

Margery Frisbie Papers 1945-1997, undated

Creator: Margery Frisbie (1923-2021)

Extent: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright to material contained in this collection created by Margery Frisbie was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Margery Frisbie Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Provenance: Margery Frisbie donated her papers to the Women and Leadership Archives on September 14, 1994 and June 30, 1997. (WLA1994.09 and WLA1997.10)

Processor: Elizabeth A. Myers, October 17, 2002

Processing Information: Finding Aid Revised by Caroline Lynd, December 16, 2014

Separations: None

See Also: The Monsignor John J. Egan Papers (CJEG) held at the University of Notre Dame Archives and the Mundelein College Alumnae Folders.

Biographical History

Margery Frisbie, born Margery Rowbottom, graduated from Mundelein College in 1944 with a degree in Biology. After graduation, Margery worked as a chemist until 1948 when she became the Public Relations Director at Mundelein. While she held this position in 1949, Mundelein hired Elizabeth Bentley (1908-1963), a spy for the Communist Party and the Soviet Union. Referred to as the "Red Spy Queen" in newspapers, Bentley had recently defected and converted to Catholicism. When Bishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979) sent word to Catholic schools requesting a job for Bentley, Mundelein offered her a teaching position. As Public Relations Director, Frisbie held a press conference at Mundelein in response to media interest in the school's new teacher. Here, she met a reporter for the Chicago Daily News named Richard Frisbie (1926-2018). The two were engaged four months later and married in June of 1950. The couple have eight children.

Margery, while raising her children, also worked as a columnist for *The New World* and as a children's book review editor for the *National Catholic Reporter*. Her interest in writing manifested

in other ventures as well. She and her husband co-authored two works: *The Do-It-Yourself Parent* and *The Cana Couplet*, the newsletter for the Cana Conference. On her own, Margery wrote several works including histories of St. James Catholic Church, Arlington Heights Library, the First United Methodist Church, a collection of poetry about Arlington Heights, and most prominently, *An Alley in Chicago: The Ministry of a Parish Priest*, a history of the life and work of Monsignor John J. Egan. Margery passed away on August 8, 2021.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of two boxes, spanning the years 1945-1997, with the bulk of materials from 1960 to 1990. The collection is divided into two sections: professional and research. The professional records contain copies of two of Margery Frisbie's publications, limited correspondence, and two audiotapes concerning her published work, *An Alley in Chicago*. The research records pertain almost exclusively to the life of Monsignor John J. Egan (1916-2001), including speeches, interviews, anecdotes about his life from others, and written remembrances of his own history within the ministry. Other records include comprehensive press, and conference notes, from Egan's activities as part of the CCUM and CANA. When correspondence is present, it is predominately between Egan's longtime assistant, Peggy Roach and Margery Frisbie. These papers are divided into two series, arranged alphabetically by subject and original order was maintained whenever possible.

Series 1: Professional, 1991-1997, undated, Box 1

Contains information related to Margery Frisbie's publishing activities, including copies of the published works, *An Alley in Chicago* and *Old-Timers Reunion: Reflecting on the Early Days of Arlington Heights*, a collection of poetry by Frisbie. Also present are two audiotapes. Tape 1 is a recording of an Association of Chicago Priests meeting at Niles College in which *Alley in Chicago* is discussed, Tape 2 is an interview with Margery Frisbie concerning the same work, which took place at Northeastern Illinois University on the program *Vantage Point*.

Series 2: Research, 1945-1997, undated, Boxes 1-2

Includes detailed information of Monsignor John J. Egan's life and Ministry that served as the central topic of her book, *An Alley in Chicago*. The records include reminisces of his activities as a minister in Chicago, written by himself, as well as (requested) reminisces of others who knew him. Other papers include notes and conference materials from both CCUM and CANA, photocopies of press materials related to Egan's urban renewal programs, articles (published and non-published) written by Egan which also related to urban renewal/growth. Additional papers relate to Presentation Parish and School, the Hyde Park-Kenwood Area Program, and the Center for Pastoral and Social Ministry.

Subjects:

Arlington Heights
Association of Chicago Priests
CANA Conference
Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry
Center for Pastoral and Social Ministry
Egan, John J. (1916-2001)
Frisbie, Margery

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Greater Chicago Food Depository
Hyde Park
Kenwood
National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Presentation Parish
Snodgrass, Gertrude
Urban Renewal

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		<i>Margery Frisbie Papers 1945-1997, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Professional, 1991-1997, undated	
1	1	<i>An Alley in Chicago: The Ministry of A Parish Priest, First Edition</i>	1991
1	2	Correspondence	1997
1	3	<i>Old-Timers Reunion: Reflecting on the Early Days of Arlington Heights</i>	1997
1	NA	Audio Tape 1: Association of Chicago Priests Meeting, Including discussion of <i>An Alley in Chicago</i>	undated
1	NA	Audio Tape 2: <i>Vantage Point</i> Interview with Margery Frisbie, Concerning <i>An Alley in Chicago</i>	undated
		Series 2: Research, 1945-1997, undated	
1	4	Anecdotes of John J. Egan's Life, by Egan	undated
1	5	Articles Written by Egan	1958
1	6	Association of Chicago Priests	1967
1	7	CANA Conference	1971
1	8	Center for Pastoral & Social Ministry	1978-1982
1	9	CCUM Conference, Press	1973-1982
1	10	CCUM Conference, Notes	1976-1979
1	11	Correspondence, Egan, Limited	undated
1	12	Correspondence, Egan, Limited	1988-1989
1	13	Honorary Degrees & Awards	1981-1989
1	14	Hyde Park-Kenwood Urban Renewal Plan	1956-1983
1	15	National Conference of Catholic Bishops	1975
1	16	Notre Dame Archival Holding: John J. Egan, Donation List	1970
2	1	Presentation Parish & School	1945-1972
2	2	Press-John J. Egan	1958-1990
2	3	Reflections by Others of Egan and his Ministry	undated

2	4	“The Roman Catholic Church and Industrial Area Foundation,” Paper by Donna Myers	1966
2	5	Speeches, Egan	1961-1967
2	6	Speeches, Egan	1978-1990
2	7	SRI Report: Human Resources for Ministry Institute	1979-1982

Margery Frisbie Papers, Addendum 1 1980-2005, undated

Creator: Margery Frisbie (1923-2021)

Extent: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright was not transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Margery Frisbee Papers, Addendum 1, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Provenance: Material was delivered to Carolyn Farrell’s office. Picked up for archives on September 14, 1994 by Valerie Brown (WLA2008.21).

Processor: Kristin Emery, February 2011

Separations: 0.25 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

See Also: Margery Frisbie Papers at the Women and Leadership Archives

Description of the Addendum

This addendum to the Margery Frisbie Papers consists of 0.25 linear feet (one box) spanning the years 1980 to 2005. Because of the small size of the addendum, the material has not been classified into series. Rather, it has been processed to the folder level and folders are arranged alphabetically by subject. Original order was maintained when possible, including two notebooks that had materials inserted in between pages.

Scope and Content

This addendum consists of personal correspondence, interview notes from the Mundelein College Oral History Project, two notebooks of research notes, a folder of miscellaneous handwritten notes, several drafts of “The Nun Who Stopped Traffic,” and a folder of writings on miscellaneous topics

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including: Mundelein College memories, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (including individual members), and nuns in general. All material consists only of paper documents. Due to preservation concerns, the notebook covers have been removed and some of the original notebook pages were photocopied and the originals were removed.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		<i>Margery Frisbie Papers, Addendum 1 1980-2005, undated</i>	
1	1	Correspondence	1992-2005, undated
1	2	Mundelein College Oral History Project	1980-1988, undated
1	3	Notebook	1988
1	4	Notebook	1988
1	5	Notes	1988, 1992, undated
1	6	Writings: Miscellaneous	1993, undated
1	7	Writings: "The Nun Who Stopped Traffic...and Built a Skyscraper College"	1994