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## Margaret B. Young papers 9503889

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Young, Margaret B
<b>Title:</b>	Margaret B. Young papers
<b>ID:</b>	9503889
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1622
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1921-2010
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1965-2000
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12.26 linear feet 6 record cartons and 6 flat boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Margaret B. Young Papers; Box and Folder (if known); Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## History

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Margaret Buckner Young was born in Campbellsville, Kentucky on March 29, 1921. After receiving her primary and secondary education in Aurora, Illinois, Young went to Kentucky State Industrial College where she graduated with majors in English and French and met Whitney M. Young, Jr. The couple married in 1944 before Whitney left for Europe to serve with the army in World War II. During Whitney's absence, Margaret Young continued her education, earning a master's degree in educational psychology at the University of Minnesota in 1946. Whitney joined her in Minnesota, beginning his work with the National Urban League there. In 1953 the Youngs moved to Atlanta where Whitney served as the Dean of the Atlanta School of Social Work. Margaret was a professor of educational psychology at Spelman College. During the family's time in Atlanta, Margaret was frustrated by her inability to actively protest the dramatic segregation there without endangering her young children.

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## History

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In 1961, the Youngs moved to New Rochelle, New York, and Whitney took on the role of Executive Director at the National Urban League. As her husband gained prominence, Margaret Young retained a more private role concentrating on raising their two daughters. She began a career as a writer, publishing articles including "A Negro Mother Speaks of her Challenging Role in a Changing World" for *Parents' Magazine* (1964) and the Public Affairs Pamphlet "How to Bring Up Your Child Without Prejudice" (1965). She also published several children's books including *The First Book of American Negroes* (1966), and *The Picture Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1967). While Margaret Young's writings echo her husband's goals of racial equality, Young used her writing and her work with school children to make an independent mark on education practices in the United States regarding race, racism, and African American history.

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## History

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Whitney Young drowned off the coast of Lagos, Nigeria in 1971. His death brought about abrupt changes in Margaret Young's personal and professional life. As Whitney Young's widow, Margaret Young dedicated herself to activism for racial equality by taking on numerous professional positions. She continued her husband's efforts to improve relations between the United States and Africa, traveling to Nigeria alone in 1974 and again with President Jimmy Carter on a state visit in 1978. She served in the United Nations as a member of the United States delegation to the 28th General Assembly in Yugoslavia in 1974. There she presented a paper on "The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of National, Ethnic and Other Minorities." Young also was a member of a panel for the United Nations Association of the United States of America considering United States relations with China in 1978 and 1979. In the 1980s she served lengthy terms on the boards of directors at several corporations including Philip Morris and New York Life. Her work in these positions reflected her ongoing dedication to achieving racial equality, but she also gained experience and recognition beyond her input on racial issues.

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## History

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Margaret Young was also deeply involved in the commemoration of her husband as the head of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Foundation and through her involvement with the National Urban League. She also worked with many other institutions that sought to preserve the memory of Whitney Young including Columbia University, Kentucky State University, the Clark Atlanta School of Social Work, and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

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## History

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In 1990, Margaret Young moved to Denver, Colorado and dissolved the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Foundation. In her retirement she continued to write stories for children that featured African American characters. She died at age eighty-eight on December 5, 2009 of complications from cancer.

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## Summary

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This collection is made up of Margaret Young's professional papers, writings, personal and professional correspondence, biographical material, and photographs. A significant portion of the material, including a number of photographs, documents the career and commemoration of Whitney M. Young, Jr. There are several oversized items including photo albums, awards, and scrapbooks that relate to Margaret Young's professional activities and travels. The files span Margaret Young's lifetime, but most of the material documents her activities after Whitney Young's death in 1971.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is arranged into 7 series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2012-07-11 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on 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.

### Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--of Marcia Young Cantarella and Lauren Young Casteel. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1/6/2011.

### **Processing Information**

Papers processed Mary Freeman, Columbia University GSAS 06/--/2012.

### **Processing Information**

Finding aid written Mary Freeman, Columbia University GSAS 07/10/2012.

### **Accrual**

No addition material expected

### **Accruals**

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

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Materials**

[Whitney M. Young, Jr. Papers.](#) Columbia University Libraries.

[National Urban League Records.](#) Columbia University Libraries.

[Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Foundation Records.](#) Columbia University Libraries.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- African Americans -- History
- Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations
- Charities

- Children's literature
- Civil rights
- Public welfare -- Societies, etc
- Social problems
- Social service -- Societies, etc
- Sociologists
- Sociology, Urban -- Societies, etc
- United States -- Social conditions
- Carter, Jimmy, 1924-
- Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973
- Kennedy, Robert F., 1925-1968
- Young, Margaret B
- Young, Whitney M. (Whitney Moore), 1921-1971
- National Urban League
- Philip Morris USA
- United Nations
- Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Library of Social Work

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Whitney M. Young, Jr. Files, 1921-2009

Title/Description	Instances
Personal papers, 1921-1971	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes birth certificate, military discharge documents, death certificate, press clippings.	
Professional papers	
White House events, 1964-1968	box 1
General, 1965-1970	box 1
Writings, speeches, and publications, 1963-2003	box 1
Lagos, Nigeria, 1971	box 1
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Library-Lagos, Nigeria, 1974	box 1
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Inc.- Dissolution, 1991-1992	box 1
National Urban League, 1980-2010	box 1
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	
National Urban League Conference tapes, 2004	box 1



Physical Description: 3 folders

Clark Atlanta Graduate School of Social Work, 1971-2000	box 2
Kentucky State University, 1977-1998	box 2
Lincoln Foundation, 1979-1992	box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes some correspondence with Margaret Young.	
United States Postal Service, 1981-1998	box 2
Columbia University, 1982-1998	box 2
The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania	
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Professorship, 1996	box 2
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Conference, 1999	box 2
Dennis Dickerson-Whitney M. Young, Jr. Biography	
Correspondence with Margaret Young regarding biography, 1992-1999	box 2
Chapters 10 & 11 with Margaret Young annotations, 1994	box 2
Whitney M. Young, Jr. commemoration-General, 1971-2009	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	
Pins	
Nixon/Agnew Inaugural, ca. 1969	box 7
Kennedy for Equality, ca. 1960	box 7
Drawing of Chair	box 7
United States Postal Service-Whitney M. Young, Jr. Black Heritage stamp first day of issue covers, 1981	box 7
Records	
<i>The Stars Salute Dr. Martin Luther King</i> , ca. 1968	box 7
<i>In Memoriam Whitney Moore Young, Jr. 1921-1971</i> , 1971	box 7

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## Series II: Professional Activities, 1964-1996

Title/Description	Instances
White House events, 1964-1990	box 2
Visit to Lagos, Nigeria, 1974	box 2
United Nations	

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Seminar on Human Rights-Yugoslavia & Eastern Europe,, 1973-1975 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 2
National Policy Panel to Study U.S.-China Relations-East Asia travel, 1978-1979 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 3
Jimmy Carter-State visit to Brazil, Liberia, and Nigeria, 1978 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 3
Philip Morris-Board of directors, 1972-1996 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Mainly regarding Berlin trip.	box 3
New York Life Insurance Company-Board of directors, 1980-1995	box 3

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### Series III: Writings and Publications, 1953-1997

Title/Description	Instances
"A Negro Mother Speaks of her Challenging Role in a Changing World"- <i>Parents' Magazine</i> , 1964	box 3
"How to Raise a Child Without Prejudice"-Public Affairs Pamphlet, 1965-1977	box 3
The First Book of American Negroes & The Picture Life of Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966-1967 (cover only), 1966-1967	box 3
Franklin Watts, Inc. Publishers, 1966-1984 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes press clippings, royalties, contracts.	box 3
Writings-General, ca. 1953-1997 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes articles, speeches, poetry, essays, and notes.	box 3
Institute of Children's Literature-Correspondence course, 1982-1995 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 4
Notes for a children's story, ca. 1990s	box 4

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<b>Series IV: Correspondence, 1945-2009</b>	
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Letters from students	
Books & classroom visits, 1967-1979	box 4
Condolence, 1971	box 4
Professional	
Regarding books & articles, 1964-1971	box 4
United Nations-Mainly regarding trip to Yugoslavia, 1974-1979	box 4
United States Military Academy Board of Visitors, 1978-1981	box 4
Dissolution of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Foundation, 1990-1992	box 4
General, 1958-2004	box 4
<u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes professional activity at New York Life, Philip Morris, Spelman College.	
Personal	
White House and big names, 1945-2001	box 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes a photocopied letter written by Whitney Young during World War II.	
General, 1959-2005	box 5
<u>Physical Description</u> : 6 folders	
Greeting cards, ca. 1970-2009	box 5
Birthday greeting, 1972	box 9
<u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized; signed by Nelson Rockefeller, Spiro Agnew, James L. Buckley, and Terence Cardinal Cooke.	
Letter from Lyndon B. Johnson, 1972	box 9
<u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	

**Scope and Contents**

Concerns Civil Rights Symposium.

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Letter from Jackie Kennedy Onassis, 1968 box 9  
Physical Description: Oversized.

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## Series V: Personal Papers, 1921-2010

Title/Description	Instances
General, 1921-1993 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes birth certificates, transcripts, passports.	box 5
Biographical information	
Columbia University oral history, 1975-1984 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders <b>Scope and Contents</b> Three copies, including a copy of the original transcript with annotations.	box 5
<i>Who's Who</i> biographies and transcript of an interview with Chris Wilkins, 1989-1997	box 5
Address books & planners, 1994-2000 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 5
Newspaper clippings and articles, 1974-2003 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes writings by and about family members.	box 5
Obituaries & commemoration, 2009-2010	box 5
Scrapbook, 1962-1965 <b>Scope and Contents</b> Mainly items related to Lyndon B. Johnson's inauguration.	box 9

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## Series VI: Photographs, 1930s-2003

**Subseries VI.1: Margaret Young Photographs, 1930s-2003**

Title/Description	Instances
Family and friends, ca. 1930s-2000 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes some childhood photos.	
Headshots, ca. 1974-1991	box 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes some related correspondence.	
Lagos, Nigeria, 1974	box 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes newspaper clippings.	
United Nations	
Poland & Yugoslavia, 1974	box 6
China album, 1979	box 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes newspaper clippings.	
Professional activities and events, ca. 1963-2003	box 10
<u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	
Souvenir photograph plate-Rio de Janeiro, 1978	box 10
Philip Morris Nigeria album, 1974	box 10
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Album and folder of loose photos.	
Headshots and professional activities, ca. 1970s	box 10
<u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	
China trip, ca. 1978-1979	box 10
<u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	
Nigeria, Ghana, and Spain album, 1974	box 11
Philip Morris Board of Directors Meeting album-Berlin, 1993	box 11

**Subseries VI.2: Whitney M. Young, Jr. Photographs, 1943-1996**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Family and friends, ca. 1943-1971	box 6
Headshots, ca. 1960s	box 6
Professional activities and events, ca. 1962-1971	box 6
Lagos, Nigeria, 1971	box 6
Commemoration, ca. 1974-1998	box 6
The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania album-Whitney M. Young, Jr. Professorship,, 1996	box 6
Professional activities and events-White House and Lyndon B. Johnson, 1967 <u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	box 8
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes attached correspondence.	
Photo with children, ca. 1960-1971 <u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	box 8
Headshots, ca. 1960-1971 <u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	box 8
Photo with Pope Paul VI, 1970 <u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	box 8
Photo with Martin Luther King, Jr., ca. 1963 <u>Physical Description</u> : Oversized.	box 8

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### **Series VII: Awards and Recognition, 1971-1993**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
New York Service Award-John V. Lindsay, 1971	box 6
Whitney M. Young, Jr.-Family of Man Award, 1971	box 7
Urban League of Metropolitan Denver-McKinley Harris Distinguished Warrior Award, 2000	box 9
Letter of recognition from the YWCA Salute to Women in Business, 1977	box 9
Letter of recognition upon retirement from the Board of Directors of New York Life, 1992	box 9
Letter of recognition from the Board of Directors of Altria Group, Inc, 2010	box 9

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Letter of recognition from the Board of Directors of New York Life, 2009	box 9
Los Angeles Urban League medal, 1991	box 10
Lady Bird Johnson-Recognition for Lyndon B. Johnson Civil Rights Symposium, 1972	box 12
Philip Morris Minority Advisory Committee Plaque, 1993	box 12
United States Military Academy Board of Visitors Plaque, ca. 1978-1981	box 12
<i>Dollars &amp; Sense</i> Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women Plaque	box 12
Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Drum Major Memorial Award-New Rochelle Community Action Agency, 1979	box 12

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