I’d Like to Return to Lebanon: The Angele Hobeiche Kmeid Ellis Collection

From the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies at North Carolina State University

The Angele Hobeiche Kmeid Ellis Collection contains over 300 handwritten letters sent to Angele Ellis from 1925 - 1994. Born in Qattine, Lebanon, Angele left her mother and three siblings in 1926 to join her husband in Carthage, New York. To maintain social and cultural ties, Angele corresponded with friends, family, and community leaders across the diaspora and saved these letters in shoeboxes. This collection contains both the rich imagery of Angele’s treasured items, as well as a rich textual narrative that illuminates the ways early Lebanese immigrants created transnational networks across the diaspora.

Maronite Catholic prayer cards, printed in French and Arabic, 1914-1940

Angele’s global correspondence included North and South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and parts of Europe

To read the letters and translations, visit the Khayrallah Center’s website: lebanesestudies.ncsu.edu

Angele Ellis, United States Certificate of Naturalization portrait, 1937

Angele Ellis, French passport portrait, 1926