



## Christy C. Bulkeley Papers (C4082)

**Collection Number:** C4082

**Collection Title:** Christy C. Bulkeley Papers

**Dates:** 1884-2009

**Creator:** Bulkeley, Christy C., 1942-2009

**Abstract:** The papers of Christy C. Bulkeley, one of the first women publishers for a Gannett newspaper, contain correspondence, news clippings, speeches, writings, subject files, photographs, and a variety of miscellaneous professional and personal material.

**Collection Size:** 8.1 cubic feet, 1 oversize volume, 4 video cassettes  
(214 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.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Christy C. Bulkeley Papers* (C4082); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Peter Bulkeley on February 72, 2010 (Accession No. CA6242). An addition was made by Susan Ager on December 22, 2016 (CA6242.01).

**Alternate Forms Available:** The journals in folders 186a-b have been digitized and are available online:

[https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/nwm/search/searchterm/bulkeley%2C%20christy%20c.%20\(christy%20claire\)%2C%201942-2009/field/creato/mode/exact/conn/and/order/title/ad/asc](https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/nwm/search/searchterm/bulkeley%2C%20christy%20c.%20(christy%20claire)%2C%201942-2009/field/creato/mode/exact/conn/and/order/title/ad/asc)

**Processed by:** Processed by Elizabeth Engel on November 7, 2012. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on December 28, 2016 and on August 16, 2021.

**Biographical Note:**

Christy C. Bulkeley was born Patricia-Ann Christy Bulkeley on February 10, 1942, in Galesburg, Illinois, to Gerald C. and Patricia Ann Bulkeley. She graduated from Abingdon Community Unit High School in Illinois in 1960. In 1961, she changed her legal name to Christy Claire Bulkeley. She received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1964.

Bulkeley began her career in journalism as a reporter with the *The Times-Union*, a Gannett newspaper in Rochester, New York. She started as a general assignment reporter and eventually worked up to the government and political beats. In 1974, Gannett promoted Bulkeley to editor and publisher of *The Saratogian* in Saratoga Springs, New York, making her one of Gannett's first women publishers. From 1975 to 1976, Bulkeley served as the president of Women in Communications, Inc. (WICI).

Gannett named Bulkeley the publisher of the *Commercial News* in Danville, Illinois, in 1976. She received a Headliner Award from WICI in 1978. By the time Bulkeley left the *Commercial News* in 1984, she had changed the newspaper's staff from all white to nearly 20 percent minority. She briefly returned to *The Saratogian* as publisher before being named the Vice President of the Gannett Foundation in Washington, D.C., in 1985. While there she created a national grants competition to fund adult literacy programs.

Bulkeley left the Gannett Foundation in 1991 after it became the Freedom Forum. She then attended Wesley Theological Seminary and graduated in 1994 with a Master of Theological Studies. Bulkeley continued to pursue journalistic endeavors after leaving seminary. She worked as a volunteer on WICI's Futures Task Force from 1995 to 1996. She also contributed chapters on women in journalism and the first amendment to several books.

Throughout her journalistic career, Bulkeley was involved in a variety of professional organizations, including the Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS), the Society of Professional Journalists, the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA), and the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE). She also served as a Pulitzer Prize nominating judge.

Bulkeley married Perry David Finks, a former Roman Catholic priest, on September 6, 1975. Finks died on June 10, 2009, and she followed a few months later on September 13, 2009.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following nine series:

Professional  
Writings  
Subject Files  
Correspondence  
Education  
Personal

Family  
Photographs  
Video Cassettes

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

The **Professional** series contains material concerning Bulkeley's work for the Gannett Company and Foundation, as well as professional organizations she was involved in such as the Journalism and Women Symposium and Women in Communications, Inc. (WICI). Also included in the series are papers written about Bulkeley and her time at the Danville *Commercial News* and an oral history interview she gave for the Washington Press Club Foundation. The series is arranged alphabetically.

The **Writings** series contains both professional and personal writings of Bulkeley, including contributions to books and drafts and research for "Shortchanging Democracy: Journalism vs. the Public," an unfinished project Bulkeley worked on after leaving the Gannett Foundation. The series is arranged alphabetically.

The **Subject Files** series contains material collected by Bulkeley concerning a variety of journalism-related issues. Some of the files contain correspondence and some of the material appears to have been collected for her "Shortchanging Democracy" book project. The series is arranged alphabetically.

The **Correspondence** series includes both personal and professional correspondence written to and from Bulkeley, including love letters written by P. David Finks before they were married. Much of the 1990s and 2000s correspondence written by Bulkeley was recovered from computer disks. The fan mail is mostly congratulatory letters written to Bulkeley. The bulk of the series has been arranged chronologically, while the remainder of the series has been arranged alphabetically by topic.

The **Education** series largely consists of material pertaining to Bulkeley's graduate education at Wesley Theological Seminary. The course material includes papers, notes, syllabi, handouts, and assignments. Also included in the series are diplomas and yearbooks. The series has been arranged alphabetically.

The **Personal** series includes biographical information and resumes, certificates and awards, journals, news clippings, and scrapbooks. The journals consist of four volumes titled "Comment" and an additional notebook titled "Comment addendum 1: Windjammer Cruise, Sept. 19-24, 1966." The series includes transcriptions of journal volumes 2 through 4 by Bulkeley's friend, Susan Ager. The miscellaneous material includes a 7-and-a-half-foot long sash covered in buttons and pins collected by Bulkeley. The series has been arranged alphabetically.

The **Family** series includes a small amount of papers and genealogical material concerning the Bulkeley, Pettengill, and Templeton families, as well as a small amount of material concerning Bulkeley's husband, P. David Finks. The series has been arranged alphabetically.

The **Photographs** series has been arranged chronologically and mostly contains photographs of Bulkeley. A small number depict family members.

The **Video Cassettes** series has been arranged chronologically and includes two television appearances made by Bulkeley and her oral history interview with the Washington Press Club Foundation.

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- f. 3 Dr. Donna Allen Memorial Symposium, 2001
- f. 4-13 Gannett Company
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  - f. 6-7 Correspondence, 1974-1985, n.d.
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  - f. 11-12 Speeches by Al Neuharth and others, 1973-1985, n.d.
  - f. 13 "Wire Watch," 1985-1987
- f. 14-21 Gannett Foundation
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  - f. 15 Community Foundation report, 1991
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  - f. 20 Termination package, 1991
  - f. 21 Travel expense reports, 1988-1991
- f. 22-23 "Gender Analyses of Newspaper and Television Journalists," prepared for Christy Bulkeley by Lawrence T. McGill, 2001
- f. 24-28 Journalism and Women Symposium
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  - f. 25 Fall camps, 1991-2004
  - f. 26-27 Newsletters, 1987-2008
  - f. 28 Miscellaneous, 1985-2008
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- f. 30-34 *Media Report to Women*
  - f. 30 Content analysis of status and progress of women, 1995-2001
  - f. 31-34 Newsletters, 1989-2009
- f. 35-36 Oral history interview, Washington Press Club Foundation, 1993-1994
- f. 37 Papers about Christy Bulkeley and Danville *Commercial News*, 1981
- f. 38 Readership Institute, 2001
- f. 39 Speech material, 1976-1985, n.d.
- f. 40-46 Speeches
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  - f. 55 Drafts, notes, etc. 1995
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  - f. 57 Governance Task Force, 1995-1996
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- f. 61 Marketing studies, 1995-1996
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- f. 63 Progress of Women in Communications Committee, 1994-1995
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- f. 65 Values, 1995
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- f. 69-72 Articles, 1960s-1990s
- f. 73-74 Articles, *Danville Commercial News*, 1970s-1980s
- f. 75-76 Bible studies, 1996-2004
- f. 77-81 Book contributions by Bulkeley
  - f. 77 *Leading Journalists Tell What a Free Press Means to America*, 1984
  - f. 78 "Transforming Faith in the First Amendment," Drafts, 1994-1996
  - f. 79 "Whose News? Progress and Status of Women in Newspaper (Mostly) and Television News," Drafts, etc., 1999-2003
  - f. 80 "Women Newspaper Editors of the '80s," Draft, 1982
  - f. 81 "Women Journalists in U.S. News Media," by Christy C. Bulkeley and June O. Nicholson, Drafts, 2003-2004
- f. 82 Bulkeley-Finks newsletters, Drafts, 1995-2002
- f. 83 "Lost Towns of Knox County," 1957
- f. 84-96 "Shortchanging Democracy: Journalism vs. the Public" (unfinished)
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  - f. 86-93 Correspondence
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