

Basic Detail Report

Clare Boothe Luce was the first US female

ambassador for Italy in the 1950's

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Clare Boothe Luce was an American author and politician, and later a US Ambassador. She was the first American woman appointed to a major ambassadorial post abroad. A versatile author, she is best known for her 1936 hit play *The Women*, which had an all-female cast. Her writings extended from drama and screen scenarios to fiction, journalism, and war reportage. She was the wife of Henry Luce, publisher of *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Henry Luce willingly acted as his wife's consort during her years as Ambassador to Italy. As ambassador, Luce addressed the issue of anticommunism and the Italian labor movement and helped to settle the dispute between Italy and what was then Yugoslavia over the United Nations territorial lines in Trieste. Not long afterward, Luce fell seriously ill with arsenic poisoning caused by paint chips falling from the stucco that decorated her bedroom ceiling, and was forced to resign in 1956.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.3 x 20.4 cm (11 7/8 x 8 in.)