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Guide to the Mary Jean Bowman Papers 1916-1998



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.BOWMANMJ
Title	Bowman, Mary Jean. Papers
Date	1916-1998
Size	21 linear feet (42 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	Mary Jean Bowman (1908-2002) University of Chicago economist best known for her work on the economics of education. The Mary Jean Bowman papers contain published work by Bowman as well as manuscript drafts, notes, and research and teaching materials. The collection also includes reprints and manuscripts by other scholars, correspondence, and some personal files.

Information on Use

Access

Series V includes student evaluative material restricted until 2062 and personal financial material restricted for fifty years. The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Mary Jean Bowman. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Mary Jean Bowman was born in New York City in 1908 and raised in Newton Center, Massachusetts. She received a B.A. in economics from Vassar College in 1930, an M.A. in economics from Radcliffe College in 1932, and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University in 1938. During the 1930s Bowman did casework and research at the Massachusetts Women's State Prison and began teaching at Iowa State College. In 1943 Bowman, along with her husband C. Arnold Anderson, Theodore Schultz, D. Gale Johnson and others left Iowa State during the "oleomargarine controversy." (During World War II, Iowa State College faculty published a pamphlet recommending the use of oleomargarine during wartime. Under pressure from the state dairy industry, the college president urged the faculty to revise the pamphlet.) Bowman then worked as a price economist for the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and as a visiting lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley before moving to Chicago with her husband in 1949. Because C. Arnold Anderson was a faculty member in the Education

department at the University of Chicago, Bowman was not awarded a faculty appointment in the Economics department until 1958 after the University relaxed nepotism rules. She did, however, teach as an Associate Professor in the Economics department prior to 1958. In 1969 she was awarded a joint appointment in the Economics and Education departments.

Bowman was best known for applying human capital theory to the study of education. She published six books and more than seventy five articles over the course of her career. With George Leland Bach, she co-authored the textbook *Economic Analysis and Public Policy*, which was the most widely used college economics textbook in the 1940s and 1950s. She published influential research on income distribution in the 1950s and produced a major study of the economics of poverty-stricken Eastern Kentucky in the 1960s. She also researched internationally, and published books on the Ivory Coast and Japan as well as numerous articles on economics and education in developing countries. She collaborated with her husband (who directed the University's Comparative Education Center) to publish work on economics and education based on both domestic and international research.

Mary Jean Bowman died in Chicago in 2002 at age 93.

Scope Note

The Mary Jean Bowman papers include reprints of scholarly articles, manuscripts, notes, correspondence, and other documents. Series I contains work by Mary Jean Bowman, including manuscripts and reprints of articles and books, ranging from 1929 to 1998. Included are works authored by Bowman alone as well as those jointly authored with other scholars, including Bowman's husband C. Arnold Anderson. Series II contains a variety of research and teaching materials. Included are subject files containing publications and notes on various topics, as well as files of statistical data, syllabi and notes for several courses. Series III contains copies of Bowman's vitae, information from several conferences, correspondence, miscellaneous notes, and material for a volume about C. Arnold Anderson that Bowman compiled for Anderson's memorial service in 1990. Series IV contains work by other scholars, including reprints from scholarly journals as well as manuscript drafts. Bowman organized some of these materials by author; the remainder have been grouped into manuscripts organized alphabetically by author (or lead author) name and reprints organized alphabetically by author (or lead author) name. Series V is a restricted file containing personal financial documents and student recommendation letters.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

C. Arnold Anderson. Papers

Subject Headings

- Bowman, Mary Jean
- Anderson, C. Arnold (Charles Arnold), 1907-
- Economics
- Economic development
- Comparative education
- Japan -- Education
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Kentucky
- Mexico -- Education

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