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## Collection Summary

**Repository:** Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

**Creator:** Asprey, Winifred A.

**Title:** Winifred Asprey Papers

**Dates:** circa 1933-2007

**Quantity:** 9.2 cubic feet (14 boxes)

**Abstract:** The collection contains materials related to Winifred Asprey's work as a mathematician and computer scientist, particularly during her years as a faculty member at Vassar College. Materials include biographical materials, research and teaching materials, writings, and photographs.

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## Biographical Note

Winifred "Tim" Asprey was a mathematician and computer scientist. She taught at Vassar College from 1945-1982. During her tenure, Vassar became one of the first U.S. colleges to establish a computer center and offer courses in computer science.

Asprey was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1917. She was the daughter of Peter Asprey Jr. and Gladys Brown Asprey, Vassar Class of 1905. She attended Brownell Hall, a preparatory school in Omaha, Nebraska, from 1933-1934, then went to Vassar herself, graduating in 1938. She completed her graduate work at the University of Iowa in 1945 and returned to Vassar that year to teach in the Math Department. She eventually developed an interest in computing, a new specialization in the mathematics field. She was encouraged in this area by Grace Murray Hopper, another Vassar math professor who had gone on to computing fame for her work with the UNIVAC and applications using COBOL. Hopper had left Vassar by the time Asprey returned, but they maintained a close relationship. Asprey even lived in the house that Hopper and her husband built at Vassar.

Asprey's work went beyond Vassar's walls as well. She conducted research at nearby IBM, taught courses at high schools and other colleges (including Marist and SUNY New Paltz), lectured widely, and was active in the field. She retired in 1982, but stayed active in the Vassar community and continued to live in the Hopper house on the edge of campus until her death in 2007 at the age of 90.

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## Chronology

1917 Apr 8	Born in Sioux City, IA
1938	B.A. from Vassar College

1942	M.A. from University of Iowa
1945	Ph.D. from University of Iowa
1963	Vassar College Computer Science Center founded
1967	Vassar College purchased IBM System/360 computer
1982	Retired from Vassar
1989	Vassar College's Asprey Advanced Computation Laboratory opened
2007 Oct 19	Died in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

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## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains materials related to Winifred Asprey's work as a mathematician and computer scientist, particularly during her years as a faculty member at Vassar College. Materials include biographical materials, research and teaching materials, writings, and photographs.

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## Access and Use

### Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

### Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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## Related Material

### Related Materials

- For more biographical material on Asprey see:
- [Vassar College Biographical Files](#)

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## Subject Headings

### Names:

- Hopper, Grace Murray

### Organizations:

- Brownell Hall, (Omaha, Neb.)

- Vassar College--Faculty
- Vassar College--Students

**Subjects:**

- Computer science--Study and teaching
- Mathematics--Study and teaching
- Women college teachers
- Women computer scientists
- Women mathematician

**Document Types:**

- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Photograph albums
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

**VCL Categories:**

- Math, Science and Medicine
- Vassar College

[Top](#)**Encoding Information**

Finding aid encoded by Jason Kovari, 3 February 2009. Updated by Laura Streett, July 2009 and May 2012.

[Top](#)**Administrative Information****Preferred Citation**

Winifred Asprey Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Laura Streett, 2008. Updated 2012.

Please note: the photographic material in this collection is largely unprocessed. Please contact the archivist for further information.

**Acquisition Information**

Materials acquired from the Estate of Winifred Asprey, 2007, 2009 and 2012. (M2007-019, M2009-021, M2012-004)

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## Container List

Box 5	Audio tapes
Box 12	Biography - Clippings and posters
Box 12	Biography - Clippings of articles by Jonathan W. Brown (Grandfather?)
Box 1	Biography - Date Books/Journals
Box 13	Biography - Education - Yearbooks (2 volumes)
Box 1	Biography - General
Box 1	Biography - Interview transcripts, 2007
Box 1	Biography - Memorial Service, 2007
Box 2	Biography - Parents (Peter and Gladys Asprey)
Box 6	Biography - Scrapbook - 90th Birthday, Vassar College, 2007 (1 volume)
Box 13	Biography - Scrapbook - Brownell Hall, circa 1933-1934
Box 13	Biography - Scrapbook - Vassar College, circa 1934-1938 (3 volumes)
Box 1	Biography - Travel
Box 2	Charitable work
Box 1	Correspondence
Box 2	Grace Hopper
Box 2	Larned B. Asprey (brother)
Box 14	Photographs - Albums (4 albums)
Box 2	Photographs - Albums (4 albums)
Box 6	Photographs - Albums (3 albums)
Box 6	Photographs - Clark Symposium, 1997 Apr (1 disk)
Box 11	Photographs - Lists
Boxes 7-10	Photographs - Miscellaneous Prints
Box 12	Photographs - Portraits of Asprey
Box 8	Photographs - Portraits of Asprey
Box 6	Photographs - Scans for 90th birthday (3 disks)
Box 6	Photographs - Scans for Memorial Service, 2007 (1 disk)
Box 5	Photographs - Slides
Box 6	Photographs - Vassar Reunion, 2004 (1 disk)
Box 11	Research and teaching material
Box 4	Research and teaching material
Boxes 2-3	Vassar College
Box 6	Vassar College - Asprey Advanced Computation Laboratory Guest book, 1989 Apr 22
Box 14	Vassar College - Asprey Advanced Computation Laboratory plaque
Box 6	Vassar College - Clark Symposium Guest book, 1997 Apr
Box 6	Video - Asprey's remarks at Clark Symposium, 1997 Apr (1 disk)
Box 3	Writings and speeches

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