

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS (Indiana Chapter) RECORDS, 1945-1996

Collection #

M 579

OMB 41

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Processed by
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8 April 1991
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7 June 1991
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12 March 1997

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes; 5 oversized boxes

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

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1991.0318; 1991.0483; 1996.0750

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

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.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Records, National Indiana Chapter, 1949-1996 **FOLDER CONTENTS**

1 National -- By-Laws, 1949

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

3 National -- *The Record*, 1949-1967

4 National -- *The Record*, 1975-1984

5 National -- Yearbooks and Programs, 1950-1963

6 National -- Yearbook, 1974-1976

- 7 National -- Yearbook, 1982-1984
- 8 National -- Membership Directory, 1994-1996
- 9 National -- Analysis of Questionnaires, 1983
- 10 Indiana -- Yearbooks, 1951-1968
- 11 Indiana -- Yearbooks, 1975-1984
- 12 Indiana -- Board Minutes Reports, 1973-1978
- 13 Indiana -- Officers, 1945-1984
- 14 Indiana -- Past President's File, 1964-1967
- 15 Indiana -- Reports of Membership Chairman, 1983
- 16 Indiana -- National Conf., Indianapolis, 1975

BOX 2: Records, Indiana Chapter, 1966-1996
FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Indiana-- Membership Correspondence, 1973-1980
- 2 Indiana -- Membership Correspondence, 1980-1981
- 3 Indiana -- Membership Correspondence, 1982-1984
- 4 Indiana -- Historian's File, 1983-1984
- 5 Indiana -- Newsletters, 1979-1983
- 6 Indiana -- New Members, 1980-1982
- 7 Indiana -- Refusals and Resignations, 1950s-1980s
- 8 Indiana -- Deaths, Transfers and Resignations, 1950s- 1980s
- 9 Indiana -- General Correspondence and Printed Items, 1966-1979
- 10 Indiana -- Award Winners, 1947-1984
- 11 Indiana -- Drama Competition, 1984
- 12 Indiana -- Clippings, 1966-1979
- 13 Indiana -- Clippings, 1970s
- 14 Indiana -- Clippings Publications, 1984-1986
- 15 (OMB 41) Indiana -- Scrapbooks:
 - Box 1 - 1945-1951, 1951-1953
 - Box 2 - 1958-1966, 1966-1967
 - Box 3 - 1967-1968, 1968-1969
 - Box 4 - NSAL Conference Scrapbook, 1975, Scrapbook, 1982-1985

Box 5 - 1983-1996

16 (VC) Indiana -- Photographs (Banquet, 1952; 2 Group photos, 1957; Drama Contest, 1979; National Meeting, n.d.)

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: National Society of Arts and Letters (U.S.). Indiana Chapter.

SUBJECT ENTRIES: National Society of Arts and Letters (U.S.) Indiana Chapter

National Society of Arts and Letters (U.S.)

Art patronage--United States

Art patronage--Indiana

Music patronage--Indiana

Performing arts--Competitions--Indiana

Arts--Competitions--Indiana

Literature--Competitions--Indiana

Performing arts--United States--Congresses

Arts--United States--Congresses

Literature--Indiana--Congresses

Associations, institutions, etc.--Indiana

Women--Indiana--Societies and clubs

Scrapbooks--Indiana

END