

**CARMEN LINDIG PAPERS**

Mss. 4829

Inventory

Compiled by  
Ebony McDonald

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.3 linear feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1925-1995
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1971-1985
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	Consists of personal papers and newspaper clippings primarily from the 1970s and 1980s related to local and national political figures, organizations, topics, and events during the women's rights movement. The collection also includes personal research conducted for lectures, publications, presentations, and book reviews related to women's history.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	No restrictions
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Citation</b>	Carmen Lindig Papers, Mss. 4829, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	T:110, OS:L

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Carmen Elizabeth Meriwether Lindig was a Baton Rouge, Louisiana educator and women's and patients' rights activist. She was born on August 20, 1924 in Beaumont, Texas to James (or Jerry) William Meriwether and Genevieve (or Jinnie) V. Talbot. Carmen's parents married in Beaumont on July 4, 1911. Carmen had three siblings: Camille Meriwether (1912-1940), who married William Pointer Hardy in 1938; Jerry William Meriwether, Jr. (1919-1985); and Rebecca Doll Ann Meriwether (1926-1986).

Two months shy of her eighteenth birthday, Carmen married Lawrence W. Lindig (1922-1998) on June 5, 1942 in Jefferson, Texas. They had five children: Lawrence "Larry" William Lindig (born 1944), who married Brenda Knight Lindig; Jerry William Lindig (born 1947); Susan Lindig (born 1952); Linda Lindig Carr (born 1960), who married Vance Carr; and Lark Lindig Francis (born 1962), who married Mark Francis. On June 5, 1975, Carmen married Oliver Dayton Lindig (1924-2003), Lawrence's brother, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

As early as 1951, Carmen became a resident of Baton Rouge. During that decade she worked with her mother who was the owner of the first nursing home in the city. She also lobbied for patients' rights and nursing home advances in the 1950s and 1960s. She received her MA in history from Louisiana State University in 1968 and PhD in history from the University of North Texas in 1982. In 1986, she wrote *The Path from the Parlor: Louisiana Women, 1879-1920*. She was the head of the History Department at Istrouma Middle Magnet School in Baton Rouge, a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and on the board of directors for the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

On February 3, 2004, she passed away at her residence in Baton Rouge.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists of personal papers and newspaper clippings. The papers contain materials related to propaganda against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and sex education in public schools, Carmen Lindig's participation in numerous women's organizations and events, and the personal research that she conducted for lectures, publications, presentations, and book reviews regarding women's history. Newspaper clippings feature prominent women activists, political figures, and women-related issues and events from the 1970s and 1980s.

**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I. Personal Papers, 1925, 1946-1995, undated**

**Series II. Newspaper Clippings, 1979-1984, undated**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### Series I. Personal Papers, 1925, 1946-1995, undated

Personal papers contain a variety of items that demonstrate Carmen Lindig's interests as they relate to the people, organizations, events, and socio-political issues concerning women's rights. There are materials from the conferences, reports, publications, and activities of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) such as *Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America* (1990) by Greenberg Lake: The Analysis Group. It is a report on a national survey research project conducted by the AAUW to study the relationship between self-esteem, education, and career aspiration in American adolescents. Also, included in the papers are assorted publications from the following organizations: the Louisiana League of Women Voters, such as the circular *The ERA: What it means to Louisiana men and women* (1977); the Louisiana Bureau for Women, such as the pamphlet *Louisiana Community Property Land and How Its Effects Can Be Change by Contract* (1977); the Bureau on the Status of Women's *Legislation Affecting Women in Louisiana 1975 and 1978* reports; a minority report on the 1977 Louisiana Women's Conference by International Women's Year (IWY) Women's Conference; and internal documents from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

Lindig also collected items that were against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and sex education in public schools. These items include "Who Opposes the Equal Rights Amendment" in *The Phyllis Schlafly Report* (1974); publications by the Christian Defense League, such as *Sex Education: The Assault on Christian Morals* (oversize, undated); and promotional materials for president of Females Opposed to Equality (FOE) Barbour "Babs" Minhinette's 1979 State Senate campaign against then incumbent Ken Osterberger. There are also political cartoons produced by FOE against the ERA.

Additional items include research and notes for a lecture entitled *The 1920's* (1977) as well as reviews on *The Path from the Parlor* (undated) and notes for a book review on Anne Firor Scott's 1993 work *Unheard Voices: The First Historians of Southern Women* (undated).

### Series II. Newspaper Clippings, 1979-1984, undated

Newspaper clippings showcase prominent women activists, public figures, and women-related issues and events from periodicals such as the *Morning Advocate*, *Sunday Advocate*, and *State-Times*. Headlines that can be found in this series include: "Opposing Views on Equal Rights Amendment Stated (1979);" "'Head and master' status lost by La. husbands with new year (1980);" "Women reps: They have their work cut out for them," referring to Mary Landrieu, Margaret Lowenthal, and Diana Bajoie (oversize, 1980); "ERA backers lower sights to state law (1982);" and "Great Ladies who helped build Louisiana (1983)."

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Series</b>
American Association of University Women	I
Bureau on the Status of Women (Baton Rouge, La.)	I
Christian Defense League (U.S.)	I-II
Community property--Louisiana	I-II
Equal rights amendments--United States	I-II
Females Opposed to Equality (Baton Rouge, La.)	I
League of Women Voters (Baton Rouge, La.)	I
Lindig, Carmen.	I-II
Louisiana Women's Conference (1977 : Baton Rouge, La.)	I
Louisiana. Women's Bureau	I
Minhinnette, Babs, 1937-1998	I-II
Second-wave feminism--Louisiana	I-II
Women--Political activity--Louisiana--Baton Rouge	I-II
Women's rights--Louisiana	I-II
Young Women's Christian Association (Baton Rouge, La.)	I

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<b>T:110</b>	1	1	<b>Series I. Personal Papers, 1925, 1946-1995, undated</b> American Association of University Women (AAUW), 1925, 1946-1995, undated
		2	Barbour "Babs" Minhinette Materials, 1972-1982, undated
<b>OS:L</b>	--	1	<i>Sex Education: The Assault on Christian Morals</i> by The Christian Defense League (Baton Rouge, La.), undated
<b>T:110</b>	1	3	Louisiana League of Women Voters, 1974-1976
		4	Bureau for Women, 1974-1979, undated
		5	Legislation Affecting Women in La. Sessions, 1975-1978
		6	Louisiana Women's Conference Report, 1977
		7	1920's Lecture Notes and Research, 1977, undated
		8	Young Christian Women's Association (YWCA), 1995-1995
		9	Book Reviews, undated
<b>OS:L</b>	--	10-12	<b>Series II. Newspaper Clippings, 1979-1984, undated</b> Newspaper clippings, 1979-1984, undated
		1	Newspaper clippings and issue, 1979-1983