Shirley Christian Collection

Collection Number: MS 134

Title: The Shirley Christian Collection

Name and Location of Repository: Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas

Dates: 1968 – 2000

Collection Size: 1 linear foot

Creator: Shirley Christian, donated to PSU by Christian in 2009 and 2017

Scope and Content: The majority of the collection are newspaper clippings about governmental conflicts in Central and South America. There are three series in this collection: Education, Clippings, Publications, and Photographs.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for access

Languages: English

Biographical Note: Shirley A. Christian was born on January 16, 1938, in Windsor, Missouri to Herbert Walsh and Minnie Lucille (Acker) Christian. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in language and literature from the Kansas State College of Pittsburg (now Pittsburg State University) in 1960, and her master’s degree in international journalism from Ohio State University in 1966. Christian also did graduate studies at Harvard University from 1973 to 1974. Christian has worked as a journalist, including working for the Associated Press as a United Nations correspondent from 1970 to 1973; a copy editor and foreign desk reporter from 1974 to 1977; the bureau chief in Santiago, Chile from 1977 to 1979; the Miami Herald as a Latin American correspondent from 1979 to 1983; the New York Times as a foreign affairs reporter in Washington, DC, from 1985 to 1986; the bureau chief in Buenos Aires in 1986. She was an adjunct professor of journalism at Columbia University, and a visiting professor of journalism at Baylor University. She has contributed works to several periodicals, including Atlantic Monthly, New York Times, and New Republic. Christian is the author of two books, Nicaragua: Revolution in the Family (Random House, 1986), and Before Lewis and Clark: The Story of the Chouteaus, the French Dynasty That Ruled America's Frontier (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004). She was the editor for Judith Evans’ Investing and Selling in Latin America, Hemisphere Business. Christian the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 1981, and the George Polk Memorial Award for Foreign Reporting, also in 1981.
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Series
The **Education** series includes a copy of her 1966 master’s thesis at Ohio State University.

The **Clippings** series includes a majority of Christian’s writings, mostly about the political strife in Central and South America. A few clippings focus on people or events. There are no originals in this series, all of the clippings are photocopies. This series is organized alphabetically by country, and then chronologically with her submissions for the Pulitzer Prize at the back.

The **Publication** series includes articles and book reviews that Christian wrote. All but one of the articles focuses on the political turmoil in Central and South America, as is all her book reviews. This series is organized alphabetically by the title of the publication and then chronologically.

The **Photograph** series includes photos of Christian with international political figures; office settings, and “at work.”

Folder List
**Box 1**
**Education**
f. 1

**Clippings**
f. 2 Argentina, 1986 – 1988
f. 3 Argentina, 1989 – 1991
f. 4 Bolivia, 1977 – 1990
  Brazil, 1988
f. 5 Chile, 1968 – 1988
f. 6 Chile, 1988 – 1995
f. 7 Colombia, 1992
  Costa Rica, 1980 – 1992
f. 8 Cuba, 1981
f. 9 Ecuador, 1988
f. 10 El Salvador, 1979 – 1993
f. 11 Guatemala, 1979 – 1993
f. 12 Honduras, 1980 – 1992
f. 13 Mexico, 1980
f. 15 Nicaragua, 1982 – 1993

**Box 2**
f. 16 Panama, 1981 – 1992
f. 17 Paraguay, 1989
  Peru, 1980 – 1990
f. 18 United States, 1979 – 2001
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f. 19  Uruguay, 1986 – 1990
f. 20  Venezuela, 1980
f. 21  Submissions for the 1981 Pulitzer Prize

Publications


“This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land.” *The New York Times Magazine*, November, 1992, pp. 32-38.

Photographs:
El Salvador- “struggling up hill” 1990
With Raúl Sendic (Tupamaros Guerrillas)  1989
Archbishop of Montevideo  c. 1989
Outside of Helicopter, El Salvador  1990
Inside Helicopter, El Salvador  1990
With Colonel Majano, Salvadoran Junta  1980
With General Pinochet, Chile  1986
With Zubin Mehta, Orchestra Conductor, 1988
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Champagne Toast with John McMullan, Editor of The Herald 1981
Rutgers Speech 1983
In San Salvador 1981
Associated Press in Chile Farewell Party 1979
Breakfast with General Pinochet in Chile c. 1978
Nieman Fellowship Class, Harvard 1974
Touring Beekman Place 1972
Associated Press in New Orleans Farewell Party 1968
With Ardeshir Zahedi, Foreign Minister of Iran, 1970