



Virginia Irwin Collection (S0084)

Collection Number: S0084

Collection Title: Virginia Irwin Collection

Dates: 1934-1963

Creator: Irwin, Virginia, 1908-1980

Abstract: The Virginia Irwin Collection consists of annotated index cards to newspaper articles Irwin wrote for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as a feature writer.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(19 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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Virginia Irwin Collection* (S0084); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by an anonymous donor on April 6, 1983 (Accession No. SA2528).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock, October 2023

Biographical Note:

Virginia Irwin was born June 29, 1908, in Quincy, Illinois. She joined the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1932 as a file clerk in the reference department but, within a year, was made food editor. In 1934, she became a feature writer. When the newspaper refused to send her to Europe as a war correspondent, she took a year's leave of absence to go to England to do public relations

work for the American Red Cross. Shortly before D-Day in 1944, the *Post-Dispatch* accredited her as a war correspondent, and Irwin covered the Allied war effort in England, France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland.

On April 27, 1945, she and fellow correspondent Andrew Tully of the *Boston Traveller* persuaded their army jeep driver to take them to Berlin. Both wrote eyewitness accounts of their entrance into Berlin before it fell to the Russians. The Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force discredited them for making the unauthorized trip and ordered their return to the United States. The United States Department of Defense reaccredited Irwin and cited her for meritorious service in 1947. On her return from wartime service, the *Post-Dispatch* transferred Irwin to its New York bureau. She returned to St. Louis in 1960 as a writer for the "Everyday" section and retired in 1963 to Webb City, Missouri. She died on August 19, 1980.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically:

Please note that this collection has been minimally processed and has not been heavily indexed.

Scope and Content Note:

The Virginia Irwin Collection consists of annotated index cards from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* Reference Library, documenting cover articles published by or about Virginia Irwin from 1934 to 1963. Most of the cards chronicle her feature articles for the "Everyday" section of the *Post-Dispatch*, ranging from national politics to human interest stories. The cards provide one-to-sentence overviews of the articles, the publishing date, and subject headings. Some index cards have multiple one-to-two-sentence descriptions of articles and contain newspaper clippings of Irwin's stories. The materials in this collection are arranged chronologically.

Container List:

f. 1-19 Article abstracts and newspaper clippings, 1934-1963

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Atomic bomb	10
Beck, Martha Julie Seabrook, 1920 or 1921-1951	14
DeLaney, Sanders	9
Fernandez, Raymond Martinez, 1914-1951	14
Hamilton, Gertrude	9
Irwin, Virginia, 1908-1980	1-16
Johnson, Hartley	9
Journalism--Missouri--Saint Louis--History--20 th century	1-19
Meade, Robert	9
Mengele, Josef, 1911-1979	10

Index Term	Folder
Saint Louis (Mo.)--History	1-19
United States. Army--Medical personnel	10
United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 365 th	10
United States--Social life and customs--1918-1945	1-9
United States--Social life and customs--1945-1970	12-19
Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983	12
Women journalists--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-19
World War, 1939-1945	9
World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations, American	9
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities	10
World War, 1939-1945--Press coverage--United States	1-16