

C Cairns, Mary Margaret (1915-2003), Papers, 1901-2004
3996 1.4 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

The Mary Margaret Cairns Papers document the life of a Kansas City area woman who worked at Sears Department Store and traveled across North America and Europe. The papers consist mostly of photographs and slides relating to her travels, as well as travel notes, postcards, and brochures from places she visited. The collection also contains materials concerning the family burial plots at the Huntsville Cemetery in Huntsville, Missouri and relating to her retirement party from Sears.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Marian Goodding on 20 April 2005 (Accession No. 6072).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mary Margaret Cairns was born February 13, 1915 to Hugh Simpson Cairns and Jane Ann Rutherford. In 1931, she graduated from Paseo High School in Kansas City, Missouri. She went on to attend the Junior College of Kansas City (now part of Metropolitan Community Colleges-Kansas City) and graduated in 1933 with an A.A. She worked at Sears in the Kansas City area for 43 years before retiring in 1979. Cairns enjoyed traveling, visiting various locales in North American and Europe, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park, the Canadian Rockies, England, and Scotland. Cairns died in 2003.

For more information on the Rutherford and Cairns families, consult the Lela Jean Howat Rutherford Papers (WUNP6082).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Mary Margaret Cairns Papers consist of photographs, slides, and travel notes from her various trips, along with information about the family burial plots at the Huntsville Cemetery in Huntsville, Missouri, retirement party materials, and correspondence. The papers are arranged into three series: **Family**, **Personal**, and **Travel**.

The **Family** series has been arranged alphabetically and contains correspondence, genealogical materials, photographs, newspaper clippings, and materials concerning the Rutherford and Cairns family burial plots. The cemetery materials include photographs of headstones and correspondence relating to the upkeep of the burial plots. The series also contains photographs from trips to England taken by two of Cairns' relatives, Mary Elizabeth Crawford Minor and Phoebe Rutherford Gilmour. The miscellaneous folder contains birth and death certificates, the marriage license of Hugh Simpson Cairns and Jane Ann Rutherford, obituaries, and the account of the execution of the estate of William Watson, an English relative of Mary Margaret Cairns.

The **Personal** series contains certificates, diplomas, photographs, slides, and retirement party materials, including a guest book. The certificates and diplomas folder include Sunday school certificates and commencement programs. The slides and photographs feature various Kansas City area parks and landmarks, including Swope Park, Loose Park, the Liberty Memorial, and the Kansas City Art Gallery. Also included are photographs of Christmas celebrations and a variety of flowers. The miscellaneous folder contains church directories and an aerial view of John Knox Village, a retirement community in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where Cairns lived. The series has been arranged alphabetically.

The **Travel** series is the bulk of the collection and contains slides, photographs, travel notes, and brochures from various places that Cairns visited from 1938 to 1992. She made a number of trips to the Canadian Rockies, Yellowstone National Park, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado throughout the years, as well as England and Scotland. The trips from 1938 to 1960 were taken with her parents. Some of the slides from these years have been made into photographs; both slide and corresponding photograph have been retained when they exist. Most of the trips in the later years were group trips taken through various travel agencies. Also included in the series is a list of travel destinations visited by Cairns, not all of which are documented within the collection. The series has been arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

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- f. 1 Coats of arms, n.d.
- f. 2 Correspondence, 1914-2003
- f. 3 Genealogical information, n.d.
- f. 4 Huntsville Cemetery, Huntsville, Missouri, 1916-2004
- f. 5 Newspaper clippings, 1915-1953, n.d.
- f. 6-7 Family photographs, 1915-1983, n.d.
- f. 8 Travel photographs, 1979-1983
- f. 9 Miscellaneous, 1901-2000

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- f. 11 Photographs, 1934-1988, n.d.
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- f. 13-14 Slides, 1953-1961
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- f. 25 1952, Niagara Falls, Canada
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- f. 28 1955, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado
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