

**The E. Adelaide Hahn Collection
1893-1967
Finding Aid**



Archives and Special Collections



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 14-01

Size: 0.9115 cu. ft.

Provenance: E. Adelaide Hahn

Restrictions: None

Archivist: Prof. Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

Assistants: Ms. Julie Sorokurs

Date: September 2014

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born in New York City on April 1 1893, E. Adelaide Hahn was the daughter of Elenore Funk and Otto Hahn. Growing up, Hahn was heavily influenced by her mother (herself a Hunter alumna of 1875), who was her tutor up to the time Hahn was enrolled in the Hunter Model School at age 13. Following her graduation from Hunter High School, Hahn attended Hunter College – where she took up a double major in Latin and French with a minor in Greek. She graduated in 1915 as president of her class. Hahn received her Master of Arts degree in classics from Columbia University in 1917, going on to complete her PhD there as well in 1929.

Adelaide Hahn's life was almost entirely centered around Hunter College, her career there as faculty member spanning a little over four decades (from 1921 to 1963). During this time, she acted as chair of the classics program as well. She also taught at the Linguistic Institute of the University of Michigan, and was the first woman to do so.

An active promoter of the classics, Hahn's dedication to the preservation of her field was apparent in her publications, her letters to the editors of New York newspapers, and in the oral papers she presented at academic meetings. Her membership in a considerable number of linguistics-oriented clubs and organizations, and especially her relationship with The Linguistic Society of America (which elected her as its first female president), was indicative of the scope of her contributions to the discipline – making her “a woman to be reckoned with” during a time when her field was less than favorable towards the contributions of women. One of the definitive examples of this is the fact that she was one of five scholars, and the only woman, invited to speak at the International Congress of Linguists in Oslo in 1957, where she represented the United States.

An authority on Hittite, Sanskrit, and Old Persian, Hahn's most lauded contributions to the field of linguistics were her articles concerning the structure of Indo-European languages, especially in regards to syntax and etymology. She continued to conduct her studies and present them, consistently, until the very end.

E. Adelaide Hahn passed away in her home on Riverside Drive on July 8th 1967 at the age of 74, succumbing to her seven-year-battle against cancer.

Julie Sorokurs
September 29th, 2014

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The E. Adelaide Hahn collection briefly highlights the work of E. Adelaide Hahn, a scholar of international distinction and “one of the most devoted of all Hunterites,” having served as Chairman of the Department of Classics for over 27 years. The collection consists of biographical information, documents regarding Hahn’s services and cremation, her correspondence (primarily with President Colligan), copies of her poems and plays, and a considerable number of her articles - published by the Linguistics Society of America.

Highlights of this collection include Hahn’s plays, presented by Hunter’s Classics Department and performed by members of its staff (with the occasional cameo from the president of the college himself). There is also the historical significance of Hahn’s speeches, given at departmental meetings, which addressed issues such as faculty reorganization and the place of Classics in the college curriculum - issues as relevant today as they were over half a century ago. Conversely, Hahn’s published articles are noteworthy in that they reflect methods and findings which have since evolved dramatically, which should interest those looking into the history and progression of linguistic analysis.

Though the meager size of the E. Adelaide Hahn collection is in no way indicative of the breadth and significance of Hahn’s accomplishments, it boasts material which ought to effectively come across with the enormity of both her work and her extraordinary character.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I - Biographical Materials

Series I consists of articles written before and after E. Adelaide Hahn's death. These articles contain various accounts of Hahn's work in and out of Hunter, as well as personal anecdotes regarding her strength of will and various eccentricities. There is also a folder containing two photographs of Hahn, and a folder detailing her services and cremation. These are all arranged chronologically.

Series II - Correspondence

Series II contains records of Hahn's correspondence, primarily with President Colligan. These letters are arranged chronologically.

Series III - Hunter College

Series III consists of material relating to Hahn's work at Hunter College, which includes her poems, plays, and speeches. There are also documents regarding her role in Phi Beta Kappa, her departmental memos, as well as a scholarship named in her honor. Additionally, this series contains Hahn's Hittite, Greek, and Latin study guides. Each folder is arranged in chronological order.

Series IV - Publications

This series is a chronologically-arranged collection of the majority of E. Adelaide Hahn's published articles.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I - BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Articles About Hahn 1931, 1946, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1971, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2007
	2	Photographs n.d.
	3	Memorial Services and Cremation 1967

SERIES II - CORRESPONDENCE

1	4	Incoming 1934, 1936 – 1939, 1942, 1943, 1945, 1948, 1949, 1953, 1961, 1963
	5	Outgoing 1921, 1930, 1933 – 1939, 1941 – 1943, 1946, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1955, 1960

SERIES III - HUNTER COLLEGE

1	6	E. Adelaide Hahn Scholarship 1969, 1971, 1975
	7	Department of Classics – Pageants and Plays 1913, 1929, 1935, 1955
	8	Miscellaneous 1929, 1931, 1942, 1944, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1957, 1963, 1967
	9	Phi Beta Kappa 1927, 1967
	10	Songs, Sonnets, and Verses 1914, 1915, 1949, 1951, 1955, 1988
	11	Speeches, n.d.

SERIES III - HUNTER COLLEGE

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	12	Staff Personnel Record 1936 – 1957
	13	Study Guides n.d.

SERIES IV - PUBLICATIONS

2	1	1920's <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hahn, E. Adelaide. "Vergil and the "Under-Dog"" <i>Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association</i> 56 (1925): 185-212.• --- "Quintilian on Greek Letters Lacking in Latin and Latin Letters Lacking in Greek" <i>Language</i> 17 (1929): 24-32.• --- "On Direct and Indirect Discourse" <i>The Classical Weekly</i> 22 (1929): 131-132.
	2	1930's <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hahn, E. Adelaide. "Hittite Kwis Kwis" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 68 (1937): 388-402.• --- "Hittite Words in ta-" <i>Language</i> 12 (1936-1938): 108-120.• --- "Epodes 5 and 17, Carmina 1.16 and 1.17" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 70 (1939): 213-230.
	3	1940's <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hahn, E. Adelaide. "The Indefinite-Relative-Interrogative Stem" <i>Language</i> 18 (1942): 83-116.• --- "Voice of Non-Finite Verb Forms in Latin and English" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 74 (1943): 269-306.• --- "The Characters in the Eclogues" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 75 (1944): 196-242.• --- "Progressus a Non Progrediendo" <i>The Classical Weekly</i> 37 (1944): 203-205.• --- "The Shift of a Hittite Conjunction from the Temporal to the Conditional Sphere" <i>Language</i> 20 (1944): 91-107.

SERIES IV - PUBLICATIONS

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
2	3	1940'S <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hahn, E. Adelaide. "The Origin of the Relative kwi-kwo-" <i>Language</i> 22 (1946): 68-85.• --- "The Type of Calefacio" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 78 (1947): 301-335.• --- "Ilicet, Scilicet, Videlicet" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 79 (1948): 308-337.• --- "The Non-Restrictive Relative in Hittite" <i>Language</i> 25 (1949): 346-374.
	4	1950's <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hahn, E. Adelaide. "Partitive Apposition in Homer and the Greek Accusative" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 85 (1954): 197-287.• --- "More About the Vocative in Hittite" <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> 70 (1950): 236-238.• --- "Edgar Howard Sturtevant" <i>Language</i> 28 (1952): 417-434.• --- "Apollonius Dyscolus on Mood" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 82 (1951): 29-48.• --- "The Moods in Indirect Discourse in Latin" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 83 (1952): 242-266.• --- "Some Hittite-Sanskrit Parallels" <i>Language</i> 29 (1953): 242-254.
	5	1960's <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hahn, E. Adelaide. "Nec Morti Esse Locum" <i>American Journal of Philology</i> 81 (1960): 73-75.• --- "The Origin of the Greek Accusative in Latin" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 91 (1960): 221-238.• --- "Relative and Antecedent" <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 95 (1964): 111-141.