

Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, Papers 1960-2010, undated

Creator: Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ-TOSF (1931-2010)

Extent: 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None.

Usage Restrictions: Copyright belonging to materials created by Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Marjorie White, SSJ donated the papers of Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, to the Women and Leadership Archives September 2, 2010 (WLA2010.22).

Processor: Christine Flynn, February 2011

Processing Information: Finding aid updated February 2025.

Separations: Less than 0.25 linear feet duplicate material was removed and discarded.

Biographical History

Ruth Ann Hoffelder, later known as Sr. Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, was born August 25, 1931 in Waterloo, Indiana. In the mid-1940s Sr. Margaret attended Ashley High School in Auburn, Indiana. Upon graduation, she was accepted to St. Francis College where she later completed a master's degree in theology. While at St. Francis College, Sr. Margaret joined the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis (SSJ-TOSF). It was also during her stay at St. Francis that she began teaching elementary school. In the late 1950s, while teaching Music and Religion at St. Francis High School, Sr. Margaret attended DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. In 1963 she earned a bachelor's degree in music education as well as a Master of Music in Liturgical Music.

Shortly thereafter, she accepted a position as the Formation Director of St. Francis Convent where she stayed until 1970 when she began her position as a professor of theology at St. Francis College. In 1975 Sr. Margaret accepted the position of Associate Pastor at St. Andrews Church and later at Our Lady of Good Hope, where she remained for over a decade. During her tenure at Our Lady of Good Hope, Sr. Margaret and six other women founded a feminine spiritual center named Sophia's Portico in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Sr. Margaret was elected Executive Director and held the position until her death in 2010.

During her time as Executive Director she conducted extensive Scripture and goddess research. Sr. Margaret presented several lecture series on matriarchs of the Bible as well as ancient goddesses and their position in Christian theology. Her goddess centered research allowed her to lead two tour groups throughout Europe searching for the Divine Feminine and goddess holy sites.

Sr. Margaret passed away on May 10, 2010 at the age of 78.

Scope and Content

The Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, Papers consist of 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes) spanning the years 1960-2010. The collection contains material related to Sr. Margaret's professional career as a teacher and lecturer in Fort Wayne, IN. Though some biographical information exists within the collection, the bulk of documents are presentation notes and research for her various lecture series and international tours. The collection is divided into three series and materials are arranged alphabetically within each series.

Series 1: Biographical, 1960-2009, Box 1

This series consists of glimpses into Sr. Margaret's personal education and an overview of her professional life. Materials include a resume, brief biography, a panorama of the history of the Christian church, University of St. Francis magazine, and a graded paper authored by Sr. Margaret.

Series 2: Lecture Notes/Research, 1981-2010, undated, Box 1

Materials in this collection document Sr. Margaret's lectures including the lecture series entitled *Uncovering Buried Treasures*, these notes comprise the majority of this series and track the involvement of women in the Bible since the Dawn of Civilization. Also included in this series are magazine and newspapers articles used in Sr. Margaret's research.

Series 3: Goddess Research/Documents, 1999-2008, Box 2

Several items from Sr. Margaret's goddess research comprise this collection including presentation notes, research, pictures, and travel logs, which Sr. Margaret created to assist in her search for the Divine Feminine and goddess sites.

Subjects:

Feminist Spirituality

Hoffelder, Margaret (1931-2010)

Matriarchs (Bible)

Sisters of St. Joseph

| Box | Folder | Title | Dates |
|-----|--------|--|---------------|
| | | <i>Margaret Hoffelder, SSJ, Papers 1960-2010, undated</i> | |
| | | Series 1: Biographical, 1960-2009 | |
| 1 | 1 | Biographical Information & Documents | 2009, undated |
| 1 | 2 | Panorama of Church History | 1960 |
| 1 | 3 | <i>The Loss of the Feminine Face of God</i> , Graded Work | 1989 |
| | | | |

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| Series 2: Lecture Notes/Research, 1981-2010, undated | | | |
|---|----|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | 4 | Beguines | 2001-2002 |
| 1 | 5 | Fall/Redemption/Creation | undated |
| 1 | 6 | Hildegard of Bingen | 2001-2010 |
| 1 | 7 | Moses | 1981-1998 |
| 1 | 8 | Mithraism | 1994-2003, undated |
| 1 | 9 | Old Testament | undated |
| 1 | 10 | Teresa of Avila | undated |
| 1 | 11 | <i>The Bible According to Eve</i> , article | 1998 |
| 1 | 12 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, <i>The Red Tent</i> , Scripture | 2005, [2005] |
| 1 | 13 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Dawn of Civilization | [2005] |
| 1 | 14 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Age of Matriarchs 1800-1700 | [2005] |
| 1 | 15 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Israelites in Egypt 1700-1600 | [2005] |
| 1 | 16 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, The Exodus 1280 | [2005] |
| 1 | 17 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Wilderness Sojourn 1280-1250 | [2005] |
| 1 | 18 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Conquest of Canaan Period of Judges 1250-1020 | [2005] |
| 1 | 19 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Era of Samuel & Saul 1020-1000 | [2005] |
| 1 | 20 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Monarchy of David 1000-961 | [2005] |
| 1 | 21 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Empire of Solomon 961-922 | [2005] |
| 1 | 22 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Divided Kingdom 922-722 | [2005] |
| 1 | 23 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, After the Fall/Exile 721-650 | [2005] |
| 1 | 24 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Prophets in Divided Kingdom 785-587 | 1998, [2005] |
| 1 | 25 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, After 500 Return from Exile | [2005] |
| 1 | 26 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Origins of Christianity/ Introduction to Christian Bible | 1999, [2005] |
| 1 | 27 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Jesus Mysteries | [2005] |
| 1 | 28 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Women | [2005] |
| 1 | 29 | Uncovering Buried Treasures, Table of Contents | [2005] |
| 1 | 30 | “Was Jesus Married?” article | 1996 |
| Series 3: Goddess Research/Documents, 1999-2008 | | | |
| 2 | 1 | <i>A Women's Tour of France</i> , travel log | 1999 |
| 2 | 2 | Goddess Presentations | 1999-2008 |
| 2 | 3 | <i>Journey to Sacred sites of Greece and Turkey</i> , travel log | 2007 |
| 2 | 4 | The Black Virgin | 1999 |