

**Margery Frisbie Papers,**  
**1945-1997, n.d.**

**Creator:** Frisbie, Margery

**Extent:** 1 linear ft.

**Processor:** Elizabeth A. Myers, October 17, 2002

Finding Aid Revised by Caroline Lynd, December 16, 2014

**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:** Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Margery Frisbie Papers. Box#. Folder #.

**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)

**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, a spy for the Communist Party and the Soviet Union. Called in newspapers the "Red Spy Queen," Bentley had recently defected and converted to Catholicism. When Bishop Fulton J. Sheen 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. 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 life and work of Monsignor John J. Egan.

**Scope and Content**

This collection consists of 2 boxes, spanning the years 1945-1997, and being predominantly 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, 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, arrange alphabetically by subject and original order was maintained whenever possible.

**Series 1: Professional, 1991-1997, n.d., 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, n.d., 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.  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
Hyde Park  
Kenwood  
National Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Presentation Parish  
Snodgrass, Gertrude  
Urban Renewal

*Women and Leadership Archives  
Loyola University Chicago*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b>Series 1: Professional, 1991-1997, n.d.</b>			
1	1	<i>An Alley in Chicago: The Ministry of A Parish Priest, First Edition</i>	1991
	2	Correspondence	1997
	3	<i>Old-Timers Reunion: Reflecting on the Early Days of Arlington Heights</i>	1997
		Audio Tape 1: Association of Chicago Priests Meeting, Including discussion of <i>An Alley in Chicago</i>	n.d.
		Audio Tape 2: <i>Vantage Point</i> Interview with Margery Frisbie, Concerning <i>An Alley in Chicago</i>	n.d.
<b>Series 2: Research, 1945-1997, n.d.</b>			
	4	Anecdotes of John J. Egan's Life, by Egan	n.d.
	5	Articles Written by Egan	1958
	6	Association of Chicago Priests	1967
	7	CANA Conference	1971
	8	Center for Pastoral & Social Ministry	1978-1982
	9	CCUM Conference, Press	1973-1982
	10	CCUM Conference, Notes	1976-1979
	11	Correspondence, Egan, Limited	n.d.
	12	Correspondence, Egan, Limited	1988-1989
	13	Honorary Degrees & Awards	1981-1989
	14	Hyde Park-Kenwood Urban Renewal Plan	1956-1983
	15	National Conference of Catholic Bishops	1975
	16	Notre Dame Archival Holding: John J. Egan, Donation List	1970
2	1	Presentation Parish & School	1945-1972
	2	Press-John J. Egan	1958-1990
	3	Reflections by Others of Egan and his Ministry	n.d.
	4	"The Roman Catholic Church and Industrial Area Foundation," Paper by Donna Myers	1966
	5	Speeches, Egan	1961-1967
	6	Speeches, Egan	1978-1990
	7	SRI Report: Human Resources for Ministry Institute	1979-1982

**Margery Frisbie Papers**  
**Addendum 1, 1980-2005, n.d.**

**Creator:** Frisbie, Margery  
**Extent:** 0.25 linear feet  
**Processor:** Kristin Emery, February 2011

**Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

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

**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Margery Frisbie Papers, Addendum 1. Box #, Folder #.

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

**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 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 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.

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
1	1	Correspondence	1992-2005, n.d.
	2	Mundelein College Oral History Project	1980-1988, n.d.
	3	Notebook	1988
	4	Notebook	1988
	5	Notes	1988, 1992, n.d.
	6	Writings: Miscellaneous	1993, n.d.
	7	Writings: "The Nun Who Stopped Traffic"	n.d.