

HOYT R. GALVIN PAPERS, 1916-1993

8.5 cu. ft. (17 document boxes)

ABSTRACT

Hoyt R. Galvin (1911-1995) grew up in Iowa. He was educated at Simpson College and the University of Illinois and went on to pursue a long and influential career in librarianship. He developed particular authority and influence as an expert on library building programs. Galvin served as director of the Charlotte Public Library from 1940 to 1970 and was also active in civic affairs in Charlotte, North Carolina. Following his retirement from the Charlotte Public Library, Galvin continued to be active in library consulting into the 1980s.

This collection consists of Galvin's private papers. It includes biographical materials; professional writings and consultation reports; publications and marketing materials of the Charlotte Public Library; reference materials about Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, and publications of the Charlotte Rotary Club.

ACCESS

This collection is open to the public without restriction. The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Hoyt R. Galvin Papers, 1916-1993, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

ACQUISITION

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HISTORICAL NOTE

Hoyt Rees Galvin was born February 26, 1911, on a farm in Pleasantville, Iowa, the son of Guy Galvin and Grace Rees Galvin. He was educated in local public schools. He later wrote that he had never been in a library before landing the library job at nearby Simpson College that helped him fund his education there. He found he enjoyed the work and, after graduating from Simpson in 1932, he went on to study Library Science at the University of Illinois. He completed a second bachelor's degree and more than half the coursework towards a masters degree in library science before leaving school due to economic conditions in the midst of the Great Depression.

Galvin married his college classmate, Mary Elizabeth Sayre, on May 2, 1935. The couple ultimately had two children, Douglas and Jane Ann.

From 1935-1937, Galvin worked as a librarian for the Tennessee Valley Authority in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1937, he became director of a three-county regional library system based in Huntsville, Alabama.

Then, in November 1940, at age twenty-nine, Hoyt Galvin began work as director of the Charlotte Public Library, a position he would hold for the next thirty years. Major milestones during his tenure included racial integration of the library staff and a nearly tenfold increase in the size of the library collection, as well as substantial growth of facilities. Galvin was instrumental in building support for the bond issue that funded the 1956 Main Library building and several new branches. He also secured public support for a measure to devote 5% of Alcoholic Beverage Control profits to the public library.

Throughout his career, Galvin was active in library professional associations. He served at various times as president of the North Carolina Library Association, president of the Southeastern Library Association, and second vice president of the American Library Association, in addition to being active in multiple committees of those organizations. He regularly published articles in professional journals and became known as an authority on library building programs. This expertise led to a thriving private consulting business, and to additional opportunities to publish, speak at conference, and teach seminars and library school classes.

Galvin retired from the Charlotte Public Library in 1970, but continued to work as a library consultant into the 1980s. In 1984 he calculated that he had undertaken 190 different consulting jobs, involving 116 different building programs or surveys in 33 different states.

In addition to his library work, Galvin was a dedicated member of the Charlotte Rotary Club (serving as president in 1949-1950). He was also involved in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and taught Sunday school at First Methodist Church.

Hoyt Galvin died on December 22, 1995 as a consequence of a major stroke.

REFERENCES

The Charlotte Observer, "Hoyt Galvin Dies," Charlotte, NC: December 24, 1995.

Hoyt R. Galvin Papers, 1916-1993.

RELATED MATERIALS

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Archives (CALL NUMBER: NCR Vault)

Fest-schrift Honoring Hoyt R. Galvin : Director of Libraries, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, November 1, 1940-February 28, 1971 / by his ever-loving library family. Charlotte, NC: 1971. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 025.1974)

Galvin, Hoyt R. *Audio-Visual Manual for Public Libraries.* Charlotte, NC, 1946. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 021.43)

Galvin, Hoyt R. *Films in Public Libraries.* New York: Dowker, 1947. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 021.43)

Galvin, Hoyt R. *Proposed Outline for Public Library Buildings Institutes and Workshops.* Washington DC: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Library Services Branch, 1964 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

Galvin, Hoyt R., consulting reports as enumerated below:

The Chemung-Southern Tier Library System: A Survey. 1968. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 027.4747)

Library Service for Savannah and Chatham County, Georgia. 1961. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

Library Services for Decatur and DeKalb County, Georgia. 1961. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 027.4747)

A Program for an Anderson County Main Library Building in Anderson, South Carolina. 1968 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for a Main Library Building for Chemung County. 1968. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for a New Public Library Building for the Huntsville Public Library, Huntsville, Alabama. 1959. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for a New Public Library Building for the Public Library of Moultrie and Colquitt County, Moultrie, Georgia. 1960. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for a New Public Library Building for Smithfield and Johnston County, Smithfield, North Carolina. 1964. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for Public Library Building Expansion for Statesville and Iredell County, Statesville, North Carolina. [1964?] (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for Public Library Building Facilities for Raleigh and Wake County, North Carolina. 1965. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

A Program for Public Libraries Buildings Facilities for the Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina. 1964. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

Waco Public Library Report. 1959. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022.3)

Galvin, Hoyt R. and Martin Van Buren. *The Small Public Library Building.* Paris: UNESCO, 1958. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 022)

Ryckman, Patricia. *Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County: A Century of Service.* Charlotte, NC: Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, 1989.

(CALL NUMBER: NCR 027.4) Also available as an online exhibit at <http://www.cmstory.org/centuryofservice>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hoyt Galvin Papers are the personal papers of a longtime director of the Charlotte Public Library, particularly as they relate to his professional work in librarianship. The papers include articles, presentations, course syllabi, and consulting reports, correspondence related to work in professional organizations, resumes, and biographical information. The collection also includes an extensive run of publications from the Charlotte Rotary Club, an organization in which Galvin was actively involved for more than half a century. The collection does not include Library organizational records from Galvin's tenure, or a detailed account of his official actions as director. However, major events and themes (construction of new facilities, focus on the public library as the "university of the people") can be traced indirectly through his writings and the samples of Library publications that he saved. Galvin was known nationally as an expert on planning and constructing public library buildings, and his writings on that topic will be of particular interest.

Biographical Records, 1920s-1980s, are Galvin's own biographical folders about himself, subdivided chronologically into periods he defined. They contain resumes and professional profiles, employment-related correspondence and documents, membership cards, certificates, news clippings, and personal memorabilia.

Charlotte Rotary Club, 1942-1993, consists of issues of the *Charlotte Reporter*, a weekly newsletter, and the *Roster* an annual directory. Also included is the program for *Hooray America*, a benefit performance held on March 24-25, 1942, at the Piedmont Junior High School Auditorium, for the purpose of equipping civilian defense emergency medical stations.

Charlotte Public Library, 1941-1974, includes bibliographies and resource guides published by the Library, Library brochures and advocacy materials, articles about the Library, and some mementos of specific staff members. The limited selection of administrative documents are primarily from the early 1970s, immediately following Galvin's retirement, when there was apparently an agreement that he would serve an "emeritus" capacity, advising and consulting with his successor on request.

Genealogy, 1973, contains *How Broad Were Our Prairies*, originally written by Silas Jackson ("Jack") Galvin in 1948 and retyped and distributed by Hoyt Galvin in 1973 as a gift to family members.

Library Consulting, 1958-1990, includes some general information about Galvin's consulting work including samples of forms he used and a master list of past consulting reports. The bulk of the series consists of consulting reports. In many cases, the cover sheet only has been retained, with the body of the report having been previously discarded. In other cases, the complete report remains.

Local Area Reference, 1939-1973, is a collection of publications that Galvin seems to have kept for ready reference concerning Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Topics include history; facts and figures; economic and urban development; local attractions; resource lists; and directories.

Professional Activities, 1930s-1980s, comprises speeches, papers, articles, conference presentations, and course syllabi, along with a limited amount of related correspondence. The majority of the materials relate to libraries and librarianship, but they also include examples of speeches on unrelated topics that Galvin prepared for community and civic groups. Materials are grouped by decade.

Photographs, 1916-1970s, includes a small collection personal snapshots and professional portraits from various periods of Galvin's life, as well as a few snapshots of Library staff at events and two formal group photos of the Charlotte Rotary Club.

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1970	5	1
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1977	6	2
1978	6	3
1979	6	4
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1981	6	6
1982	7	1
1983	7	2
1984	7	3
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