

Guide to Alumnae Affairs Biographical Questionnaire BC09.01

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

3009 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

archives@barnard.edu

URL: <http://archives.barnard.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator:	Barnard College. Office of Alumnae Relations
Source:	Barnard College. Office of Alumnae Relations
Title:	Alumnae Affairs Biographical Questionnaire
ID:	BC09.01
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/2/resources/323
Date [inclusive]:	1956-1957
Physical Description:	18.21 Linear Feet 55 boxes
Physical Location:	This collection is located in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection consists of biographical questionnaires from the Office of Alumnae Affairs.

Preferred Citation

Alumnae Affairs Biographical Questionnaire, 1956-1957; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

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Historical Background

In March 1956, Barnard College sent out a biographical questionnaire to over 10,000 alumnae. The purpose of the questionnaire was to learn more about the alumnae: where and how were they living; did their liberal arts degree prepare them well for life; and more importantly, was their education worthwhile. According to President McIntosh's cover letter, the survey was "planned primarily to supply data for a new edition of the Alumnae Directory." She explained further that it would help Barnard faculty evaluate the College's curriculum and plan for the

future. The data would also be used to supply information to foundations and corporations which provide the College financial support.

The College received 5,757 responses, and all class years (1893-1956) were represented. The survey started from the alumnae's time at Barnard: choice of majors, extracurricular activities, elected offices, scholarships and loans, and housing arrangements. Alumnae were asked whether they pursued advanced studies after graduation; about their marital status: age at marriage and number of husbands, their education and occupation; about their children: number, gender, age and education; participation in Barnard alumnae activities; leisure time activities and community involvement; employment history; household information; and professional accomplishments, such as performances, exhibitions or publications.

The last questions asked alumnae on how well Barnard prepared them for life; if they were entering college today, would they choose Barnard again; and what should Barnard's goals be for the next twenty-five years. The alumnae took advantage of the blank pages provided to write candidly about their college experience. According to the results reported in the July 1957 Alumnae Magazine article, some alumnae did not think the College prepared them adequately for jobs. Others questioned the College's interpretation of the woman's role in society or the ability to combine both career and home lives. While some alumnae would have chosen a different college experience, most indicated that a college education was worthwhile.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection contains completed questionnaires with the original cover letter removed. The original questionnaire also included a final page with salary and income questions. This last page of confidential information was removed and destroyed after the statistical summaries were compiled.

The numerical codes used for translating the handwritten, check-a-box answers into numbers for the machine-readable cards were printed along the right margin of the pages. The forms also bear the pencil marks made by the staff of the Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University as they compiled the data. Some of the punch cards can be found with the questionnaires and with the final statistical reports. There are two folders relating to the processing of the surveys. In one, there are two copies of the Bureau's original reports (Copy #5 and #15), along with a photocopy of the article from the Alumnae Magazine. The other folder has two completed but "unprocessed" questionnaires. These are printed on letter-sized sheets of paper (not the smaller, printed and stapled brochure) and some of the questions in this version are phrased slightly differently.

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Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series.

Series 1, Questionnaires by Graduation Year

Series 2, Questionnaires by Last Name (did not graduate)

Series 3, Unprocessed Forms and Reports from Bureau of Applied Social Research

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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New York, NY 10027

archives@barnard.edu

URL: <http://archives.barnard.edu/>

Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Publication Rights

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Reproduction Restrictions

Photocopies or scans may be made for research purposes.

Acquisition Information

Transferred from the Office of Alumnae Affairs.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Processing History

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios, Intern. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in April 2011.

This finding aid was updated by Hilary Price in June, 2015.

Descriptive Rules Used: Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard. Encoding: Machine readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002.

Finding aid written in English.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Statistics
- Questionnaires
- Biographical sources
- Barnard College -- Alumni and alumnae
- Barnard College. Office of Alumnae Relations

Collection Inventory

Questionnaires by Graduation Year

Physical Description: 17 Linear Feet

General Physical Description note: ; 50 boxes

Language of the Material: English.

Title/Description	Instances
1893-1904 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 box	box 1
1904-1907	box 2

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<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1907-1920	box 3
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1910-1912	box 4
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1912-1914	box 5
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1915-1917	box 6-7
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 boxes	
1917-1919	box 8
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1919-1920	box 9
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1920-1921	box 10
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1921-1923	box 11
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1923-1924	box 12
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1924-1925	box 13
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1925-1926	box 14
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1926-1927	box 15
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1927-1928	box 16
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1928-1929	box 17
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1929-1930	box 18
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1930-1931	box 19
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1931-1932	box 20

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<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1932-1933	box 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1933-1934	box 22
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1934-1935	box 23
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1935-1936	box 24
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1936-1937	box 25
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1937-1938	box 26
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1938-1939	box 27
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1939	box 28
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1940	box 29
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1940-1941	box 30
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1941-1942	box 31
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1942-1943	box 32
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1943-1944	box 33
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1944-1945	box 34
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1945	box 35
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1946	box 36
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1946-1947	box 37

<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1947-1948	box 38
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1948	box 39
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1948-1949	box 40
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1949	box 41
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1950	box 42
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1950-1951	box 43
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1951-1952	box 44
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1952	box 45
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1952-1953	box 46
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1953-1954	box 47
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1954	box 48
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1954-1955	box 49
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
1955-1956	box 50
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	

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Questionnaires by Last Name (did not graduate)

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

General Physical Description note: ; 4 boxes

Language of the Material: English.

Title/Description

Instances

A-G	box 51
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
G-M	box 52
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
M-S	box 53
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	
S-Z	box 54
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 box	

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**Unprocessed Forms and Reports from
the Bureau of Applied Social Research,
1956-1957**

box 55

Physical Description: 0.21 Linear Feet

General Physical Description note: ; 1 box

Language of the Material: English.

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