plastic surgery library at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Open.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Other Martha Teach Gnudi correspondence can be found in the Jerome P. Webster Papers at Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library. Additional papers can be found in Special Collections at UCLA's Louise Darling Biomedical Library.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Dr. John C. Merriam, son of Martha C. Merriam, 2013 (acc.#2013.009).

LOCATION: Miscellaneous Manuscripts, Box 4, fo. 5.

Subjects

Gnudi, Martha Teach, 1908-
Italy – Description and travel, 1945-
Diaries.