

# Guide to the Women Affiliated with Yale University Records

RU 73



compiled by Daniel Hartwig

July 2007

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Associated Materials .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
General note .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Accession 1990-A-142: Records, circa 1956-1989 .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	8

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** RU 73

**CREATOR:** Women Affiliated with Yale

**TITLE:** Women Affiliated with Yale University records

**DATES:** 1956-1989

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The records consist of the constitution, newsletters, membership lists, bank statements, and correspondence documenting Women Affiliated with Yale (formerly the Yale Dames).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ru.0073>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ru.0073>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Conditions Governing Access

Access to the materials is restricted. See Collection Contents for details.

## Preferred Citation

Women Affiliated with Yale University Records (RU 73). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Processing Information

Yale University records are arranged and described at the accession level by the creating office. The University Archives creates collection level descriptive records, but typically does no further arrangement and description at the accession level.

---

## Associated Materials

Yale Dames Records (RU 1065). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

In 1926, Mrs. Wilbur Cross, wife of the dean of the graduate school, and Mrs. Robert Corwin, also a faculty wife, began taking an active interest in the group. They were assisted by Mrs. Avery Cross. Meetings were often held in the Cross home and the membership grew substantially. It was at this time that other faculty wives were invited to be sponsors and were soon to add many activities.

In 1930, Professor Edgar Furniss became dean of the graduate school. Dean and Mrs. Furniss became interested in the Dames and made available for their meetings the women's lounge in the graduate school. The organization grew rapidly and was soon had to move its meetings to the faculty lounge.

As a rule, meetings were held in the afternoons followed by tea. Dames prepared the tea and food and faculty wives and sponsored were asked to pour. Many activities were planned, including plays, picnics, and dances. Special interest groups were formed, assuming responsibility for a series of programs in which the members participated. By 1936, evening meetings were held in addition to the afternoon meetings. The high spot of each year's program was the big dinner meeting at which a prominent person was invited to speak. Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was one such guest.

During the war, as registration dropped, the Dames became a very small organization. It was decided that Dames return to the small home meetings and the sponsor group would disband. Following the war, wives of Yale's undergraduates were invited to join the organization. Teas became large evening meetings with a program in Strathcona auditorium followed by refreshments in the tower where the crowd spilled over into several rooms. Meetings continued to be held in Strathcona hall until 1955 when they returned to the graduate school.

Membership declined in the late 1960s, as the women's movement led many women away from traditionally sex-determined roles. The organization changed its name to Women Affiliated with Yale (WAY) in 1977 and opened its membership to all women connected with the university except undergraduates.

---

## Scope and Contents

The records consist of the constitution, newsletters, membership lists, bank statements, and correspondence documenting Women Affiliated with Yale (formerly the Yale Dames).

---

## General note

Forms part of Yale Record Group 40 (YRG 40), Records of Yale clubs, societies, and organizations.

## **Arrangement**

The records are arranged by type of material.

---

## Collection Contents

### Accession 1990-A-142: Records, circa 1956-1989

Restricted until Jan 1, 2024.

b. 1, f. 1	Constitution and History	1981
	Newsletter	
b. 1, f. 2	1978-1981	
b. 1, f. 3	1981-1984	
b. 1, f. 4	1984-1987	
b. 1, f. 5	1987-1989	
b. 1, f. 6	Membership Lists and Forms	1981-1987
b. 1, f. 7	Information for New Members	1985
b. 1, f. 8	Miscellaneous Correspondence and Flyers	1987-1989
b. 1, f. 9	Correspondence and Forms concerning Tax-Exempt Status	1978-1984
b. 1, f. 10	Treasurer's Annual Reports	1960-1979
b. 1, f. 11	Savings Account Statements	1971-1987
	Checking Account Statements	
b. 1, f. 12	1971-1973	
b. 1, f. 13	1972-1977	
b. 1, f. 14	1977-1981	
b. 1, f. 15	1981-1987	
	Canceled Checks	
b. 1, f. 16	1972-1976	
b. 1, f. 17	1976-1979	
b. 1, f. 18	1979-1984	
	Receipts	
b. 2, f. 19	1975-1977	
b. 2, f. 20	1977-1978	
b. 2, f. 21	1978-1979	
b. 2, f. 22	1980-1985	
b. 2, f. 23	Original Stationery and Poster Designs	1983-1984

b. 2, f. 24

Accounts Ledger

1956-1989

---

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

College teachers' spouses -- Social networks  
Women -- Education (Higher)  
Women graduate students  
Women -- Societies and clubs

### **Corporate Bodies**

Women Affiliated with Yale  
Yale University. Yale Dames  
Yale University -- Employees -- Societies, etc.  
Yale University -- Faculty -- Societies, etc.  
Yale University -- Societies, etc.