NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS (U.S.)
INDIANA CHAPTER

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

National -- By-Laws, 1949

National -- "Organizing a New Chapter", ca. 1980

National -- The Record, 1949-1967

National -- The Record, 1975-1984

National -- Yearbooks and Programs, 1950-1963

National -- Yearbook, 1974-1976

National -- Yearbook, 1982-1984


National -- Analysis of Questionnaires, 1983

Indiana -- Yearbooks, 1951-1968

Indiana -- Yearbooks, 1975-1984

Indiana -- Board Minutes Reports, 1973-1978

Indiana -- Officers, 1945-1984

Indiana -- Past President's File, 1964-1967

Indiana -- Reports of Membership Chairman, 1983

Indiana -- National Conf., Indianapolis, 1975

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

BOX 2: Records, Indiana Chapter, 1966-1996

CONTENTS

Indiana-- Membership Correspondence, 1973-1980

Indiana -- Membership Correspondence, 1980-1981

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 1

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

Box 2

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