

ANITA GREW ENGLISH

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Impressions of FS Childhood

- Residences in Germany, Denmark, and Turkey
- Sibling ties lessened need for friends
- Mobility strengthens family bonds, heightens acceptance of others
- “Fairy tale” existence was way of life
- One of two ballrooms in Copenhagen house converted into schoolroom for Grew children
- Interest in swimming developed in Turkey
- A time of universal peace and friendship
- Family togetherness
- Separation from family and change from offspring to spouse
- Husband in ill health in Hungary
- Sent personal maid back to Turkey
- Learned mechanics of living, grew up fast
- Attempt of Nazi 3rd Secretary to cultivate Englishes
- Things crowded in with marriage, but no social adjustments to make
- Additional Childhood memories

Boardman and Polando’s non-stop flight from Boston to Istanbul in 1931

- Waited until dawn for plane’s arrival
- Compared to Lindbergh’s, B/P flight was unheralded
- B/P had found flight both humorous and dangerous
- AE’s nephew J. Spenser given photos, diary and AE’s data of the flight while he was at the Smithsonian Air/Space museum
- B/P sent AE congratulatory telegram after her record-breaking swim

Childhood Memories

Voyage to Europe with President and Mrs. Wilson en route to Paris for World War I Peace Treaty

- Wilson’s kindness, playfulness with Grew children
- Script change from Arabic to Latin while Grews in Turkey
- Westernization in Turkey and its effects
- AE grew up speaking French and German
- AE discusses beauty and graciousness of her mother
- Mrs. Grew partially paralyzed in Mexico City but took that in stride throughout husband’s career
- Mention of Grew’s tribute to his wife’s contribution to his career in his memoirs “Turbulent Era”
- Grews interned with staff in US Embassy Tokyo at start of World War II
- Mrs. Grew’s efforts to keep up staff morale

Reflections on FS Life

“A wife is fully half the team” depends upon the post and the FSO spouse
Being a FS wife can be a stressful 24 hour a day job
Divorce unusual in AE’s time in service
To AE the Foreign Service meant “service”
She would never have married outside the Service
Good Posts: France, Canada, New Zealand
Returned to Washington during WWII aboard Mauritania, without convoy and chased by submarine
Deeply affected by seeing U.S. wounded from Guadalcanal arrive in New Zealand
Comments on friendliness of New Zealanders
AE remained in Hancock, N.H. while spouse has two Canadian posts and resigns from Service

Reflections on Service Life

Hancock, N.H. was their home, their roots during FS life and afterwards
Discussion of deep family ties with Hancock (see Lilla Moffat Levitt interview)
Interviewer suggests comparison with Kennedy’s Hyannisport
AE’s sisters also married FSO’s
FS was a wonderful life – trips, travels, steamer crossings and countries lived in
Trains, boats, and long motor rides were a part of her life
Reference to Grew motor trip from Paris to Copenhagen (see Lilla Moffat Levitt interview)
Large touring car held Grew family of six, a nurse and mechanic and pulled a wheelbarrow-like trailer
Reference to AE’s grandmother, Lilla Cabot Perry, noted American artist, and her friendship with Claude Monet

Older sister Edith

born in Giverny in little house next to Monet’s
During WWI, journey to Hancock from Manchester, Mass. Was all day trip by car
Journey from Boston was by train to Hancock and by horse and buggy to Grew compound
Grew daughters separation from parents during WWI mitigated by Hancock, loving grand-parents and nurse Graeme (see Lilla Moffat Levitt interview)
Hungary was a lovely post
AE took being a wife more seriously than her FS job
FS was a happy experience
Cross cultural friendships were natural
Discussion of formality of relationships between Grew daughters and their beaux: young men called at house on invitation only or were invited guests at picnics or other outings
AE educated by governesses and tutors –sent to Swiss finishing school at 12

Influence of English Governesses

At the time, regretted missing Bryn Mawr to live in Turkey
In retrospect, Turkey was more enriching
Difficulty learning to cook in Hancock during WWII at time of rationing

Her children adapted readily to Hancock schools
AE's nephew, Peter Moffat, continues family tradition in FS
AE pays tribute to his wife, Pamela