Margaret A. Hickey--lawyer, journalist, business woman, public servant, and volunteer--was active in business and government affairs from the 1930s into the 1970s. An interest in women and their economic and social problems proved the motivating force behind much of her work. As a lawyer, she became conscious of the unique legal problems facing women; as a government advisor, she studied various facets of women's role in society; and as the founder and director of a secretarial school, she helped train educated women for careers in the labor force.

Although an advocate of equal rights for women, Margaret Hickey based her feminism on the belief that women were agreeably unique and different from men. She denounced feminists who denigrated the role of women in the home and the role of volunteer in society, for MH believed that women had a very powerful role to play as mother and wife. Moreover, MH called upon women to "drop the old cold war of the sexes" and enlist the support of men to help them overcome the tragic inequities in employment, education, and politics. Until true equality was reached, she felt it was not wise for a woman to "throw away the advantages of her sex."

Margaret A. Hickey was born on March 14, 1902, in Kansas City, Missouri, the second daughter of Elizabeth Wynne and Charles L. Hickey. Elizabeth Wynne, prior to marriage, attended Liberty Women's College, a finishing school for young women, in Kansas City. She then moved to Paris to study music. While in Paris, Elizabeth Wynne met Charles Hickey, twenty years her senior, and at the age of 30, married him. Charles Hickey, of Irish descent, had attended the University of Kansas where he acquired a classical education. Coming from a family of some means, he entered the Foreign Service and served at posts in Europe and the Ottoman Empire until World War I. The whole family accompanied him during his tours of duty.

The Hickeys' first daughter died in infancy, leaving Margaret the oldest of four children. Margaret Hickey recalled her childhood as a happy one. Her parents were devoted to each other and openly expressed their affections. Discipline, what little there was of it, was meted out by a governess, not her parents. From her father, Margaret acquired a love of reading. She learned to read at an early age and remained an avid reader all her life. From her mother came the notion of helping others, a belief characteristic of much of what Margaret Hickey did.

In 1914, the Hickeys moved back to the United States and settled in Kansas City, where Margaret Hickey attended Mt. Marty School. Prior to this time, Margaret Hickey did not attend a regular school. Mrs. Hickey herself tutored all of her children at home. Once back in
the States, Elizabeth Hickey took up the suffrage cause and interested her daughter in making placards, marching in parades, and campaigning for the vote. Her service in the suffrage movement heightened MH's interest in other social reforms and during the 1920s she worked for the peace movement.

Upon graduation, Margaret Hickey enrolled in college but dropped out in 1921 to take a job with the local newspaper, the Kansas City Star. As a reporter, she came into contact with many prominent business women involved in the National Federation of Business and Professional Women. This organization appealed to Margaret Hickey and she managed to convince these women that she was qualified to become a member.

One woman in particular, Judge Florence Allen, so impressed Margaret Hickey that she decided to go to law school. In 1923 Margaret Hickey entered the University of Kansas City Law School (now part of the University of Missouri). She made such good grades that in her sophomore year she pledged Kappa Beta Phi, the honorary legal sorority for women.

In law school, Margaret Hickey encountered some instances of sex discrimination. Although qualifying for the debating team in her first year, she was discredited because of her sex. The next year, however, after some vigorous campaigning, Margaret Hickey was selected for the team. Sexual discrimination was also evident in the classroom. One professor of criminal law requested that she not attend class on the days that he lectured on rape cases, as it was improper to discuss the subject in front of a "nice young woman."

In 1928 Margaret Hickey graduated from law school and passed her bar exams for the state of Missouri. Although several good firms in Kansas City and St. Louis offered her jobs, she declined them to go into private practice. That year Margaret Hickey moved to St. Louis to open her own office. The Depression soon turned her practice into poverty law as potential clients turned into non-paying customers. During the Depression Margaret Hickey was able to maintain her practice because her father's will provided her with a small trust fund, the income from which paid her living expenses for the next six years.

After moving to St. Louis, Margaret Hickey maintained her contacts with the Business and Professional Women's Club and began to do volunteer work for the YWCA and the Red Cross. She also joined a citizen's group concerned with the problems of the unemployed, particularly unemployed women. In 1931, Margaret Hickey convinced the YWCA to let her organize a class to help retrain unemployed women with previous business experience or a college education. Her program offered to these women counseling and guidance, some retraining and skill development, and placement advice. Margaret Hickey ran this program until 1933 when the federal government became interested in the program and took it over for the YWCA.

On the advice of some friends and businessmen, Margaret Hickey decided to open up her own secretarial school. She borrowed some money from her mother and established the Margaret Hickey School for Secretaries at Delmar and Skinker, St. Louis, in 1933. When the business proved a success, Margaret Hickey gave up her law career to devote full time to the school.

That same year Margaret Hickey met her future husband, Joseph T. Strubinger, during a Red
Cross Fund drive. He was widower, fourteen years older than she, and the senior partner of a law firm. He greatly impressed Margaret Hickey because he was one of the few men she had met genuinely interested in her as a person and her many activities. On October 20, 1935, they were married.

Among her many activities during the 1930s, Margaret Hickey served on an advisory committee to the Social Security Board and just prior to World War II, she worked on a committee considering women's problems for the Office of Emergency Planning, headed by General Knutson and Sidney Hillman. In this capacity she met Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, who later recommended Margaret Hickey for the Women's Advisory Committee of the War Manpower Commission in 1942. The WAC was set up by the War Manpower Commission to study the problems involved in recruiting five million women into the wartime economy. From 1942-1945, Margaret Hickey acted as chairman of this committee. At the same time she was an observer on the National Management Labor Committee. National prominence contributed to her election as president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women. She served in this capacity from 1944-1946 and thereafter remained honorary president.

As national president of BPW, and at the invitation of the State Department, Margaret Hickey attended the United Nations San Francisco Conference in 1945. She worked with other prominent women on the human rights section of the U.N. Charter. The following year, Margaret Hickey joined the staff of the Ladies Home Journal as editor of Public Affairs. To fulfill her duties as editor, Margaret Hickey maintained an apartment in Philadelphia and commuted between there and her home in St. Louis. In 1953 she received the Ben Franklin award for distinguished public service journalism.

By 1950, Margaret Hickey had gained such national prominence that she was in great demand as a public lecturer, both nationally and internationally. For the next 25 years, she maintained a vigorous lecture schedule. In 1962, she was appointed by John F. Kennedy to the President's Commission on the Status of Women, officially inducting Margaret Hickey into the women's movement. As a result of this appointment, she contracted with the publishers of Seventeen Magazine to write a book on careers for young women. However, the manuscript, completed around 1965, was never published.

Though in her seventies, Margaret Hickey continued as Public Affairs Editor for Ladies Home Journal, and her involvement in government and world affairs never waned. From 1974 to 1976 she served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid for the U.S. Department of State. She also continued an active role in the Red Cross at both a national and international level, attending conventions and global conferences, giving speeches, and serving on advisory committees.

In 1982, Margaret Hickey celebrated her 80th birthday. As an active octogenarian, she became an advocate for careers for the elderly. Also, scholars began to see her and utilize her as a unique resource and subject for those studying women's history. Still highly interested in education, she became involved with the Henry Luce Foundation's Scholar Selection Committee, as well as the Women's Studies Advisory Council of the University of Arizona in Tucson.
On December 7, 1994, Margaret Hickey died in Tucson, Arizona, where she had lived for the last twenty years of her life.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This addenda to the Margaret Hickey Papers is a bequest, the last of Margaret Hickey's donations to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection. It documents especially the last twenty years of her life from 1970 to the late 1980s when her health finally limited her activities to Tucson, Arizona, where she made her home.

The collection contains articles, manuscripts, reports, and speeches by Margaret Hickey; travel journals; daily thoughts, ideas, and notes; notebooks; correspondence; biographies and resumes; awards; one oral history transcript; news and article clippings; publications, newsletters, and brochures; conference agendas, information, and reports; passports; photographs; framed awards, degrees, and other artifacts. Some much older materials include a 1917 Ladies Home Journal article about the Red Cross and two undated photographs from before World War II.

This addenda especially chronicles her years with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (U.S. State Department), the League of Red Cross Societies, and her later years with the American Red Cross. Also contains materials on her last government committee appointment, the National Committee on Careers for Older Americans. Other major career highlights, especially Hickey School and Ladies Home Journal, are not as well represented as in the main collection and subsequent addendas. Much of this collection is reflective--Margaret Hickey celebrated several career anniversaries and became herself an historical subject--and thus gives valuable overview material for those researching the impact and influence of her life's work.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1: BIOGRAPHICAL FILES, 1935-1989
Contains resumes, biographies, awards, and other such documents which chronicle Hickey's life in total. Also contains general and personal correspondence and documents her first donation of papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection. Sub-topics and folders are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 2: BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS, 1947-1990
Documents the later years of Hickey School and events sponsored by Ladies Home Journal. Contains correspondence, brochures, newsclickings, and some older materials from both careers, including copies of Margaret Hickey's Public Affairs articles from 1947-1961. Also contains her unpublished manuscript, the Seventeen Career Book for Young Women, from the mid-1960s. Sub-topics are arranged chronologically; folders within are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 3: GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS, 1945-1986
Contains writings, reports, and conference notes by MH, as well as correspondence, newsletters, publications, and conference information. Documents Margaret Hickey's later
government appointments to national advisory committees and councils, especially the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid for the Department of State. Also contains materials from her last committee appointment, the National Committee on Careers for Older Americans. These appointments resulted from her established reputation and activity in many volunteer organizations. Sub-topics are arranged chronologically; folders within are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 4: VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS, 1947-1990
Mostly documents Margaret Hickey's later career with the Red Cross, both national and international, from the 1970s to the mid-1980s. Her chairmanship of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Social Development for the League of Red Cross Societies, her attendance at International Conferences, and her appointment to the EEO Advisory Committee for the American Red Cross are especially represented. Activities in many other organizations, such as the Henry Luce Scholar Selection Committee, are included as well.

Sub-topics are arranged according to significance in Margaret Hickey's life and this addenda; folders within are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 5: TRAVEL, 1961-1980
Contains daily journals of trips to Africa and China, as well as an article by Margaret Hickey about her African safari with Carol Perkins. Sub-topics are arranged chronologically; folders within are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 6: RESEARCH FILES, 1941-1990
Contains article and newscippings, papers and speeches by others, reports, publications, newsletters, manuscripts, conference agendas, and other such materials collected by Margaret Hickey for use in her articles, speeches, and work. Topics reflect the interests and work of Margaret Hickey as documented in Series 1-5 and Series 7. Items are organized by subject; sub-topics and folders are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 7: SPEECHES, 1939-1984
Speeches may be in draft form or with notes and revision as Margaret Hickey often reused speeches. Speeches organized by subject. Sub-topics are arranged alphabetically; folders within are arranged chronologically.

SERIES 8: NOTEBOOKS & DIARIES
Contains working notes for speeches, conferences, and travel, as well as thoughts, prayers, address and appointment books. Items are mostly undated and arranged according to physical classification: passports, unbound notes and ideas, and notebooks.

SERIES 9: PHOTOGRAPHS, C. 1920S-1985 (564.1 - .271)
Photographs are grouped by subject. Sub-topics are arranged alphabetically.

SERIES 10: ARTIFACTS, 1944-1983
Contains Margaret Hickey's awards, honors, and mementos. Items are arranged chronologically.

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1. Awards, 1959-1989
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17. Pamphlets and Brochures, 1968-1972

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22. Public Affairs Articles, February 1951-December 1955
23. Public Affairs Articles, January 1956-November 1961

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29. Correspondence, 1962-1963
30. Correspondence, 1964
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32. Manuscript--Complete, c. 1965
33. Manuscript--Complete, c. 1965
34. Manuscript--Complete, c. 1965
35. Manuscript--Complete, c. 1965

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37. "Woman in the Postwar," by MH, 1945

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38. Field Visit to South Africa, 1975
40. Correspondence, 1974-1983
41. Members, 1976-1985
42. MH Reports, Drafts, Notes, Excerpts, n.d.
43. MH Report on Israel Visit, 1978
44. Personal Notes, n.d.
45. Press Releases, 1973-1983

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, 1973-1982
47. Honor Awards Ceremony, MH Awarded, 1980
48. Memoranda, 1974-1980
49. Reports, 1976-1979

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50. Elderworks, 1984
51. Reports, 1979
52. Symposium, 1979

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55. ICSW, Israel, Article Manuscripts and Conference Notes, 1974-1979
56. ICSW, Israel, Collected Materials, 1978-1979
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62. Correspondence, 1950-1989
64. EEO Advisory Committee, Correspondence, 1981-1989
65. EEO Advisory Committee, Reports and Guidelines, 1981-1989
66. Local Chapters, 1968-1984
67. Memoranda and Reports, 1966-1989
68. Margaret Hickey Reports, 1963-1972
70. National Conventions, 1967-1975
72. National Convention, St. Louis, MO, 1982
73. National Convention, Atlanta, GA, 1983
74. National Convention, San Antonio, TX, 1984
75. National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, 1985
76. National Convention, Indianapolis, IN, 1986
77. National Convention, Denver, CO, 1987
78. Press Releases and Newsletters, 1973-1989

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80. Ad-Hoc Committee on Social Development, MH Chairman, 1971-1973

81. Correspondence, 1967-1982
82. International Festival of Red Cross Health Films, 1973
83. Members, 1975
84. Memoranda and Reports, 1961-1982
85. Margaret Hickey Reports: Drafts, Notes, Excerpts, n.d.
86. Publications, 1956-1974
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88. XXII International Conference, Tehran, Iran, 1973

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92. Publications and Brochures, 1941-1989

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93. Brochures, Mission Statements, Programs, 1960-1978
94. Correspondence, 1977-1983

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96. Correspondence, 1984-1990
98. Scholars and Selection Committees, 1984-1988

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99. Correspondence, 1964-1969
100. Margaret Hickey Interviews Lady Reading, October 1966

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102. Freeman Health Services, Retreat, Culver City, CA, 1984
103. International Association for Volunteer Education, Conferences, 1976-1984

104. Interview, Ohio State University, 1982
106. Lillian D. Wald Committee, 1968-1970

110. Rockefeller Bros. Fund, Special Studies Project, Panel V Report (with Correspondence), 1951-1958

111. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, Special Briefing for Non-Governmental Women Leaders, 1977

112. The Women's Company, Tucson, Arizona, 1976-77

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140. Clippings--Articles and Newspapers, 1963-1978
143. Paper, "Should We Use Famine as a Weapon?" by Jean Mayer, Harvard School of Public Health, c. 1966

144. Private Volunteer Agencies, Newsletters, 1964-1986
145. Private Volunteer Agencies, Reports, 1964-1984
146. Publications and Brochures, 1963-1982
147. United Nations Reports, 1972-1977

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154. International Development, Reports, 1974-1982

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162. Women and National Defense, 1941

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165. "Health Care: The Perceptions of Society," Freeman Health Services, Culver City, California, 1984
166. Untitled (Aging), c. 1984
167. Untitled (Aging), n.d.

COMMENCEMENT & UNIVERSITY SPEECHES, 1952-1975
168. Cedar Crest College, Commencement Address & Honorary Degree, 1952
169. Commencement Address, (unknown college), 1964
170. Miss Hickey's School for Secretaries, Commencement Address, 1966
171. St. Mary College, Commencement Address, St. Mary College, May 22, 1971
172. Webster College, Untitled Address (Vocational Guidance), February 11, 1971
173. University of Missouri-St. Louis, Commencement Address, (Honorary Degree Recipient), May 18, 1975
175. Commencement speeches, n.d.

GENERAL, 1955-1983
179. Address to Regional Meeting [excerpts], Junior League, Phoenix, AZ, 1967
180. Address, Golden Anniversary Dinner, National Federation of Business and Professional Women, July 16, 1969

181. Address, 100th Anniversary Luncheon, Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter, University of Arizona, 1970
182. Address, Association of Women Accountants, Pittsburgh, PA, May 19, 1972
183. Untitled (Creativity), St. Louis, 1972


186. Remarks, Luncheon, Ft. Hood, Texas, April 5, 1978
187. Address, Charter 100 Luncheon, 1982

190. Address, Golden Anniversary Dinner, National Federation of Business and Professional Women, n.d.

192. Untitled (ACA Conference on the Arts), n.d.
193. Untitled (United Nations), [draft], n.d.

INSPIRATIONAL & RELIGIOUS SPEECHES, 1953-1983
194. Meditations, Camp Miniwanca, American Youth Foundation, 1953; 1977

195. Memorial to Ruth Kingsley, 1983
196. Red Cross, Inspirational, n.d.

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197. Address, Red Cross Convention, May 19, 1964
198. Address, American National Red Cross, National Convention, May 10, 1966

199. Red Cross, Oklahoma City, November 14, 1966
200. Red Cross, Phoenix, AZ, 1981
201. Address, American Red Cross, 52nd Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, 1983

202. Address, Red Cross Annual Meeting, Dallas, n.d.
203. Address, Red Cross, Phoenix, Arizona, n.d.
204. Red Cross, [drafts, notes, excerpts], n.d.

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205. Untitled (Citizenship), 1939

207. "Vocation: Volunteer," Junior League, c. 1965
208. "New Concepts of Commitment" or "Vocational Voluntarism," n.d. (c. 1965)


211. Untitled (Voluntarism), San Francisco/Stanford, n.d.
212. Untitled (Voluntarism), [drafts], n.d.

WOMEN'S ISSUES, 1941-1977
213. "Womanpower Today," c. 1941-45
214. "What Next for Women?" reprinted in Independent Woman, August 1946 (incomplete)


216. "Homemaker Politicians vs. the Backroom Boys," Mills College Centennial Lectures, January 1952

217. "Beyond the Doorstep," Mills College Centennial Lectures, January 1952

220. "Politics without Malice," April 1964
221. "The Status of Women: Implications for Community Organizations," c. 1964
222. "Woman's Role in a Changing World," American University of Beirut, October 18, 1966

223. "Lib Can Create Animosity," (interview with MH), Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, March 22, 1971

224. Untitled (Role of Women), 1972


232. "Room at the Top," [notes], n.d.
233. "Creating Positive Attitudes about Women: An Editor's Point of View, (excerpts from), n.d."
234. "Status and Stature for Today's Woman" (excerpts from), n.d.
235. Untitled (Ladies Home Journal), [draft], n.d.
236. Untitled (Woman Power), [drafts, notes], n.d.

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239. Notes and Ideas (unbound), n.d.
240. Notes and Ideas (unbound), n.d.
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257. Travel, Africa, 1975 (564.135 - .139)
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262. University Commencements & Honors, 1966-1975; n.d. (564.251 - .263)
263. University of Missouri-St. Louis Commencement, Slides, 1975 (564.264 - .271)

264. Negatives, 1979-1982 (China Trip and 1 Portrait)

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266. Honorary Degree, Cedar Crest College, 1952

267. Woman of Achievement Award, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1956
268. Certificate of Appointment, President's Commission on the Status of Women (signed by JFK), 1962 [hanging on wall in WHMC office]

269. Alumni Achievement Award, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1972

270. Service Award, Red Cross, 1973
271. Service Award, National Association for Mental Health, 1975
272. Fiftieth Anniversary Plaque, Hickey School, 1983

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