

William Cattell Trimble '30

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William Cattell Trimble died June 24, 1996, at his home in Brooklandville, Md. He was 89.

A native of Baltimore, he attended the Gilman School, and he graduated cum laude in history from Princeton. Bill entered the Foreign Service in 1931, serving in Seville, Buenos Aires, and Tallin in Estonia, before returning to Princeton for advanced economic studies. He arrived in Paris in the summer of 1940.

After evacuation from Europe, he served in Mexico City, then returned to Washington to deal with export controls. He graduated with the first class of the Natl. War College in 1946, and was assigned to Reykjavik, Iceland. He also served in the Hague, Rio de Janeiro, Bonn, and Cambodia. He was deputy assistant secretary of state from 1962-68. At the time of his retirement in 1968 Bill was deputy assistant secretary of state for African Affairs.

Bill was a member of several clubs and active in a number of historical preservation organizations following his retirement.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Nancy Gordon Carroll Trimble, a daughter, Mrs. John G. L. Cabot, two sons, T. Ridgeway and William C. Jr., five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother, the Rev. Canon David C. The class has sustained a great loss and extends its sympathy to his family.

The Class of 1930

<http://paw.princeton.edu/memorials/53/47/index.xml>

The Baltimore Sun July 01, 1996

William C. Trimble, 89, ambassador to Cambodia

William Cattell Trimble, a former ambassador to Cambodia, died Monday of cancer at his Brooklandville home. He was 89.

The Baltimore native graduated from the Gilman School in 1926 and with honors from Princeton University in 1930. He entered the Foreign Service in 1931 and held various diplomatic posts.

In 1958, he became ambassador to Cambodia and served there until July 1962, when he became the State Department's director of West African affairs. Two months later, he was named deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

He retired in 1968 and became active in historical preservation organizations. He served as president of the Baltimore County Historical Society and chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Enactment of Historical Preservation Legislation for Baltimore County.

He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Ivy Club, the Bachelors Cotillon, the Maryland Club and Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired.

A memorial service will be held today at St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium.

He is survived by his wife, the former Nancy Gordon Carroll, whom he married in 1933; two sons, T. Ridgeway Trimble and William C. Trimble Jr., both of Baltimore; a daughter, Carroll

Lloyd Trimble Cabot of Manchester, Mass.; a brother, Canon David C. Trimble, a retired Episcopal clergyman of Boonsboro; and five grandchildren.
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**William Cattell Trimble Papers, 1931-1976 (bulk 1954-1968):
Finding Aid MC027 2006 Princeton University Library**

Call number: MC027

Repository: Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.

Public Policy Papers.

65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA

Biography

William Cattell Trimble was born May 2, 1907 in Baltimore, Maryland. A member of the Princeton University Class of 1930, he graduated cum laude with an A.B. in history. In 1931, he joined the Foreign Service and was posted to Seville, Spain. While steadily rising in the ranks of the Foreign Service he worked in legations and embassies in Argentina, Estonia, and Mexico, among other locations.

After World War II, Trimble was a member of the first class at the National War College. Upon completion of his studies, he went to Reykjavik, Iceland as Charg d'Affaires and Second Secretary and then as First Secretary in 1948. Two years later he became Counselor of the embassy at London. The State Department transferred him in late 1951 to The Hague where he remained until spring 1954 as Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission.

In March 1954, Trimble moved to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as second in command of the embassy. That same year he attained the personal rank of minister, the second highest rank in the Foreign Service. While in Brazil, Trimble witnessed the end of the Vargas era that culminated with Getulio Vargas's suicide and elections for a new president in 1955. At the end of January 1956, the embassy played host to Vice President Richard Nixon during his visit to Brazil as the United States representative at the inauguration of Juscelino Kubitschek as President of Brazil.

In September 1956, Trimble returned to Europe to serve as Deputy Chief of Mission at Bonn, Germany. He served under Ambassador James Conant and then welcomed David Bruce as ambassador in 1957. Trimble served in Germany during the dissolution of the U.S. High Commission after it was abolished by the Allied High Commission. Its functions were transferred to the U.S. embassy in Bonn, and Trimble played an integral role in this process.

The culmination of Trimble's long diplomatic career came in February 1959 when he became the United States Ambassador to Cambodia. Trimble arrived in Cambodia in the midst of a political crisis over Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) involvement with Dap Chhuon, a political adversary of Prince Sihanouk, who headed a brief rebellion. This crisis was shortly followed on August 31 by the death of a palace staff member who opened a suitcase containing the card of an American engineer. The general consensus among Cambodians was that the United States was responsible for an attempt on Prince Sihanouk's life. Trimble's position was very difficult due to Sihanouk's distrust of the United States. In September 1960, Sihanouk effectively ended American hopes of gaining Cambodia as an ally against Communism by expressing Cambodian neutrality during a United Nations speech.

Upon his return to the United States in September 1962, Trimble became Director of the Office

of West Coast and Malian Affairs. The Office oversaw U.S. relations with seven countries: Guinea, Nigeria, Liberia, Togo, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Ghana. Trimble visited four of these countries - Nigeria, Togo, Ghana and Liberia - to gain first-hand experience for his new post. To deal with increasingly important African affairs, the Africa Desk was reorganized as the Office of West African Affairs with seven additional countries placed under its supervision: Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Dahomey (now Benin), Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, and Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso). Five more countries, Chad, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Cameroon, and Madagascar, were added in September 1964.

In May 1965, Trimble was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under Assistant Secretary of State G. Mennen Williams. Trimble was responsible for the Department's African Bureau. Trimble retired from the State Department in February 1968, and lived in Maryland until his death on June 24, 1996.

Description

The William C. Trimble Papers reflect Trimble's career in the Foreign Service, with more documentation from his years in Brazil, Cambodia, Germany, and from his work covering Africa. Most of the material is routine in nature, but letters detailing his views and the challenges he faced in his various postings can also be found.

Burial: [Saint Thomas Episcopal Church Cemetery](#)
Owings Mills, Baltimore County, Maryland, USA
Find A Grave Memorial# 83475992

The Baltimore Sun

Nancy G. Trimble, 96 Homemaker, collector

September 20, 2007

Nancy G. Trimble, a homemaker and antiques collector, died Sept. 12 at St. Joseph Medical Center of complications from a fall. She had celebrated her 96th birthday the day before her death.

Born Nancy Gordon Carroll and raised in Baltimore, she was a descendant of Chief Justice John Marshall, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase and John Hanson, who served as president of the Continental Congress during the American Revolution.

She was a 1929 graduate of the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., and made her debut at the Bachelors Cotillon.

In 1934, she married William Cattell Trimble, who was a member of the Foreign Service, and she accompanied her husband during his overseas assignments.

During World War II, while living in Washington, she volunteered at Sibley Hospital as a nurse's aide.

In 1958, she traveled with her husband to Cambodia, where he served as ambassador until 1962. He later was the State Department's director of West African affairs, and later became assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

After his retirement in 1968, the couple settled in Brooklandville. He died in 1996.

She was active in the League of Women Voters and the National Society of Colonial Dames in Maryland.

She enjoyed attending the Antiques Forum held annually in Williamsburg, Va., for many years.

Mrs. Trimble was a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 232 St. Thomas Lane, Owings Mills, where a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday.

Surviving are two sons, William C. Trimble Jr. of Owings Mills and T. Ridgeway Trimble of Baltimore; a daughter, Carroll L.T. Cabot of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass.; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.