

# **Guide to Alumnae Affairs Biographical Questionnaire BC09.01**

**Finding aid prepared by Hilary Price**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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## Table of Contents

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<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Historical Background</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Scope and Content Summary</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Arrangement</u> .....	5
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	7
<u>Questionnaires by Graduation Year</u> .....	7
<u>Questionnaires by Last Name (did not graduate)</u> .....	10
<u>Unprocessed Forms and Reports from the Bureau of Applied Social Research</u> .....	11

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Barnard College. Office of Alumnae Affairs.
<b>Title</b>	Alumnae Affairs Biographical Questionnaire
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1956-1957
<b>Extent</b>	18.21 Linear feet ; 55 boxes
<b>Physical Location</b>	This collection is stored offsite and advance notice is required for access. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection consists of biographical questionnaires from the Office of Alumnae Affairs.

### Preferred Citation

Alumnae Affairs Biographical Questionnaire, 1956-1957; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

## Historical Background

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In March 1956, Barnard College sent out a biographical questionnaire to over 10,000 alumnae. The purpose of the questionnaire was to learn more about the alumnae: where and how were they living; did their liberal arts degree prepare them well for life; and more importantly, was their education worthwhile. According to President McIntosh's cover letter, the survey was "planned primarily to supply data for a new edition of the Alumnae Directory." She explained further that it would help Barnard faculty evaluate the College's curriculum and plan for the future. The data would also be used to supply information to foundations and corporations which provide the College financial support.

The College received 5,757 responses, and all class years (1893-1956) were represented. The survey started from the alumnae's time at Barnard: choice of majors, extracurricular activities, elected offices, scholarships and loans, and housing arrangements. Alumnae were asked whether they pursued advanced studies after graduation; about their marital status: age at marriage and number of husbands, their education and occupation; about their children: number, gender, age and education; participation in Barnard alumnae activities; leisure time activities and community involvement; employment history; household information; and professional accomplishments, such as performances, exhibitions or publications.

The last questions asked alumnae on how well Barnard prepared them for life; if they were entering college today, would they choose Barnard again; and what should Barnard's goals be for the next twenty-five years. The alumnae took advantage of the blank pages provided to write candidly about their college experience. According to the results reported in the July 1957 Alumnae Magazine article, some alumnae did not think the College prepared them adequately for jobs. Others questioned the College's interpretation of the woman's role in society or the ability to combine both career and home lives. While some alumnae would have chosen a different college experience, most indicated that a college education was worthwhile.

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## Collection Scope and Content Summary

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This collection contains completed questionnaires with the original cover letter removed. The original questionnaire also included a final page with salary and income questions. This last page of confidential information was removed and destroyed after the statistical summaries were compiled.

The numerical codes used for translating the handwritten, check-a-box answers into numbers for the machine-readable cards were printed along the right margin of the pages. The forms also bear the pencil marks made by the staff of the Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University as they compiled the data. Some of the punch cards can be found with the questionnaires and with the final statistical reports. There are two folders relating to the processing of the surveys. In one, there are two

copies of the Bureau's original reports (Copy #5 and #15), along with a photocopy of the article from the Alumnae Magazine. The other folder has two completed but "unprocessed" questionnaires. These are printed on letter-sized sheets of paper (not the smaller, printed and stapled brochure) and some of the questions in this version are phrased slightly differently.

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## **Collection Arrangement**

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The collection is arranged in three series.

Series 1, Questionnaires by Graduation Year

Series 2, Questionnaires by Last Name (did not graduate)

Series 3, Unprocessed Forms and Reports from Bureau of Applied Social Research

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

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### **Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Publication Rights**

Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Barnard Archives and Special Collections. The Barnard Archives and Special Collections approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Reproduction Restrictions**

Photocopies or scans may be made for research purposes.

### **Accruals**

No additions are expected.

## **Acquisition Information**

Transferred from the Office of Alumnae Affairs.

## **Processing History**

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios, Intern. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in April 2011.

This finding aid was updated by Hilary Price in June, 2015.

Descriptive Rules Used: Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard. Encoding: Machine readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002.

Finding aid written in English.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Barnard College. Office of Alumnae Affairs.

### **Subject(s)**

- Barnard College--Alumni and alumnae
- Biographical sources
- Questionnaires
- Statistics

Questionnaires by Graduation Year

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**Collection Inventory****Series 1. Questionnaires by Graduation Year 17.0 Linear feet ; 50 boxes**

	<b>Box</b>
1893-1904 1.0 box	1
1904-1907 1.0 box	2
1907-1920 1.0 box	3
1910-1912 1.0 box	4
1912-1914 1.0 box	5
1915-1917 2.0 boxes	6-7
1917-1919 1.0 box	8
1919-1920 1.0 box	9
1920-1921 1.0 box	10
1921-1923 1.0 box	11
1923-1924 1.0 box	12

Questionnaires by Graduation Year

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1924-1925	1.0 box	13
1925-1926	1.0 box	14
1926-1927	1.0 box	15
1927-1928	1.0 box	16
1928-1929	1.0 box	17
1929-1930	1.0 box	18
1930-1931	1.0 box	19
1931-1932	1.0 box	20
1932-1933	1.0 box	21
1933-1934	1.0 box	22
1934-1935	1.0 box	23
1935-1936	1.0 box	24
1936-1937	1.0 box	25
1937-1938	1.0 box	26



Questionnaires by Graduation Year

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1938-1939 1.0 box	27
1939 1.0 box	28
1940 1.0 box	29
1940-1941 1.0 box	30
1941-1942 1.0 box	31
1942-1943 1.0 box	32
1943-1944 1.0 box	33
1944-1945 1.0 box	34
1945 1.0 box	35
1946 1.0 box	36
1946-1947 1.0 box	37
1947-1948 1.0 box	38
1948 1.0 box	39
1948-1949 1.0 box	40

## Questionnaires by Last Name (did not graduate)

1949 1.0 box	41
1950 1.0 box	42
1950-1951 1.0 box	43
1951-1952 1.0 box	44
1952 1.0 box	45
1952-1953 1.0 box	46
1953-1954 1.0 box	47
1954 1.0 box	48
1954-1955 1.0 box	49
1955-1956 1.0 box	50
<b>Series 2. Questionnaires by Last Name (did not graduate) 1.0 Linear feet ; 4 boxes</b>	
	<b>Box</b>
A-G 1.0 box	51
G-M 1.0 box	52

**Unprocessed Forms and Reports from the Bureau of Applied Social Research,**

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M-S 1.0 box	53
S-Z 1.0 box	54
<b>Series 3. Unprocessed Forms and Reports from the Bureau of Applied Social Research, 1956-1957 0.21 Linear feet ; 1 box</b>	<b>Box 55</b>