

Collection #
M 1424
BV 5387

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS (U.S.)
INDIANA CHAPTER
RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1966–2002**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 5 manuscript boxes, 1 half-size manuscript box, 1 bound volume Visual Materials: 7 cold storage photograph folders, 1 upright graphics folder, 1 polyester negative envelope
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1966–2002
PROVENANCE:	Mary Jane Meeker, Indianapolis, IN, July 2000; Lisa Eisner Chiles, Indianapolis, IN, November 2009; June 2010
RESTRICTIONS:	Negatives must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff. Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	National Society of Arts and Letter, Indiana Chapter Records M 0579
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2000.0823, 2009.0145, 2009.0249
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The National Society of Arts and Letters was first conceived in 1944 by Mollie Davis Nicholson and Francesca Nielsen as an organization to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to young artists. Mollie Nicholson founded the Chevy Chase Chapter, later called the Washington Chapter. Francesca Nielsen founded a chapter in Chicago. In 1945, these two chapters awarded their first scholarships in the disciplines of piano, voice, and pipe organ. An Indiana chapter was founded that same year by Carrie Abbott Guio in Indianapolis. Though some chapters have male members, the Society is nationally composed mainly of older women. Members are those professionally engaged in the arts or who sponsor the work of artists and membership is by invitation only.

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. The national awards competition is held at the Society's annual meeting every year.

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).

Sources:

Collection materials.

Latham, Charles, Paul Brockman, and Chris Harter. Collection guide. M 0579 National Society of Arts and Letters, Indiana Chapter Records, 1945–1996 (Bulk 1973–1986). Indiana Historical Society. (Guide updated January 2005)

National Society of Arts and Letters. "History." Accessed August 24, 2018. <http://arts-nsal.org/about/history/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection addition contains records and other materials related to the Indiana Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters. Materials in the collection are arranged alphabetically and include materials on both local and national award competitions, annual reports, brochures and event flyers, bylaws, president's materials, chapter reports, correspondence, financial materials, meeting minutes, membership directories and rosters, chapter and national newsletters, national's publication "The Record," and regional meeting materials. Also included in the collection are photos of awards, competitions, and national conferences and a small watercolor of cherry blossoms.

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