

The Archive of Women in Theological Scholarship
The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary

Finding Aid for

**The Records of the International Association of Women Ministers,
1922-2001**



Finding Aid prepared by: Leslie Reyman, April 2001

Additional processing and revision: Elizabeth Russey, January 2004

Summary Information

Creator: International Association of Women Ministers, 1922-
Title: Records of the International Association of Women Ministers
Inclusive dates: 1922-2001
Bulk dates: 1976-1999
Abstract: An organization founded in 1919 by Rev. Dr. Madeleine Southward to develop enabling fellowship among women ministers; includes copies of *The Woman's Pulpit*, historical and correspondence files, membership records, photographs and audiovisual materials.
Size: 11.5 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The International Association of Women Ministers donated its records to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 2000. Material was added to the collection in 2001. It is anticipated that the Association will donate additional records.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. [Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access restrictions:** This collection is unrestricted
- Preferred Citation:** item, Records of the International Association of Women Ministers, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York.

Organizational History

“I want to get in touch with some women who are preaching, like myself. I know so few, and there must be others.” With these words a Kansas woman organized “The American Association of Women Preachers” in 1919. The organization of the now named International Association of Women Preachers” took place on November 21, 1919 at the YWCA in St. Louis, Missouri. The founding officers were: Rev. Dr. Madeline Southard, President; Rev. Lida M. Herrick, Recording Secretary; Rev. Ella L. Kroft, Treasurer; and Rev. Mary Sibbitt, Auditor. Southard was a Methodist minister from Kansas.

From its founding, the Association has had a four-fold purpose: first, to develop an enabling fellowship among women ministers; second, to promote equal ecclesiastical rights for women; third, to urge women to qualify for increased efficiency in Christian service; and fourth, to encourage consecrated and capable women to take up the work of ministry. Active membership is limited to “Christian women who are officially licensed, ordained, or authorized as clergy; also women who meet the above requirements, but whose denominations do not authorize women to serve as ministers.” There are also other strata of membership, including fraternal sustaining, student, retired, and life members. In 1923 William Jennings Bryan became the first fraternal member.

Article IV of their constitution states that “the regular meetings of the Association shall be an Assembly held annually or at the call of the executive board.” The first assembly was held in Evanston, Illinois in 1920. The Assembly has met every year since its inception. It has met outside the United States five times, including the 2001 Assembly, which met in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

In 1930 the Association became an American operation, but forty years later it reclaimed its international identity becoming the International Association of Women Ministers. Over 20% of its current membership resides outside of the United States.

The Women's Pulpit, a published newsletter of the IAWM, is a vital part of the Association's activities. First published in 1922, it continues to this day as a quarterly. One main focus of the newsletter is the general information about the status of ordination of women in denominations around the world. A second focus is the report of the annual assembly. Also included in the newsletter are profiles of clergywomen, book reviews, sermons, other writings and "resources for ministry."

For a good overview of IAWM, researchers may wish to consult Mark Chaves' article, *Women that publish the tidings: the International Association of Women Ministers*, in *Women and Twentieth Century Protestantism*, Bendroth, Margaret Lamberts & Brereton, Virginia Liesen, eds., Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 2002

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Records of the International Association of Women consist of the records kept by the governing board of the IAWM. The bulk of the material dates from the 1960s to the present and includes membership records, board minutes, financial records, photographs, subject files, and periodicals. An extensive run of the organization's newsletter, *The Women's Pulpit*, dating from 1922, is also included in this collection.

The collection is divided into seven series:

- **Series 1: Executive Board Records, 1966-2001, (10 boxes 4.75 linear ft.)**
This series consists of records kept by the executive board of the IAWM. It includes correspondence, executive board meeting minutes, a copy of the constitution, and organizational by-laws. The correspondence in this series is primarily between the executive officers of the IAWM and is arranged in alphabetical order by correspondent. Also included are planning notes for assembly preparation, subject files, financial records, and reports from the IAWM historian. Researchers interested in a general history of the IAWM should consult the records of the historian in this series. Arrangement is alphabetical by folder title.
- **Series 2: Annual Assembly, 1922, 1924, 1966-1967, 1969-1970, 1971-2002, (2 boxes 0.75 linear ft.)**
Series 2 consists of records related to the annual gatherings held by the IAWM and its predecessor, American Association of Women Ministers (AAWM). Assemblies were held at a different location every year, including some international destinations in the 1990s. Women who attended these gatherings participated in bible studies, a business meeting, workshops, and social events. This series, arranged in chronological order, contains minutes of the assembly, correspondence, brochures, participant packets, budgetary information and planning material. Some years only have a copy of the assembly program. Of particular interest is the assembly from 1922, the first assembly held by the AAWM. Researchers might also want to consult Series VII for a videotape of a presentation given at the 1994 and 1995 Assemblies.

- **Series 3: Regional Chapter Records, 1989-2001, (1 box 0.25 linear ft.)**
IAWM, though a national association, was an organization designed to support the efforts of women in ministry and was comprised of smaller, regional chapters. These local chapters were governed by elected boards, collected dues, and held monthly activities such as luncheons and retreats. This series contains the records of the Pittsburgh Regional Association, including financial records, membership lists, board minutes, newsletters, clippings, and correspondence. Arrangement is alphabetical by chapter name and then topic.
- **Series 4: Membership Records, 1945-2001, (6 boxes 3.0 linear ft.)**
Series 4 consists of records kept by the IAWM secretary concerning the membership of the organization. This series contains membership directories, prayer calendars, and membership records. The bulk of this series contains files that record the payment of dues and a brief biography for each member. Information was also collected (and preserved here) of the activities and accomplishments of individual members. This includes newspaper clippings, bulletins, photographs, and obituaries. Researchers interested in the biographies of the IAWM membership should consult the 'Profiles of Women in Ministry Project' located in Series I. Some correspondence from members to the IAWM secretary is included in Series IV and filed with the membership file. Arrangement is alphabetical. Some members have individual files because of space considerations.
- **Series 5: Photographs, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1999 and undated, (1 box 0.25 linear ft.)**
This series contains photographs documenting the activities of the IAWM. It includes photos from annual assemblies. Most include identifying information on the back of the photograph. A few (in the miscellaneous folder) are unidentified. Arrangement is chronological.
- **Series 6: *The Woman's Pulpit*, 1922-1999, (4 boxes 2.0 linear ft.)**
The International Association of Women Ministers publishes a quarterly journal, which has been published consecutively since 1922 under the same name despite the name changes of the organization itself. The journal was first issued after the first Assembly to give an account of it to the membership. It is an excellent source for obtaining information concerning the organization's history, programs, and activities. It includes news of member activities and accomplishments, poems, sermons, book reviews, and articles concerning women's ordination. This series also contains bound and microfilmed versions of *The Women's Pulpit*. Some issues are missing. Arrangement is chronological.
- **Series 7: Audio/Video, 1987-1995, (1 box 0.5 linear ft.)**
This series consists of recordings of sermons given by IAWM members and a Billy Graham evangelizing class. The video is a presentation given by Rev. Hilda Frank-Seaters at the annual IAWM meetings held in Portland, OR (1994) and Memphis, TN (1995). Arrangement is by format and then date.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired the records of the International Association of Women Ministers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order of the material.

Folded materials were flattened. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

Contents List

Series 1: Executive Board Records

Box 1

AAWM Articles of Incorporation and name change [1933-1964]
 Constitution and bylaws [1934-1967]
 Constitution and bylaws [1971-1995]
 Committee on the ecclesiastical status of women [1968-1971] (2f)
 Correspondence
 Log [1997-1998]
 Althouse, LaVonne [1992-2001 and n.d.] (2f)
 Arledge-Benko, Patricia [1992-2001 and n.d.]
 Dougherty, Mary Alice [1970-1974] (3f)
 Foster, Hazel [1920-1967]

Box 2

Correspondence (cont'd)
 Foster, Hazel [1969-1989] (cont'd)
 Heffren, Hazel [1988-1989]
 Henderson, Jean [1993-1995]
 James, Beverly [1991-1992]
 Knapp, Helen June [1970-1974 and n.d.] (2f)
 LaRue, Mary Ellen [1971]
 Lyman, Mary [1963-1969]
 Mansfield, Marietta [1968-1971]
 Onesti, Karen L. [1991-2001 and n.d.]
 Ruach, Susan [1973-1976 and n.d.] (3f)
 Ryan, Mary [1968-1979 and undated] (2f)
 Sykes, Betty [1991-1992, 2000 and undated]
 Thames, Pauline [1970-1971]

Box 3

Correspondence (cont'd)
 Thames, Pauline [19272-1974] (cont'd) (7f)
 Way, Peggy Ann [1970]
 Williams, Jeanne [1984]
 Zigmund, Helen [1975-1996] (5f)

Box 4

Executive Board Minutes [1970-2002] (28f)

Box 5

Historian of the IAWM - Records [1983 -1998] (2f)
 Membership Pin [1968-1974]
 Profiles of Women in Ministry Project [1991] (3f)

Leslie Reyman, April 2001,

Additional processing and revision: Elizabeth Russey, January 2004

Series 1: Executive Board Records

Box 5 (cont'd)

Subject files

Congress of Career Women Leaders [1973]
Commission on Women in Ministry [1976]
Equal Partners in Faith [1999-2000]
European Women's Synod [1984-1996]
Feminist Expo [1996] (2f)
Feminist Expo [2000] (2f)

Box 6

Subject files (cont'd)

Rev. Vashti Murphy McKenzie [2000-2001]
Newspaper clippings [1961-1999 and undated] (2f)
New Zealand ordained Anglican women [1990]
Pittsburgh '95 and Beyond (human rights conference) [1995]
Priscilla's Letter [1999]
"Priscilla Papers" [1988-2000] (5f)

Box 7

Subject files (cont'd)

Promise Keepers [1995-1999]
Sexual harassment [1991-1993 and n.d.]
Society for the Ministry of Women in the Church [1971]
Southern Baptist Convention [1998-2000]
Women's ordination [1984-2000 and n.d.] (2f)
Women's suffrage (Celebrate '98) [1998]

Box 8

Treasurer of the IAWM

Annual report [1969-2000]
Records [1967-1999] (23f)

Box 9

Treasurer of the IAWM (cont'd)

Record books [1960-1975] (7f)

Box 10

Treasurer of the IAWM (cont'd)

Record books [1975-1988] (8f)
Tax report [1976]

Series 2: Annual Assembly

Box 1

AAWM Assembly [1922]
AAWM Assembly [1924]

Leslie Reyman, April 2001,

Additional processing and revision: Elizabeth Russey, January 2004

Series 2: Annual Assembly

Box 1 continued

AAWM Assembly [1966-1967]

AAWM Assembly [1969-1970]

IAWM Assembly [1971-1992]

Box 2

IAWM Assembly [1993-2002]

Series 3: Regional Chapter Records

Box 1

Pittsburgh Regional Association

Clipping file [2001]

Correspondence [1994-1999]

Executive Board minutes [1991-2001]

Financial records [1989-1998]

Membership lists [1997-1999]

Newsletters [1992-2000]

Series 4: Membership Records

Box 1

Membership directory [1967, 1970]

Membership directory [1971-1973]

Membership directory [1977-1989]

Membership directory [1990-1999]

Prayer calendar [1992-1999]

Records – Individuals

A [1958-1984] (2f)

Ackor [1969-1978]

Aird [1965-1977]

Arbouin [1965-1971]

B [1959-1982] (4f)

Bast [1968-1977]

Box 2

Records – Individuals

C [1958-1985] (2f)

Cook [1971-1975]

D [1955-1981] (3f)

Demarest [1970-1979]

E [1957-1985]

F [1963-1985]

Foster [n.d.] (2f)

Series 4: Membership Records

Box 3

Records – Individuals

Foster [n.d.]
G [1957-1985] (2f)
H [1949-1985] (3f)
I [1976-1984]
J [1954-1985] (2f)
Jones [1971-1977]
K [1961-1985]
Knapp, Olive [1971]
Knapp, Helen June [1967-1979] (2f)

Box 4

Records – Individuals

L [1961-1985]
M [1958-1985] (2f)
Maeda [1973-1975]
Morley [1966-1971]
Murray [1965-1975]
Mc [1957-1982]
N [1967-1984]
O [1967-1981]
P [1956-2000] (2f)
Q [1984]

Box 5

Records – Individuals

R [1959-1985] (2f)
Reynolds [1964-1972]
Rippengal [2001]
Romans [1970-1985]
Ryan [1967-1999]
S [1955-1985] (3f)
Schutze [1972-1976]
Stickney [1965-1978]
T [1956-1999] (2f)

Box 6

Records – Individuals

U [1978]
V [1945-1980]
W [1957-1985] (3f)
Y [1963-1999]
Z [1970-1981]

Records – Institutions [1975-1982]

Series 5: Photographs

Box 1

IAWM Assembly (Colorado Springs) [1972]
 IAWM Assembly (Augusta, ME) [1976]
 IAWM Assembly (Hartford, CT) [1980]
 IAWM Assembly (Vancouver) [1983]
 IAWM Assembly (Indianapolis) [1984]
 IAWM Assembly (Philadelphia) [1992]
 IAWM Assembly (Stony Point, NY) [1993]
 IAWM Assembly (Memphis) [1994]
 IAWM Assembly (Saskatoon) [1997]
 IAWM Assembly (Pittsburgh) [1999]
 Miscellaneous [n.d.]

Series 6: The Women's Pulpit

Box 1

The Women's Pulpit [1922-1969]

Box 2

The Women's Pulpit [1970-2003]

Box 3

The Women's Pulpit (bound) [1922-1930]
The Women's Pulpit (bound) [1922-1934]
The Women's Pulpit (bound) [1934-1946]
The Women's Pulpit (bound) [1947-1961]

Box 4

The Women's Pulpit (bound) [1955-1964]
The Women's Pulpit (microfilm) [1922-1950]
The Women's Pulpit (microfilm) [1951-1990]

Series 7: Audio / Video

Box 1

Audio Tapes

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Schaff Lectures [1987]
 Women's Support Network sermons [1987]
 Billy Graham School of Evangelism [1990]

Videotapes

IAWM Assembly meetings (Hilda Frank-Seaters report) [1994-1995]