

Guide to the Anna L. Philbrook Papers, 1926-1983

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Anna L. Philbrook Papers, 1926-1983

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

1996.141

Author of Finding Aid:

Lorayne Billings; reformatted by Korrena Cowing and updated by Abby Dollries

Creator:

Philbrook, Anna L., 1904-1983

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

The Anna L. Philbrook Papers consist of materials related to Philbrook's career as a pediatric psychiatrist. It is comprised largely of correspondence, newspaper articles, and photographs. Additionally, the papers include Philbrook's obituary, citing her role as a director of New Hampshire Child Guidance Clinics and founder of the Philbrook Children's Center in Concord, NH. Materials date from 1926 to 1983.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Anna L. Philbrook Papers were a gift of Mary Eileen Dixey on October 8, 1996.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Lorayne Billings at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date, reformatted by Korrena Cowing in April 2020, and updated by Abby Dollries in June 2025. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Anna L. Philbrook Papers, 1996.141. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Dr. Anna Philbrook was born June 14, 1904 in Laconia, NH, to Olin and Julia Philbrook and began her education in a one-room schoolhouse near a Quebec logging camp where her father worked. She attended schools in Meredith and Tilton, NH, and graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1928. She attended medical school at McGill University, becoming one of the first women in the United States to practice child psychiatry.

Dr. Philbrook began her work in New Hampshire at the State Hospital in 1933 and established community mental health services for children. She later promoted a special foundation for children and families in need and helped found a residential and out-patient facility for children in 1969 named the Philbrook Center, located in Concord, NH. In 1976, she received the Robert Frost Contemporary American Award and several honorary degrees from the University of New Hampshire. She retired in 1966 as director of the state's Child Guidance Clinics, but continued to

treat children in her private practice until 1981. She died in Concord on August 18, 1983 at the age of 79.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Anna L. Philbrook Papers consist of Philbrook's correspondence, along with materials related to the founding of the Philbrook Center, including banquet and ceremonial programs. Additionally, the papers include certificates, awards, memberships, and honorary degrees received by Philbrook, such as the Robert Frost Contemporary American Award and an invitation from the President of the United States to participate in the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth. Other materials consist of various newspaper articles and photographs of Philbrook throughout her career, including with politicians such as Governor Walter Peterson and Senator James C. Cleveland. The materials date from 1926 to 1983.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by type.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Correspondence, 1926-1976
Folder 2	Correspondence, banquet programs, ground breaking ceremony, memorial remarks, 1976-1983
Folder 3	Certificates and awards, 1926-1976, undated
Folder 4	Copies of scrapbook photographs and ephemera, 1921-1983, undated
Folder 5	Newspaper articles, 1946-1975
Folder 6	Newspaper articles, including Philbrook's obituaries, 1969-1983
Folder 7	Photographs, 1921, 1974-1976, undated

Separated Materials:

The following documents were moved to the Ephemera Collection – Philbrook, Anna:
Anna L. Philbrook Foundation brochure, undated [2 brochures]
Commencement Exercises, Keene Teachers College program, 1954 June 12
Dr. Anna L. Philbrook brochure, undated
Ground Breaking Ceremony the Philbrook Center for Children's Services program, 1969 June 4
Miss Anna L. Philbrook calling card, undated
"What Does It Take to Make a Troubled Child Smile Again?" brochure, undated

Subject Terms

People:

Adams, Sherman, 1899-1986
Cleveland, James C. (James Colgate), 1920-1995
Cotton, Norris, 1900-1989
McIntyre, Thomas J., 1915-1992
Peterson, Walter R., 1922-2011
Philbrook, Anna L., 1904-1983

Organizations:

John Hopkins University
Philbrook Center for Children's Services (Concord, N.H.)
Plymouth State College
University of New Hampshire

Subjects:

Awards
Child psychiatry
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Correspondence
Dedications
Mental health
Obituaries
Photographs
Programs
Women

Locations:

Concord, NH

Occupations:

Psychiatrists

Related MaterialsArchives

Ephemera Collection - Philbrook, Anna