



MG 396 - Margaret K Weiers fonds

Dates: 1950-1995

Extent: 60 cm textual material; one photograph.

Biography: Born on a farm near Viceroy, Saskatchewan in 1928, Margaret (Kesslering) Weiers graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a BA (English) in 1949. As an early feminist, social reformer and fierce nationalist, she embarked on a 40-year career in journalism that began with the Regina *Leader-Post* and ended with the *Toronto Star*. In 1969, she won the Canadian Women's Press Club Memorial Award for best news story. Weiers was the first journalist to receive a special award from the American Association on Mental Deficiency. She left the *Leader Post* in 1955 and joined the Canadian foreign service, serving as vice-consul for the Canadian Consulate General in New York City and a press officer for the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. In 1957, she married Robert Weiers (U of S BA'47, BEd'48, BComm'52). Marriage marked the end of her foreign service career, as the Department of External Affairs required women officers to resign after they married. In 1960, the Weiers went to Ghana on a 15-month foreign aid assignment. While her husband helped set up a school of business at the University of Accra, Margaret Weiers worked as a freelance writer for radio and television. They returned to Canada and in 1963 she joined the staff of the *Toronto Star*. For the next three decades Weiers worked as a reporter, a feature writer and most notably a member of the *Star's* editorial board. Weiers retired from the *Star* in 1991. She went on to write a book about women in the Canadian foreign service. Published in 1995, *Envoys Extraordinary: Women of the Canadian Foreign Service* chronicles the experiences of 22 female career officers struggling to succeed in a predominantly male world. Among her many honours was an Honourary Doctor of Letters at 2010 University of Saskatchewan spring convocation.

Scope and Content: The contents of this fonds is primarily drafts and clippings of articles and editorials by Margaret Weiers. The fonds also includes the first draft of manuscript *Against The Odds* which became *Envoys Extraordinary: Women of the Canadian Foreign Service*, published by Dundurn Press in 1995.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Finding aid by Patrick Hayes, 2009. Edited for formatting by Lisa Carpenter, 2017.

Box 1

Commonwealth/freelance articles. – 1950-1993.

Clippings and drafts. Annotated - "articles from the *Commonwealth* in Regina – a weekly newspaper where I first worked – freelance articles including drafts of two magazine pieces for *Chatelaine*".

Two years in the Foreign Service. – 1955-1957.

Correspondence and speech to the Toronto Women's Club.

Freelance Material. – 1959-1961.

Drafts. Annotated – "CBC script 1959 – freelance material from Ghana 1960-61 – Sent to CBC Toronto and Toronto newspaper".

Envoy Extraordinary: Women of the Canadian Foreign Service. – 1992-1999.

Correspondence, notes and clippings regarding the book published in 1999.

Canadian Women's Press Club. – 1968-1995.

Awards, notes and editorials.

News Stories/Features – Toronto Star. – 1965-1972. – 3 folders.

Clippings.

Assignment In Scandinavia. – 1969.

Correspondence and published articles.

Articles in the Regina Leader Post. – 1952-1955. – 2 folders.

Articles pasted on paper.

Editorials – Toronto Star. – 1972-1991. – 20 folders.

Clippings.

1972.

1973.

1974.

1975.

1976.

1977.

1978.

1979.

1980.

Box 2

1981.
1982.
1983.
1984.
1985.
1986.

Box 3

1987.
1988.
1989.
1990.
1991.

Published work. – 1991-1995.
Clippings.

Samples of a body of work. – 1962-1991.
Clippings.

Features, column and editorial clippings. – 1967-1970.
Clippings.

On Journalism. – 1972-1982.
Reflections, memos, articles and honours.

Correspondence. – 1968-1995.
Correspondence and one photograph.

Against The Odds which became Envoys Extraordinary: Women of the Canadian Foreign Service.
– 1995. – 3 folders.
First draft of manuscript. Pages and memory disc.