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### MUSTAPHA, Jennie

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Jennie Elizabeth Mustapha Papers  
Collection 202-1 to 202-4

Prepared by  
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June 2000

## Scope Note

Jennie E. Mustapha (Jennie Mustapha Tate) was an educator who spent most of her professional career as an assistant principal at Cardozo Senior High School in Washington, D.C. The collection comprises 2 linear feet and was donated by a niece, Mrs. Phyllis Stokes in 1992.

The collection contains much information about Cardozo Senior High School from its beginnings as the business department of Dunbar Senior High School to its development as a full-fledged secondary school in its own right. Miss Mustapha's collection further casts light on programs, faculty members, students, and day-to-day activities. As such, it is a good resource for scholars interested in the development of public schools in Washington, D.C., and some of the existing educational and political issues before and after school integration. The collection also sheds some light on the history of the city.

A controversial decision that shook the city and caused broad repercussions concerned Miss Mustapha's invitation to Pearl S. Buck to speak at the mid-year 1951 Cardozo commencement program. Unknown to Miss Mustapha, Miss Buck's name was listed in the unevaluated files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Not only was Miss Mustapha forced to rescind the invitation by the superintendent of schools, but she was also formally reprimanded by him. The collection contains Miss Mustapha's notebook with an extensive compilation of memoranda, news clippings, letters and notes documenting the firestorm that followed the invitation.

Although a Quaker and an active member and participant in local Friends projects and undertakings, Miss Mustapha was sometimes mistaken for a Moslem.

### **Scope Note** continued

Her paternal grandparents came from Charleston, South Carolina where, she relates, there was then “a colony of brown skinned people who called themselves Turks. Another account tells of two slaves brought to Charleston from Morocco during the Revolution. One was named Mohammed; the other, Mustapha.” (See Correspondence, letter to B.C. Black, 1963.)

It appears that she was married at one time, at least around 1936, but later reverted to using her maiden name. Following her retirement from Cardozo High School, Miss Mustapha served as a missionary teacher for twenty-two months at the American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, Turkey. She returned to Washington, D.C. without serving the minimum three-year term, having contracted hepatitis and jaundice.

Source: MSRC papers of Jennie E. Mustapha.

## Biographical Sketch

### Jennie Elizabeth Mustapha (Jennie Mustapha Tate)

- 1898 Born in New York, New York
- Attended elementary and secondary schools of Stratford, Conn.
- 1919 Graduated from Howard University, College of Arts and Sciences, with A.B. degree.
- 1920 Served as Girls' Work Secretary, Camden (New Jersey) YWCA.  
Sept.-Dec.
- 1920-1929 Appointed English teacher in business department of Dunbar High School. When that department moved to M Street, she elected to move also, and was later appointed Dean of Girls. This department later became Cardozo Senior High School. Remained at Cardozo for the remainder of her career.
- 1926 Served as summer recreation director of the Bridgeport, Conn. YWCA Camp in Trumbull, Conn.
- 1928 Studied Abroad in England and France.
- 1929-1934 Served as acting assistant principal, Cardozo Senior High School.
- 1934 Served as full-time principal, Cardozo Night High School; developed character education program.
- Earned M.A. in English and philosophy from Columbia University.
- 1935 Appointed assistant principal, a post she held until retirement.
- 1951 Sparked a major controversy and received an official reprimand from the school superintendent when she invited Pearl S. Buck to speak at the school commencement program.
- 1957 Participated in European Great Books Seminar, studying and visiting Italy, Switzerland, France, England, Belgium and Holland.

### **Biographical Sketch** continued

- 1961 Retired as assistant principal of Cardozo from the D.C. public schools.
- 1963-1965 Taught English at the American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, Turkey as an appointed missionary representing the United Church of Christ Board for World Ministries.
- Continued as a member of the Board of Trustees of Sidwell Friends School; also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Friends House during the nineteen sixties.
- 1970-1973 Served as secretary to the Board of Trustees, Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.
- 1992 Died at the age of 95 in Washington, D.C.

## **Series Description**

**Series A**      **Personal Papers**

Box 202-1      Includes biographical and school personnel materials, Pearl S. Buck  
to Box 202-2      controversy notebook, European travel diary, notes and certificates.  
Information on Dunbar and Cardozo High Schools, Howard University,  
and writings by the author.

**Series B**      **Correspondence**

Box 202-2      Correspondence from friends, students, colleagues, many of whom were  
affiliated with Howard University, the American Collegiate Institute in  
Turkey or the Friends (Quakers) in Washington, D.C.

**Series C**      **Organizational Affiliations**

Box 202-2      Includes Sidwell Friends School, the Friends Meeting House, United  
to Box 202-3      Church Board of World Ministries and its American Collegiate Institute,  
the Avery Research Institute, Cardozo Senior High School and Dunbar  
Senior High School.

**Series D**      **Printed Materials**

Box 202-4      Materials from M Street/Dunbar Senior High School; London, England;  
as well as educational booklets; periodicals and travel information.

**Series E**      **Photographs**

Box 202-4      Includes friends, students, and colleagues.

## Container List

### Series A Personal Papers

Box	Folder
202-1	1 Personnel papers, receipts from trip abroad, course outlines, evaluations, class rosters, certificates.
	2 Diary account and postal cards describe 1928 studies abroad in England and Paris
	3 St. John's 1957 College Seminar-in-Europe travel instructions, itinerary, participants' roster, receipts, postal cards
	4 The Stylus membership certificate (framed) - Signed by Alain LeRoy Locke
	5 Personnel papers to Jennie Mustapha from the D.C. Board of Education.
	6 Greeting cards and invitations.
	7 U.S. Department of Agriculture: Course outlines, lectures, papers, ca. 1941
	8 U.S. Department of Agriculture: Lecture notes, ca. 1952.
	9 U.S. Department of Agriculture: Lecture notes, ca. 1940.
	10 The Pearl Buck Controversy: Memoranda and Miss Buck's message to Cardozo students.
	11 The Pearl Buck Controversy: Notebook containing letters, memoranda, letters, news clippings.
202-2	1 Howard University Class of 1919: Graduation programs, reunion booklets, notes
	2 Writings by Jennie Mustapha Talks to class reunion alumni, new Sidwell School parents, friends, and students

### Series B Correspondence

- 3 A-Z ca. 1917-1989  
Alam, Ayal (Ayhan)  
Barron, Marion  
Bennett, Carolyn Ladelle  
Blake, Linda (American Collegiate Institute)  
Brown, Dillard  
Dawson, Bernice Marshall  
Dotig, Mary  
Freeman, Sue  
Jackson, Annabelle



## Container List

### Series B Correspondence continued

Box	Folder	
202-2	3	Kendig, M. Kutkan, Mine Lee, Rheta Mattingly, R.N. Mayers, Daniel Moore, LB. Nicolson, J.H. Robeson, Ruth and Wallace Smith, Robert L. Stuart, Marion L. Vogel, Robert M. Weldon, Billie J. Wilkinson, Garnet C. (to and from Mustapha)
	4	First Names Only
	5	Howard University (1917-1919)

### Series C Organizations Affiliations

	6	American Collegiate Institute - correspondence
	7	American Collegiate Institute - publications
	8	Avery Research Center
	9	Cardozo Senior High School - history
	10	Cardozo Senior High School - publication
	11	Cardozo Senior High School - reunion
	12	Dunbar Senior High School
202-3	1	Dunbar - 1925 Yearbook
	2	Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C.
	3	Friends United Meeting
	4	Sidwell Friends
	5	Sidwell Friends
	6	United Church Board for World Ministries - correspondence
	7	United Church Board - educational materials
	8	United Church Board - reports

### Series D Printed Materials

202-4	1	Survey Graphic
	2	<u>You Have Seen their Faces</u> , photographic documentary by Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke-White
	3	Travel Materials – London

## Container List

### Series E Photographs

Box	Folder	
202-4	4	Students in front of Cardozo Senior High School, framed, n.d.
	5	J. Mustapha and others