

## REAGAN LIBRARY COLLECTIONS - CABOT, MABEL H.: Papers, 1981-1982

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### **CABOT, MABEL H.: Papers, 1981-1982**

**SEE ALSO:** [Brandon, Mabel \(Muffie\): Files, 1981-1984, Office of Social Affairs](#)

### **Biography**

Mabel “Muffie” Wentworth Brandon Cabot (nee Hobart) is an American heiress and socialite. She served as the first Social Secretary for First Lady Nancy Reagan (1981-1984).

A member of an American family descended from passengers on the *Mayflower*, Cabot grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, attended various boarding schools, and graduated from Smith College. Her father, Richard Hobart, was an art collector and an investment banker with Loomis Sayles. Her mother, Janet Elliott Wulsin, was a former explorer who undertook several National Geographic Society-financed expeditions to Tibet and Outer Mongolia.

Cabot's first husband was Eric Wentworth, a correspondent for *The Washington Post*. The couple divorced in 1964. After the divorce, Cabot remained in residence at the pair's Embassy Row home now known as Whitehaven. In 1970 she married British national Henry Brandon, a longtime Washington correspondent for *The Sunday Times* once known as "the most powerful foreign correspondent in the USA". During this period the couple were known for hosting parties that were the highlight of the Washington social scene.

Despite being a lifelong Democrat and a personal friend of the Kennedy family, she was appointed social secretary to fellow Smith College alumna Nancy Reagan in 1981. She served the First Lady until 1985. She went on to sit on the boards of trustees of the Phillips Collection and the Eureka Foundation, and served as president of the Washington office of the public relations firm of Rogers & Cowan.

Cabot's husband, Henry Brandon, died 1993. In 1997 she married Louis Wellington Cabot, chair of the America's Cup Foundation and of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and a scion of the prominent Boston Cabot family.<sup>1</sup>

In 2003, the Aperture Foundation published Muffie Cabot's *Vanished Kingdoms: A Woman Explorer in Tibet, China, and Mongolia, 1921-1925*, an account of her mother's travels in early 20th-century Asia. Her early work on the book was encouraged by long-time friend Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis who read a first draft prior to her death.

Cabot has four children, three from her first marriage and a daughter with Henry Brandon. Cabot's daughter, Ali Wentworth, is an actress, author and producer who appeared on *In Living Color*. She is married to ABC-TV news anchor George Stephanopoulos.

## CONTAINER LIST

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Reception for National Newspaper Association, 03/11/1981  
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[Kennedy Center Honors] (1)-(7)  
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### Box 3

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