



## Missouri Press Women Records (C3967)

**Collection Number:** C3967

**Collection Title:** Missouri Press Women Records

**Dates:** 1940-1985

**Creator:** Missouri Press Women

**Abstract:** The records of the Missouri Press Women consist of award and scholarship information, by-laws, correspondence, financial and membership records, and minutes.

**Collection Size:** 0.8 cubic feet  
(32 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](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The donor has relinquished all their rights in the records and authorized their release to the public domain.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Missouri Press Women Records* (C3967); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Betty Cook Rottman (Accession No. CA1131) on April 2, 1975, with an addition on November 20, 1980 (Accession No. CA2342). Vera Haworth Eldridge also donated material on October 20, 1981 (Accession No. CA2389), with additions on September 15, 1983 (Accession No. CA2492) and July 19, 1985 (Accession No. CA2567).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Missouri Press Women Records can be found in the following collections:

[Bertha Bless Papers](#), (C1740)

[Missouri Women's Press Club Treasurer's Records](#), (C2660)

[National Federation of Press Women, Inc. Records, \(C3973\)](#)

[National Federation of Press Women Records, \(CA6205\)](#)

**Processed by:** Processed by Dale Askey, Lisa Braschler, Elonda Clay-Harrison, Catherine Craven, Tonie Lindenberger, and Michelle Snyder, April 1997. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on November 16, 2021.

### **Historical Note:**

The Missouri Press Women was founded in 1937 as the Missouri Women's Press Club. The club was organized "to promote the highest ideals of American journalism and to foster improvements through mutual association." The organization is affiliated with the National Federation of Press Women.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged alphabetically by type of material.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The Missouri Press Women Records span the years from 1961 to 1985 with many gaps. The awards and scholarships section documents a number of awards and scholarships sponsored by the organization and other journalism groups. The bylaws for the Missouri Press Women are detailed in a brochure. There are also proposed changes to those bylaws. The correspondence consists of general correspondence as well as material from the Northwest District of the Missouri Press Women and miscellaneous press releases.

The majority of the financial records consist of membership rosters with the amount of dues paid. Financial statements and special financial reports, such as those of a committee chair to the treasurer, complete the section. The membership section contains directories, biographical sketches, and photographs. Noted personalities appearing in the files include Bertha Bless, first president of MPW, and Lola Anderson, board member. The Bertha Bless file contains personal correspondence between Bless and Vera Eldridge, often providing insights into organizational politics and the association's reaction to the women's movement of the 1970s.

The newspaper clippings deal with various members of the Missouri Press Women. The publications include *Lifelines*, the newsletter of the Missouri Press Women and a copy of a cookbook *Make a Splash*. The records of the meetings consist of agendas, minutes, committee reports and programs.

### **Container List:**

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  - f. 1-3 Missouri Press Women Contest, 1961-1982
  - f. 4 Missouri Writer's Guild, 1963-1964
  - f. 5 Youth Writing Contest
  - f. 6 Lola Anderson Scholarship, 1966
  - f. 7 Scholarship Loan Fund, 1977
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- f. 9 Bylaws
- f. 10-11 Correspondence, 1965-1982

- f. 12 Correspondence, Miscellaneous press releases, n.d.
- f. 13 Correspondence, Northwest District, 1976-1985
- f. 14 Financial Records, 1963-1981
- f. 15-18 Membership
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