



Dorothy Brockhoff Papers (S1221)

Collection Number: S1221

Collection Title: Dorothy Brockhoff Papers

Dates: 1901-1998

Creator: Brockhoff, Dorothy

Abstract: The Dorothy Brockhoff Papers consist of correspondence, speeches, magazine and newspaper articles, and photographs, pertaining to Brockhoff's career in journalism and public relations in the St. Louis area from 1948 to the 1990s. Known affectionately among her colleagues as "Scoop" for her enterprising reporting, Brockhoff wrote for a variety of publications, including the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, the *Washington University Magazine*, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Brockhoff's articles for the *Washington University Magazine* garnered national attention, resulting in the National Women's Press Association awarding her first prize for best interview story in 1974. Other materials of interest include speeches Brockhoff ghostwrote for Monsanto Chemical Company executives, as well as photographs of Brockhoff and her relatives. The papers date from 1901 to 1996.

Collection Size: .25 cubic feet
(15 folders, 2 volumes, 4 items)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research, but stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Dorothy Brockhoff Papers* (S1221); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Janet Kelley-Harmon on March 21, 2018 (Accession No. 18-07).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock, March 23, 2018

Biographical Note:

Dorothy Brockhoff was born on February 25, 1924, in St. Louis, Missouri, to George Conrad Brockhoff and Estelle Bell. Brockhoff studied political science at Washington University from 1946 to 1948, where she discovered her passion for journalism, serving as the editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper, *Student Life*. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1946, Brockhoff subsequently earned a Master of Arts in political science at Columbia University in 1948. After graduating from Columbia University, Brockhoff returned to the St. Louis region, where she spent the remainder of her life in public relations and writing freelance articles for the numerous St. Louis area publications, including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Affectionately known as “Scoop” among her peers for her enterprising journalism, Brockhoff launched her professional career in late 1948, writing for the Women’s section of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, and then as a research assistant (1952-1956) to Hubert Kay’s for his unfinished book about the history of the Monsanto Chemical Company. Monsanto subsequently hired Brockhoff in 1956, to ghostwrite speeches for the company’s executives, including Monsanto president Charles Allen Thomas. Dissatisfied with ghostwriting, Brockhoff left Monsanto in 1958 and spent the next several years working as a researcher at the Missouri Historical Society (1958-1960) and writing freelance articles for the *Kansas City Star* and *St. Louis Magazine*.

In 1966, the Office of Information at Washington University hired Brockhoff to write feature articles for the *Washington University Magazine*, as well as assist with news releases and all media related to the University. Brockhoff’s tenure at Washington University would prove to be the most professionally fulfilling years of her career: her articles for the magazine gained national attention, leading the National Federation of Press Women to award her first place for best interview feature for her story on Washington University political science professor, Lucius Barker in 1974. The National Federation of Press Women also awarded her first-place prizes for best interview and science stories. By 1981, she held the title of Senior Editor of Information.

Shortly after leaving Washington University in 1983, established Scoop Ink, an editorial and publications services firm, primarily writing health and wellness articles on cancer pain management, asthma, and the AIDS epidemic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *Anesthesiology News*. She also worked briefly for the St. Louis Reparatory Theater and the Saint Louis Zoo’s newsletter, *ZUDUS*. Her work on *ZUDUS* resulted in the National Media Conference and Public Relations Forum awarding the Saint Louis Zoo a Mercury Award for best newsletter in 1989. Dorothy Brockhoff died on August 22, 2016, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The Dorothy Brockhoff Papers have been arranged into the following four series:

- Biographical Materials
- Articles and Writings
- Correspondence
- Oversize

Scope and Content Note:

Biographical Materials

This series contains correspondence, student transcripts, photographs, and a deposition, relating to Dorothy Brockhoff's journalism awards, her career at Washington University, and her years as a student at Washington and Columbia Universities. Items of interest include correspondence received from Washington University officials, including John H. Danforth, congratulating her for winning the National Press Women's first prize award for best interview for her *Washington University Magazine* article on Lucius Barker. Included in this series is a deposition given on behalf of Dorothea Wolfgram on January 31, 1985, in *Dorothea Wolfgram vs. Washington University*, as well as childhood and professional photographs of Brockhoff. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Articles and Writings

This series consists of magazine and newspaper articles written for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, *Monsanto Chemical Company*, *Washington University Magazine*, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* about the death of Ann Signor, Josephine Johnson, a Pulitzer-prize winning author and alumni of Washington University, Webster Groves, Missouri, and Scott Joplin. Materials of interest include speeches Brockhoff ghostwrote for Monsanto Chemical Company executives on fashions in fibers and encouraging students to pursue college degrees in the sciences. Absent from this series are Brockhoff's work for the St. Louis Repertory Theater Company, the St. Louis Zoo, and the *Kansas City Star*. This series is arranged chronologically.

Correspondence

This series contains correspondence sent and received by Dorothy Brockhoff regarding her work at the Office of Information at Washington University, including letters of congratulations from her supervisors for her articles in *Washington University Magazine* on Charles Leven of the Department of Economics and the University's College Career Scholarship. Other topics include Senator Stuart Symington's attempts to find work for her as a researcher at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. In some of her correspondence, Brockhoff expresses concerns over her mental health while searching for journalism jobs in the early 1960s. Also included in this series is a letter Brockhoff wrote to Haley Barbour, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), in 1996, requesting that the RNC cease sending her pro-Republican materials, and announcing her support of President William Jefferson Clinton. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Oversize

This series consists of scrapbooks containing photographs of Brockhoff and news clippings featuring her news articles for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. The photograph scrapbook, titled 'Ode to Dorothy Brockhoff,' features photographs of Dorothy Brockhoff throughout her life. The individuals featured in the photographs include Brockhoff's parents, George Conrad and Estelle Brockhoff; her grandparents, Henry and Magdalene Brockhoff; her classmates from Alpha Chi Omega; and images from Janet and Clarence Harmon's wedding on January 31, 1987. The scrapbook contains several notations, written by Janet Kelley-Harmon, Dorothy Brockhoff's

close friend and former co-worker at Washington University. Other items include two oversize photographs of Dorothy Brockhoff.

Container List:

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	f. 2	Deposition of Dorothy A. Brockhoff on Behalf of Dorothea Wolfgram (Wolfgram vs. Washington University), January 31, 1985
	f. 3	Family History and High School and University Transcripts, 1942-2018
	f. 4	Photographs, 1920s-1940s
f. 5-11		Articles and Writings
	f. 5	Magazine and Newspaper Articles, January 31, 1949-September 12, 1992
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	f. 7	Monsanto Speeches, January 1956-April 1958
	f. 8	Proposed Articles, June 8, 1967-March 1989
	f. 9	Washington University and University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1974-1991
	f. 10	Anesthesiology News, August 28, 1990-February 20, 1991
f. 11-12		Correspondence
	f. 11	Accolades and Business, May 25, 1967-September 2, 1990
	f. 12	Accolades and Protest, December 20, 1960-November 18, 1996
		Oversize
Box 002	f. 13	'Ode to Dorothy Brockhoff', Scrapbook, circa 1920s-1990s
	f. 14	Newspaper Clippings Scrapbook, July 17, 1948-February 22, 1949
Oversize Cabinet 1	f. 15	Photographs of Dorothy Brockhoff, no date

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