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## International Association of Women Ministers records5628275

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Description is written in: English.

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	International Association of Women Ministers
<b>Title:</b>	International Association of Women Ministers records
<b>ID:</b>	5628275
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1920 -- 2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11.5 linear feet 11.5 linear feet; 25 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The International Association of Women Ministers was organized (originally named the International Association of Women Preachers) on November 21, 1919 at the YWCA in St. Louis, Missouri, to develop an enabling fellowship among women ministers; promote equal ecclesiastical rights for women; urge women to qualify for increased efficiency in Christian service; and encourage consecrated and capable women to take up the work of Christian ministry. The collection consists of the records kept by the governing board of the IAWM including membership records, board minutes, financial records, photographs, subject files, and periodicals including the organization's newsletter, The Woman's Pulpit.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, AWTS: International Association of Women Ministers records, 1920-2003, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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"I want to get in touch with some women who are preaching, like myself. I know so few, and there must be others." With these words a Kansas woman organized "The American Association of Women Preachers" in 1919. The organization of the now named International Association

of Women Preachers took place on November 21, 1919 at the YWCA in St. Louis, Missouri. The founding officers were: Rev. Dr. Madeline Southard, President; Rev. Lida M. Herrick, Recording Secretary; Rev. Ella L. Kroft, Treasurer; and Rev. Mary Sibbitt, Auditor. Southard was a Methodist minister from Kansas. From its founding, the Association has had a four-fold purpose: first, to develop an enabling fellowship among women ministers; second, to promote equal ecclesiastical rights for women; third, to urge women to qualify for increased efficiency in Christian service; and fourth, to encourage consecrated and capable women to take up the work of ministry. Active membership is limited to "Christian women who are officially licensed, ordained, or authorized as clergy; also women who meet the above requirements, but whose denominations do not authorize women to serve as ministers." There are also other strata of membership, including fraternal sustaining, student, retired, and life members. In 1923 William Jennings Bryan became the first fraternal member. Article IV of their constitution states that "the regular meetings of the Association shall be an Assembly held annually or at the call of the executive board." The first assembly was held in Evanston, Illinois in 1920. The Assembly has met every year since its inception. It has met outside the United States five times, including the 2001 Assembly, which met in Aotearoa, New Zealand. In 1930 the Association became an American operation, but forty years later it reclaimed its international identity becoming the International Association of Women Ministers. Over 20% of its current membership resides outside of the United States.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains records kept by the executive board of the IAWM, including correspondence, executive board meeting minutes, a copy of the constitution, and organizational by-laws; records related to the annual gatherings held by the IAWM and its predecessor, American Association of Women Ministers (AAWM), including minutes of the assembly, correspondence, brochures, participant packets, budgetary information and planning material; records of the Pittsburgh Regional Association, including financial records, membership lists, board minutes, newsletters, clippings, and correspondence; records kept by the IAWM secretary concerning the membership of the organization, including membership directories, prayer calendars, and individual and institutional membership records; photographs documenting the activities of the IAWM, including photos from annual assemblies; print, bound and microfilmed versions of *The Women's Pulpit*; and recordings of sermons given by IAWM members.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in 7 series: 1. Executive Board records, 1920-2002; 2. Annual Assembly, 1922-2002; 3. Regional Chapters, 1989-2001; 4. Membership records, 1945-2001; 5. Photographs, 1972-1999; 6. The Woman's Pulpit, 1922-2003; 7. Audiovisual materials, 1987-1995.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2022-05-19

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

### Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu) for more information.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The International Association of Women Ministers donated its records to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 2000. Material was added to the collection in 2001.

## Processing Information

When the Burke Library acquired the records of the International Association of Women Ministers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order of the material. Old materials were flattened. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Leslie Reyman in 2001, revised by Elizabeth Russey in 2004, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

## Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- International Association of Women Ministers -- : Archives

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## Burke Library record group:

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Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship (AWTS)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1: Executive Board records, 1920 -- 2002

Physical Description: 4.75 linear feet 4.75 linear feet; 10 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains records kept by the executive board of the IAWM, including correspondence, executive board meeting minutes, a copy of the constitution, and organizational by-laws. The correspondence in this series is primarily between the executive officers of the IAWM. Also included are planning notes for assembly preparation, subject files, financial records, and reports from the IAWM historian.

Title/Description	Instances
Executive Board records, 1920 -- 2001	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
AAWM Articles of Incorporation and name change [1933-1964] Constitution and bylaws [1934-1967] Constitution and bylaws [1971-1995] Committee on the ecclesiastical status of women [1968-1971] (2f) Correspondence Log [1997-1998] Althouse, LaVonne [1992-2001 and n.d.] (2f) Arledge-Benko, Patricia [1992-2001 and n.d.] Dougherty, Mary Alice [1970-1974] (3f) Foster, Hazel [1920-1967]	
Correspondence, 1963 -- 2001	box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Foster, Hazel [1969-1989] (cont'd) Heffren, Hazel [1988-1989] Henderson, Jean [1993-1995] James, Beverly [1991-1992] Knapp, Helen June [1970-1974 and n.d.] (2f) LaRue, Mary Ellen [1971] Lyman, Mary [1963-1969] Mansfield, Marietta [1968-1971] Onesti, Karen L. [1991-2001 and n.d.] Ruach, Susan [1973-1976 and n.d.] (3f) Ryan, Mary [1968-1979 and undated] (2f) Sykes, Betty [1991-1992, 2000 and undated] Thames, Pauline [1970-1971]	
Correspondence, 1972 -- 1996	box 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
spondence (cont'd) Thames, Pauline [19272-1974] (cont'd) (7f) Way, Peggy Ann [1970] Williams, Jeanne [1984] Zigmund, Helen [1975-1996] (5f)	
Executive Board Minutes, 1970 -- 2002	box 4
Executive Board records, 1968 -- 2000	box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Historian of the IAWM - Records [1983 -1998] (2f) Membership Pin [1968-1974] Profiles of Women in Ministry Project [1991] (3f) Subject files Congress of Career Women Leaders [1973] Commission on	

Women in Ministry [1976] Equal Partners in Faith  
[1999-2000] European Women's Synod [1984-1996]  
Feminist Expo [1996] (2f) Feminist Expo [2000] (2f)

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Subject files, 1961 -- 2001

box 6

**Scope and Contents**

Rev. Vashti Murphy McKenzie [2000-2001]  
Newspaper clippings [1961-1999 and undated]  
(2f) New Zealand ordained Anglican women  
[1990] Pittsburgh '95 and Beyond (human rights  
conference) [1995] Priscilla's Letter [1999] "Priscilla  
Papers" [1988-2000] (5f)

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Subject files, 1971 -- 2000

box 7

**Scope and Contents**

Promise Keepers [1995-1999] Sexual harassment  
[1991-1993 and n.d.] Society for the Ministry of  
Women in the Church [1971] Southern Baptist  
Convention [1998-2000] Women's ordination  
[1984-2000 and n.d.] (2f) Women's suffrage  
(Celebrate '98) [1998]

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Treasurer of the IAWM, 1967 -- 2000

box 8

**Scope and Contents**

Annual report [1969-2000] Records [1967-1999] (23f)

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Treasurer of the IAWM record books, 1960 -- 1975

box 9

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Treasurer of the IAWM, 1975 -- 1988

box 10

**Scope and Contents**

Record books [1975-1988] (8f) Tax report [1976]

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## Series 2: Annual Assembly, 1922 -- 2002

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.



**Scope and Contents**

This series contains records related to the annual gatherings held by the IAWM and its predecessor, American Association of Women Ministers (AAWM). Assemblies were held at a different location every year, including some international destinations in the 1990s. Women who attended these gatherings participated in bible studies, a business meeting, workshops, and social events. Materials include minutes of the assembly, correspondence, brochures, participant packets, budgetary information and planning material. Some years only have a copy of the assembly program.

**Title/Description****Instances**

Annual Assembly, 1922 -- 1992

box 1

**Scope and Contents**

AAWM Assembly [1922] AAWM Assembly [1924]  
AAWM Assembly [1966-1967] AAWM Assembly  
[1969-1970] IAWM Assembly [1971-1992]

Annual Assembly, 1993 -- 2002

box 2

**Scope and Contents**

IAWM Assembly [1993-2002]

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**Series 3: Regional Chapters, 1989 -- 2001**

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains the records of the Pittsburgh Regional Association, including financial records, membership lists, board minutes, newsletters, clippings, and correspondence. IAWM, though a national association, was an organization designed to support the efforts of women in ministry and was comprised of smaller, regional chapters. These local chapters were governed by elected boards, collected dues, and held monthly activities such as luncheons and retreats.

**Title/Description****Instances**

Pittsburgh Regional Association, 1989 -- 2001

box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Clipping file [2001] Correspondence [1994-1999]  
Executive Board minutes [1991-2001] Financial

records [1989-1998] Membership lists [1997-1999]  
Newsletters [1992-2000]

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## Series 4: Membership records, 1945 -- 2001

Physical Description: 3 linear feet 3 linear feet; 6 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

### Arrangement

This series is arranged largely alphabetically.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains records kept by the IAWM secretary concerning the membership of the organization, including membership directories, prayer calendars, and individual and institutional membership records. The bulk of files record the payment of dues and a brief biography for each member, including the activities and accomplishments of members as noted in newspaper clippings, bulletins, photographs, and obituaries.

Title/Description	Instances
Membership directories and individual records, 1958 -- 1999	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Membership directory [1967, 1970] Membership directory [1971-1973] Membership directory [1977-1989] Membership directory [1990-1999] Prayer calendar [1992-1999] Records – Individuals A [1958-1984] (2f) Ackor [1969-1978] Aird [1965-1977] Arbouin [1965-1971] B [1959-1982] (4f) Bast [1968-1977]	
Individual records, 1955 -- 1985	box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
C [1958-1985] (2f) Cook [1971-1975] D [1955-1981] (3f) Demarest [1970-1979] E [1957-1985] F [1963-1985] Foster [n.d.] (2f)	
Individual records, 1949 -- 1985	box 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Foster [n.d.] G [1957-1985] (2f) H [1949-1985] (3f) I [1976-1984] J [1954-1985] (2f) Jones [1971-1977] K	

[1961-1985] Knapp, Olive [1971] Knapp, Helen June  
[1967-1979] (2f)

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Individual records, 1956 -- 1985 box 4

**Scope and Contents**

L [1961-1985] M [1958-1985] (2f) Maeda  
[1973-1975] Morley [1966-1971] Murray  
[1965-1975] Mc [1957-1982] N [1967-1984] O  
[1967-1981] P [1956-2000] (2f) Q [1984]

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Individual records, 1955 -- 2001 box 5

**Scope and Contents**

R [1959-1985] (2f) Reynolds [1964-1972] Rippengal  
[2001] Romans [1970-1985] Ryan [1967-1999]  
S [1955-1985] (3f) Schutze [1972-1976] Stickney  
[1965-1978] T [1956-1999] (2f)

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Individual and institution records, 1945 -- 1999 box 6

**Scope and Contents**

Records – Individuals U [1978] V [1945-1980] W  
[1957-1985] (3f) Y [1963-1999] Z [1970-1981]  
Records – Institutions [1975-1982]

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## Series 5: Photographs, 1972 -- 1999

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains photographs documenting the activities of the IAWM, including photos from annual assemblies. Most photos include identifying information on the back of the photograph; some photos are unidentified.

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Title/Description	Instances
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Photographs, 1972 -- 1999	box 1
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**Scope and Contents**

IAWM Assembly (Colorado Springs) [1972] IAWM  
Assembly (Augusta, ME) [1976] IAWM Assembly

(Hartford, CT) [1980] IAWM Assembly (Vancouver)  
 [1983] IAWM Assembly (Indianapolis) [1984] IAWM  
 Assembly (Philadelphia) [1992] IAWM Assembly  
 (Stony Point, NY) [1993] IAWM Assembly (Memphis)  
 [1994] IAWM Assembly (Saskatoon) [1997] IAWM  
 Assembly (Pittsburgh) [1999] Miscellaneous [n.d.]

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## Series 6: The Woman's Pulpit, 1922 -- 2003

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

### Arrangement

This series is arranged by format, then by date.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains print, bound and microfilmed versions of The Woman's Pulpit; some issues are missing. The publication was published quarterly since 1922 under the same name, despite the name changes of the organization itself. The journal was first issued after the first Assembly to give an account of it to the membership, with information concerning the organization's history, programs, and activities, as well as news of member activities and accomplishments, poems, sermons, book reviews, and articles concerning women's ordination.

Title/Description	Instances
The Woman's Pulpit, 1922 -- 1969	box 1
The Woman's Pulpit, 1970 -- 2003	box 2
The Woman's Pulpit (bound), 1922 -- 1961	box 3
The Woman's Pulpit (bound and microfilm), 1922 -- 1990	box 4

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## Series 7: Audiovisual materials, 1987 -- 1995

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 1 box

Physical Description: 3 audiocassettes 3 audiocassettes

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS) 1 videocassette

Conditions Governing Access:

### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by format and then date.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains recordings of sermons given by IAWM members and a Billy Graham evangelizing class. The video is a presentation given by Rev. Hilda Frank Seaters at the annual IAWM meetings held in Portland, OR (1994) and Memphis, TN (1995).

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

Audio and videotapes, 1987 -- 1995

box 1

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS) 1 videocassette

Physical Description: 3 audiocassettes 3 audiocassettes

**Scope and Contents**

Audio Tapes: Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Schaff Lectures [1987] Women's Support Network sermons [1987] Billy Graham School of Evangelism [1990]; Videotapes: IAWM Assembly meetings (Hilda Frank-Seaters report) [1994-1995]

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