

C Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, Records, 1948-1991
3934 1.3 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

Records of the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri (known before 1972 as the Speech Association of Missouri), a professional organization of speech and theatre educators that promotes education and public awareness of speech and theatre issues in Missouri. The records consist of correspondence, minutes, publications, membership and financial records, constitutions, annual meeting files, photographs, slides, awards, and miscellaneous records. See also Collection # 2961, Speech Association of Missouri, Papers, 1942-1964.

DONOR INFORMATION

The records of the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri were donated to the University of Missouri by the association through various officers on 17 June 1983 (Accession No. 4514), 2 September 1983 (Accession No. 4524), 13 March 1991 (Accession No. 5030), and 20 November 1991 (Accession No. 5116).

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, originally known as the Speech Association of Missouri, was established by state high school teachers in November 1932 to promote high academic standards in speech education throughout Missouri.

Initially the association promoted competency in speech education through annual debate competitions for state high school students. These were often centered on controversial issues. In 1948, for example, the debate concerned "admitting Negroes to state colleges and universities in Missouri." The association continues to organize annual debates as well as other activities, including speech and drama workshops, annual meetings and banquets, and dramatic performances.

In its early years, the association numbered less than 50 members; by 1982 it included more than 4,000 members. In 1970 it began publishing the *Missouri Journal of Speech*, now known as the *Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Journal*.

A brief history of the association was published in 1982 by its official historian, Donna Ross. It is entitled *Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, 1932-1982*.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri document the association's efforts to enhance speech and theatre education in Missouri's high schools, to promote a greater public awareness of speech and theatre education throughout the state, and to maintain its role as the principal professional organization of high school-level speech educators in Missouri. The records are arranged chronologically within twelve series, with subseries as noted.

SERIES LIST

- A. Constitution
- B. Board of Governors
- C. Correspondence
- D. Publications
 - Organization History, 1932-1982
 - Missouri Speech Journal* and *Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Journal*
 - Newsletters
 - Speech Festival Manuals
 - Miscellaneous Brochures
- E. Meetings
- F. Membership
- G. Finances
- H. Photographs and Slides
- I. Committees
- J. Questionnaires
- K. Information Clearinghouse
- L. Miscellaneous

The **Constitution** series includes the original 1948 version of the association's constitution and versions incorporating amendments adopted in 1960 and 1970. It also contains various papers pertaining to constitutional revisions.

The **Board of Governors** series includes board agendas and minutes of meetings, notes written by various board members in preparation for meetings, and undated material pertaining to board meetings.

The **Correspondence** series contains correspondence between STAM presidents and the board of governors, between STAM and its members, and with other organizations. The series covers the years from 1972 on but includes some correspondence from the 1960s.

The **Publications** series is divided into five subseries: a pamphlet published by the association recounting its history from 1932 to 1982; copies of the *Missouri Speech Journal* and, as it is now known, *Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Journal*; copies of the association's newsletters; annual Speech Festival programs; and miscellaneous brochures.

The **Meetings** series contains records pertaining to the association's annual meetings. It includes convention programs, convention announcement letters, convention schedules, registration forms, and committee reports.

The **Membership** series contains annual general membership lists, officer lists, and a membership address list.

The **Finances** series includes treasury reports; budget proposals; statements of income, expenses, and assets, and financial reports to the board of governors. The series covers the years 1973 on but there are major gaps.

The **Photographs and Slides** series contains black-and-white and color photographs and negatives, and color slides as well as memos, lists, and letters that help identify the subjects of the photographs. The series includes images of convention attendants and activities, the 1984 Outstanding Teacher Award ceremony, and dramatic performances.

The **Committees** series contains reports, planning documents, proposals, and membership

lists pertaining to various permanent and ad-hoc committees. Most of the material is undated.

The **Questionnaire** series contains completed and returned questionnaires sent by STAM to state high schools in 1989 concerning membership participation and experiences.

The **Information Clearinghouse** series includes STAM informational brochures and educational materials for STAM members.

The **Miscellaneous** series contains an undated document that appears to be a plan for a speech conference and various award proposals and nomination forms.

FOLDER LIST

Series A. Constitution

f. A1 1948, 1960, 1970

Series B. Board of Governors

Board minutes and agendas

f. B1 1961-1965
 f. B2 1971-1976
 f. B3 1977-1980
 f. B4 1981-1983
 f. B5 1984-1988
 f. B6 1989-1991, n.d.

Series C. Correspondence

f. C1 1960s
 f. C2 1972-1973
 f. C3 1974
 f. C4 1975
 f. C5 1976-1978
 f. C6 1979-1982
 f. C7 1983
 f. C8 1987-1988
 f. C9 1989
 f. C10 1990-1991

Series D. Publications

f. D1 Organization History: *Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, 1932-1982*

Journals

f. D2 1971, 1976-1981
 f. D3 1982-1988, and 1991

Newsletters

f. D4 1961-1963
f. D5 1970
f. D6 1972-1974
f. D7 1975-1976
f. D8 1977-1981
f. D9 1982-1986
f. D10 1987-1990

Speech festival manuals

f. D11 1972-1978
f. D12 1978-1983
f. D13 1984-1991

Brochures

f. D14

Series E. Meetings

f. E1 1961-1975
f. E2 1978-1980
f. E3 1981-1984
f. E4 1985-1987
f. E5 1988
f. E6 1989-1991, n.d.

Series F. Membership

f. F1 1971-1975
f. F2 1976-1983
f. F3 1985-1987
f. F4 1988-1989
f. F5 1989-1991, n.d.

Series G. Finances

f. G1 1973-1991

Series H. Photographs and Slides

Photographs of meetings and members

f. H1

f. H2

Miscellaneous slides

f. H3

STAM slide show and 1984 Outstanding Teacher Award

f. H4

f. H5

Series I. Committees

f. I1 1973, 1990, n.d.

Series J. Questionnaire

f. J1 1989

Series K. Information Clearinghouse

f. K1 1990-1991

Series L. Miscellaneous

f. L1 Conference proposal, n.d.

f. L2 Awards, n.d.

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Image
Ashcroft, John (1942-)	H2	y
Educational associations--Missouri	1	
Missouri Speech and Theatre Journal	D3	
Missouri Speech Journal	D2, D3	
Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Journal	D3	
Speech--Study and teaching		
Theater--Missouri	1	