Beta Phi Mu, Librarian Oral History Project
(C4071)

Collection Number: C4071

Collection Title: Beta Phi Mu, Librarian Oral History Project

Dates: 1980-1985

Creator: Beta Phi Mu. Psi Chapter (Missouri)

Abstract: The Beta Phi Mu Librarian Oral History Project collection contains the audio, video, and transcripts of interviews with Missouri librarians and members of Beta Phi Mu. Also included are an interview guide, correspondence, the interviewers’ notes, and background materials on the librarians.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet, 25 audio cassettes, 6 video tapes (28 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has relinquished all their copyrights in the collection and authorized their release to the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Beta Phi Mu, Librarian Oral History Project (C4071); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Axie Hindman on behalf of the Beta Phi Mu, Psi Chapter on May 2, 1988 (Accession No. CA4844).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Beta Phi Mu, Librarian Oral History Project can be found in the following collections:

Beta Phi Mu, Psi Chapter Records, (C4370)
Missouri Librarians Oral History Collection, (CA6632)
Historical Note:
The Beta Phi Mu “Famous Librarians of Missouri” Oral History Project was conducted by students in the “Oral History: Principles and Techniques” class under the supervision of Aurora E. Davis at the University of Missouri-Columbia Graduate School of Library and Information Science between 1980 and 1984.

Beta Phi Mu is an international library and information studies honor society founded in 1948. Membership is by invitation of the faculty from an American Library Association accredited professional degree program.

Biographical Notes:

Susanna Alexander (1917-2003) grew up in Missouri and attended Stephens College in Columbia. She worked in reference and technical services at the Stephens College library after World War II (circa 1949). In 1955, she accepted a position at the Columbia Public Library where she worked with the library board on development and funding issues. During this time, the Daniel Boone Regional Library system was established to provide improved library services to rural populations. In 1965, she became the associate state librarian at the Missouri State Library.

Lewis E. Atherton (1905-1989) was born March 1, 1905, in Bosworth, Missouri. He was involved with the Western Historical Manuscript Collection since its founding in 1942 and served as director of the collection twice, from 1951-1952 and then 1957-1962.

Francis J. Flood (1925-2002) was born March 17, 1925, in Belfast, Ireland, and immigrated with his parents to Albany, New York, in 1929. Flood came to the University of Missouri in 1951 as an assistant professor of library science. He later served as department chair and was involved in establishing the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the university.

Esther Gilman (1916-2000) was born February 4, 1916, in Madison, Kansas. Early on in her career, she worked at public libraries in Lawrence and Dunklin Counties in Missouri. In 1957, Gilman became the first director of the Trails Regional Library following the merger of the Johnson County Public Library and the Lafayette County Library.

MaryLou [Marilu] Goodyear began her professional career at the Reorganized Latter-Day Saints (RLDS) Church Archives in Independence, Missouri where she worked on collection development and cataloguing projects. From 1976-1979 she worked as a reference librarian and director of the interlibrary loan department at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) library. She then worked as a reference librarian at Stephens College from 1979-1981. In 1983, she became director of academic services at Auraria Library at the University of Colorado-Denver where she also taught courses in public policy.

George Hartje (1924-2008) grew up in St. Louis and worked in technical services at St. Louis Public Library specializing in cataloging. Hartje published several articles on serial records and later took a position at Pickler Library at Northwest Missouri State University in Kirksville.
Hellmut Lehman-Haupt (1903-1992) was born in Berlin, Germany, and had a lifelong interest in rare books, particularly in 15th Century pen and ink illustrations. Lehman-Haupt emigrated from Germany to New York City in 1929 and later became a professor and rare books curator at Columbia University. In 1969, he accepted a position as professor of bibliography and conservator of rare books at the University of Missouri.

Eunice Mace (1921-1995) was born March 5, 1921. She taught both elementary and high school students and advocated for the creation of school libraries in the rural Missouri schools. Mace later became director of the Waynesville Public School Media Center in Waynesville, Missouri.

Gene Martin (1926-1985) was born in 1926 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. After working in public libraries in Ohio and Indiana, Martin returned to Missouri as director of the Ozark Regional Library and later the Cape Girardeau Public Library. He then served as the director of Daniel Boone Regional Library and was involved in the Mid-Missouri Library Network.

Edward P. Miller (1924- ) was born in Canada, worked in the aeronautical industry, and served as clergy for churches in New York, Oklahoma, and Texas before earning a Ph.D. in library systems management at the University of Oklahoma. He served as dean of the Graduate School of Library and Informational Science at the University of Missouri from 1974-1984.

Harold Smith (1923- ) worked in the reference and acquisitions departments at academic libraries in Colorado and Nebraska before becoming director of Carnegie Library at Park College in Parkville, Missouri. While at Park College, he established the Mid-America Inter-Library Services in 1974 as a cooperative periodical printout service (document delivery). Smith was a leading proponent of library cooperatives and networks.

Jewell Smith was the director of the Springfield/Greene County Public Library in Springfield, Missouri where she was involved in the Southwest Missouri Library Network.

Frances Hurd Stadler (1917-2000) was an archivist at the Missouri Historical Society and was instrumental in founding the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists. Stadler was well known for her “Spotlight on St. Louis” radio program that highlighted county municipalities and their history. She wrote *St. Louis from Laclede to Land Clearance* and articles for *The Potter’s Wheel Magazine*. Prior to her work at the Missouri Historical Society, Stadler worked at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Reference Library and St. Louis Public Library in the reference department.

Virginia Garton Young (1919-2005) was an active leader and advocate for libraries. She worked as both a professional librarian in academic libraries and as a library trustee in public libraries in Missouri. She later served on the Missouri State Library commission and was chairperson of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in Missouri.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged alphabetically by interviewee.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Beta Phi Mu, Oral History Project Records consist of oral history interviews on audio cassettes and video tapes, transcripts of the interviews, and the interviewers’ background materials, notes, and correspondence with the interviewee.
The audio recording for the Esther Gilman interview is unavailable; however, a transcript of the second portion of that interview is included in that folder. George Hartje requested omission of his interview from the project, but correspondence and the interviewer’s background materials on Hartje are available. Video tapes of the Lehmann-Haupt and Young interviews appear to have corresponding audio recordings. Video tapes 1 and 2 correspond with audio cassette 7, video tapes 3 and 4 correspond with audio cassette 8, and video tapes 5 and 6 correspond with audio cassette 21. No transcript is available for the Jewell Smith interview.

Container List:

f. 1  Interview guides, 1985
f. 2  Alexander, Susanna, transcript, 11 March 1980, in Columbia
f. 3-4 Atherton, Lewis, transcript, 22 March 1980, in Columbia; background materials and notes
f. 5-6 Flood, Francis, transcript, 19 March 1980 and 4 April 1980, in Columbia; background materials, notes and correspondence
f. 7  Gilman, Esther, transcript (partial), n.d.
f. 8  Goodyear, MaryLou [Marilu], transcript, n.d., in Columbia
f. 9  Hartje, George, background materials, notes, and correspondence, 1982
f. 12-13 Mace, Eunice, transcript, 17 March 1984, Iberia; background materials and notes
f. 16-18 Miller, Edward

  f. 16  Transcript of interview by Laura Crane, 16 February 1984, in Columbia
  f. 17  Transcript of interview by Jim Brizendine, n.d., in Columbia
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f. 19-21 Smith, Harold

  f. 19  Transcript of interview by Edward Manney, 4 March 1982, in Columbia
  f. 20  Transcript of interview by Beatrice Stanley, 5 March 1982, in Columbia
  f. 21  Background materials and notes
f. 22  Smith, Jewell, background materials and notes, 1984 [no transcript]
f. 23-26 Stadler, Frances Hurd

  f. 23  Transcript of interview by John Neal Hoover, 27 February 1982, in St. Louis
  f. 24  Background materials, notes, and correspondence (Hoover)
  f. 25  Transcript of interview by Sandi Edwards, 6 March 1982, in St. Louis
  f. 26  Background materials, notes, and correspondence (Edwards)
f. 27-28 Young, Virginia, transcript, 20 March 1980, in Columbia; background materials, correspondence, and notes
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a.c. 4-5 Flood, Francis, 4 April 1980, in Columbia
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a.c. 9-10 Mace, Eunice, 17 March 1984, in Iberia [Two copies of a.c. 10]
a.c. 11 Martin, Gene, 11 March 1980, in Columbia
a.c. 12 Martin, Gene, 25 March 1980, in Columbia
a.c. 13 Miller, Edward, 16 February 1984, in Columbia [Two copies of a.c. 13]
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a.c. 17-18 Smith, Jewell, 1984
a.c. 19 Stadler, Frances Hurd, 27 February 1982, in St. Louis [Two copies]
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a.c. 21 Young, Virginia, 20 March 1980, in Columbia
v.t. 1-2 Lehmann-Haupt, Hellmut, 8 March 1980, in Columbia
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