

Marjory Belisch Hall papers15170678

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Hall, Marjory Belisch
Title:	Marjory Belisch Hall papers
ID:	15170678
ID:	MS#2030
Date [inclusive]:	1920s-2021
Date [bulk]:	1920s-1965
Physical Description:	2.5 Linear Feet 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize flat box
Language of the Material:	Collection is in English.
Abstract:	The Marjory Belisch Hall papers are a small collection of material documenting the life and career of journalist, homesteader, and clinical psychologist Marjory Belisch Hall (1905-1967), who studied gender roles in children during the early 1960s. The bulk of the collection is composed of clippings of newspaper articles written by Hall between 1928 and 1931.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Marjory Belisch Hall Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Marjory Belisch Hall (1905-1967) was a tabloid journalist and clinical psychologist who studied gender roles in children during the early 1960s.

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Biographical / Historical

Marjory Belisch was born in Austin, Texas, on January 5, 1905. Her parents, Lily and Karl Belisch, were affluent members of Austin's Jewish community. Her maternal grandfather, Bernard Melasky, was a Confederate veteran and cofounder of Austin's first synagogue. Marjory completed high school at age 14 and attended the University of Pennsylvania for one year before returning to Austin, where she graduated from the University of Texas. She married Irving Hirschfeld, a distant relative by marriage, in 1924, and moved to the Upper East Side of New York City. They had three children, Eleanor, Richard, and Marjory.

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Biographical / Historical

Marjory worked as a newspaper and magazine journalist at Hearst newspapers from 1928 until 1931. Her work, much of it sensationalized accounts of tragedies—as she explained in her 1931 story "A Sob Sister Speaks Out"—appeared in outlets including the *Brooklyn Eagle* and the *Literary Digest*. She retired from journalism at her husband's request following a 1932 affair with her fellow journalist Carroll Rheinstrom. A young Dorothy Kilgallen was hired as her replacement.

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Biographical / Historical

In the late 1930s, she converted to Christianity and collaborated with her family members to conceal their Jewish heritage, including changing the family last name from Hirschfeld to Hall. She even altered her 1920 European travel diaries to remove Yiddish terminology.

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Biographical / Historical

Marjory's youngest daughter, also named Marjory and called "Marny," was born in 1944. Irving died of a heart attack in 1945. Marjory moved to a farm in upstate New York, near her sister.

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Biographical / Historical

Marjory entered graduate school at Claremont Graduate University in the late 1950s, where she studied psychology. Marjory Belisch Hall completed a Master of Arts degree in 1960 and a PhD in clinical psychology in 1965. She worked briefly as a clinical psychologist with institutionalized children before her death from cancer in 1967.

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Scope and Contents

The Marjory Belisch Hall papers are a small collection of material documenting the life and career of journalist, homesteader, and clinical psychologist Marjory Belisch Hall (1905-1967). The collection includes personal journals written in 1920 during a European tour, when Hall was 15 years old. (Some choice entries include descriptions of the Folies Bergere, World War I trenches, and a dinner party at the mansion belonging to Lord Leverhulme, founder of Lever Brothers.) The bulk of the collection is composed of clippings of newspaper articles written by Hall between 1928 and 1931. Their form and subject matter ranges from interviews with notables of the day, including Eddie Cantor and Alfred Adler; science pieces ("Men's vs. Women's Brains" and "Bald Birds Luckier Than Men"); and sensationalized accounts of tragedy colloquially known as "sob sister" pieces. Newspapers at the time typically inflated staff numbers by having reporters use different bylines. As a result, sometimes her articles appear with her name; sometimes they appear under pseudonyms. These materials are almost all located in Box 2.

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Scope and Contents

Following the end of Hall's newspaper career and the death of her husband in 1945, Hall became a homesteader in upstate New York; a narrative detailing her experience is located in Box 1, Folder 4. Box 1 also contains some family correspondence and photographs, including material related to Carroll Rheinstrom, with whom she had an extramarital affair in 1932. Hall's Master of arts thesis and doctoral dissertation in clinical psychology, "Masculinity of Boys As Related to Family Variables," is also located in Box 1. Finally, there is an obituary of Hall and a biographical sketch by her daughter, Marny Hall.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in a single series.

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Administrative Information

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Conditions Governing Access

Original news clippings from the late 1920s and early 1930s in Box 2, Folders 1-6 are extremely fragile. Researchers should use full color photocopies in Box 2, Folders 7-8.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Marny Hall, 2021.

Processing Information

Collection material was placed in acid free folders and archival storage containers and arranged following its order upon arrival at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. This organization seems to have been created by Marny Hall, daughter of Marjory Belisch Hall and donor of the collection. Because the collection's newspaper clippings were in very poor condition, Marny Hall also had them reproduced in full color on acid free paper prior to the collection's arrival at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. These copies are located in Box 2, Folders 7 and 8.

Conditions Governing Use

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts/University Archivist, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

[Richard Hall papers](#): Personal papers of Marjory Belisch Hall's son, Richard Hall. At the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University.

Related Materials

[Marny Hall papers](#): Professional papers of Marjory Belisch Hall's daughter, Marny Hall, a lesbian psychotherapist, researcher and writer. In the Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History, Smith College.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Journalism -- United States
- Gender identity
- Women journalists
- Clinical psychologists
- Christian converts from Judaism
- Home economics, Rural
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Europe -- Description and travel
- Doctoral Dissertations
- Masters theses
- Photographic prints
- Correspondence
- Hall, Marny

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Flash drives, 2021	box 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
1 containing images of Marjory Belisch Hall newspaper articles, one containing Zoom interview of Marjory Belisch Hall's daughter, Marny Hall, describing her mother's life.		
Letters, circa 1960s	box 1	folder 2
Self-analysis, 1962	box 1	folder 3
Articles by Marjory Belisch Hall, 1920s-1960s	box 1	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Print magazine, academic article, and typescript		
Photographs, 1910s-1960s	box 1	folder 5
Carroll Rheinstrom, 1930-1945, circa 1990s	box 1	folder 6
Travel journals, 1920	box 1	folder 7

Bound Master of Arts thesis, "Sex-Role Preference Among Children of Upper and Lower Social Class", 1960	box 1	folder 8
Bound PhD dissertation, "Masculinity of Boys As Related to Family Variables", 1966	box 1	folder 9
Marjory Belisch Hall obituary, 1967 November 30	box 1	folder 10
Biography of Marjory Belisch Hirschfeld Hall written by Marny Hall, 2021 February 17	box 1	folder 11
Original article clippings, 1920s-1930s <u>Physical Description:</u> 6 folders <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Extremely fragile. Use photocopies in folders 7-8.	box 2	folder 1-6
Photocopied article clippings, 1920s-1930s <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders Scope and Contents Full color photocopies of articles in folders 1-6.	box 2	folder 7-8
