

Collection #
M 0579
OMB 0041

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS (U.S.)
INDIANA CHAPTER
RECORDS, 1945–1996 (BULK 1973–1986)**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	2
Contents	3

Processed by
Charles Latham
8 April 1991
Paul Brockman
7 June 1991
Chris Harter
12 March 1997
Updated 26 January 2005

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 5 oversized manuscript boxes, 1 photograph folder, 1 OVB photograph folder, 1 OVC photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1945-1996; Bulk 1973-1986

PROVENANCE: Frances Dodson Rhome, Indianapolis IN, 5 April 1991; Mrs. Wilbur C. Dollens, Indianapolis IN, 30 May 1991; National Society of Arts & Letters, Indiana Chapter, care of Jane Ford, 5940 Evanston Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220, 10 September 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1991.0318; 1991.0483; 1996.0750

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The National Society of Arts and Letters, an organization to encourage young people in the arts and in literature, was founded in 1945, by Mrs. Jesse W. Nicholson and Mrs. A.E. Neilson in Washington, D.C. An Indiana chapter was founded shortly thereafter by Carrie Abbott Guio in Indianapolis. Though some chapters have male members, the Society nationally is composed mainly of older women.

Chapter activities include regular meetings, competitions, both local and national, and presentation of awards. Regular meetings are held monthly. Members are elected as either performers or patrons in some field of arts and letters. The Indiana Chapter conducts local contests in dance, art, music, literature, and drama. Winners go on to the national competition. Both meetings and awards approach the arts on a rotating basis. Over the years, awards have been given in the following categories: dance, drama, children's drama, music, art, literature, journalism, and sculpture. The Indiana chapter also has a yearly poetry award. Local award winners have included two national winners (1951, 1952) and author Dan Wakefield (1954).

Source: Materials in collection and correspondence with donor.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of the records of the national organization and the Indiana Chapter of the NSAL. Included are correspondence, lists, yearbooks, booklets, and clippings, from the years 1945-1996. It is arranged chronologically within category.

Box 1, folders 1-9 contain material from the national organization: by-laws from 1949, instructions on founding a chapter, quarterly newsletters (*The Record*), 1949-1984; yearbooks and programs, 1950-1996; and an analysis of membership and activities in twenty-five chapters.

Box 1, folders 10-16 and all of Box 2 contain material from the Indiana chapter, including yearbooks and programs, 1950-1983, a list of officers since 1945, board minutes and reports, 1973-1978, chapter correspondence, and newsletters. There is also material on membership, 1973-1984, including correspondence, recommendations, and resignations. Additional items include award winners, the 1975 annual conference in Indianapolis, chapter activities and programs, clippings and related publications, and the chapter's scrapbooks, 1945-1996, and photographs.

CONTENTS

BOX 1: Records, National Indiana Chapter, 1949-1996

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
National -- By-Laws, 1949	Box 1, Folder 1
National -- "Organizing a New Chapter", ca. 1980	Box 1, Folder 2
National -- <i>The Record</i> , 1949-1967	Box 1, Folder 3
National -- <i>The Record</i> , 1975-1984	Box 1, Folder 4
National -- Yearbooks and Programs, 1950-1963	Box 1, Folder 5
National -- Yearbook, 1974-1976	Box 1, Folder 6
National -- Yearbook, 1982-1984	Box 1, Folder 7
National -- Membership Directory, 1994-1996	Box 1, Folder 8
National -- Analysis of Questionnaires, 1983	Box 1, Folder 9
Indiana -- Yearbooks, 1951-1968	Box 1, Folder 10
Indiana -- Yearbooks, 1975-1984	Box 1, Folder 11
Indiana -- Board Minutes Reports, 1973-1978	Box 1, Folder 12
Indiana -- Officers, 1945-1984	Box 1, Folder 13
Indiana -- Past President's File, 1964-1967	Box 1, Folder 14
Indiana -- Reports of Membership Chairman, 1983	Box 1, Folder 15
Indiana -- National Conf., Indianapolis, 1975	Box 1, Folder 16

BOX 2: Records, Indiana Chapter, 1966-1996

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Indiana-- Membership Correspondence, 1973-1980	Box 2, Folder 1
Indiana -- Membership Correspondence, 1980-1981	Box 2, Folder 2

Indiana -- Membership Correspondence, 1982-1984	Box 2, Folder 3
Indiana -- Historian's File, 1983-1984	Box 2, Folder 4
Indiana -- Newsletters, 1979-1983	Box 2, Folder 5
Indiana -- New Members, 1980-1982	Box 2, Folder 6
Indiana -- Refusals and Resignations, 1950s-1980s	Box 2, Folder 7
Indiana -- Deaths, Transfers and Resignations, 1950s-1980s	Box 2, Folder 8
Indiana -- General Correspondence and Printed Items, 1966-1979	Box 2, Folder 9
Indiana -- Award Winners, 1947-1984	Box 2, Folder 10
Indiana -- Drama Competition, 1984	Box 2, Folder 11
Indiana -- Clippings, 1966-1979	Box 2, Folder 12
Indiana -- Clippings, 1970s	Box 2, Folder 13
Indiana -- Clippings Publications, 1984-1986	Box 2, Folder 14

OMB 0041: Indiana, Scrapbooks

1945-1951, 1951-1953	Box 1
1958-1966, 1966-1967	Box 2
1967-1968, 1968-1969	Box 3
NSAL Conference Scrapbook, 1975, Scrapbook, 1982-1985	Box 4
1983-1996	Box 5

Visual Material

Indiana -- Photographs (Banquet, 1952; 2 Group photos, 1957; Drama Contest, 1979; National Meeting, n.d.)	Visual Collection: Photographs, Folder 1
---	--

Oversize Visual Materials:

Visual Collection: OVB
Photographs, Folder 1

Visual Collection: OVC
Photographs, Folder 1