

Margaret Simms Collection
Papers, 1950-1974

Scope Note

Margaret Taylor Simms Collection

Papers, 1951-1974

The Margaret Taylor Simms Collection numbers four manuscript boxes of biographical data; correspondence; diary; form letters; speeches; newspaper clippings; reports; awards; account books; receipts; photographs; miscellaneous material.

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Margaret Taylor Simms
(1903-1974)

Margaret Taylor Simms was born September 19, 1903 in Brenham, Texas. She was the daughter of Frank and Matilda Taylor, both Methodist ministers. Orphaned at the age of 13, she was later taken into foster care by Mrs. M.A.B. Fuller. Simms graduated from Sam Houston College in Austin, Texas in 1921. She also studied at Sarah Lawrence College and New York University. After she graduated from Sam Houston College, Simms went to Florida to serve as the public relations director of Edward Waters College. From 1942 to 1945, Simms served as program director for the American Red Cross. A well known contralto, she was the featured soloist at the White House in 1940 at a tea hosted by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 1949, Mrs. Simms came to Fisk University to serve as the associate dean of women. She served in this position for some 23 years. She became a valuable asset of the administrative staff of the university. Mrs. Simms worked hard to maintain the high standards and traditions of Fisk University. In turn, she became a valuable asset to the Nashville community. For more than ten years, she served as the director of the Fisk women's fashion show. The purpose of this annual event was to benefit the United Negro College Fund. Mrs. Simms later became the assistant to the director of development of Fisk in charge of the United Negro College Fund. Another project under Mrs. Simms supervision was the mending and dressing of dolls for children as Christmas toys,

She was a member of numerous organizations, the National Council of Negro Women, Church Women United, Women's Civic Forum, League of Women Voters, N.A.A.C.P., Urban League, Matron's Progressive Club, Opportunities Industrialization Center, and the Coterie Club. She was named "Woman of the Year" by the City Federated Women's Clubs of Nashville and the Iota Phi Lambda Society. She was also a contributing writer to both Jet and Ebony magazines. Simms has been listed in Who's Who in American Women.

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Box 1

- f. 1--Biographical Data
- 2--Correspondence--1950-1967
- 3--Correspondence--1968-1971
- 4--Correspondence--Miscellaneous
- 5--Correspondence--Unidentifiable
- 6--Account Books
- 7--Bills--Receipts
- 8--Diary
- 9--Speech--"Courage Through Faith"
- 10--Notes

Box 2

- f. 1--Reports
- 2--Programs
- 3--Programs--Collected
- 4--Newspaper Clippings
- 5--Awards
- 6--Memorabilia
- 7--Printed Matter
- 8--Miscellaneous Material

Box 3

- f. Photographs

Box 4

- f. Scrapbook