



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Lenora Slaughter Papers

NMAH.AC.1227

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

2019

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	2
Scope and Contents .....	2
Arrangement .....	3
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Series 1: Personal Papers, 1936-1967, undated .....	4
Series 2: Professional Materials, 1935-1995, undated .....	5
Series 3: Miss America Pageant, 1945-1996, undated .....	7
Series 5: Photographs, 1951, undated .....	11
Series 5: Bradford Frapart Papers, 1954-1969 .....	13

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Lenora Slaughter Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1935-1996, undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1227
<b>Creator:</b>	Slaughter, Lenora, 1906-2001 (Creator)
<b>Extent:</b>	6 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Personal papers primarily documenting the professional career of Lenora Slaughter, director of the Miss America pageant, with some information relating to post-retirement activities and other beauty pageants.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection purchased from David Slaughter, great nephew of Lenora Slaughter, in 2011.

### Related Materials

#### **Archives Center, National Museum of American History**

Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection, NMAH.AC.0143

Donald H. Sultner-Welles Collection, NMAH.AC.0145

Scurlock Studio Records, Subseries 4.1: Black-and-White Silver Gelatin Negatives, NMAH.AC.0618.S04.01

Scurlock Studio Records, Subseries 4.6: Black and White Negatives in Cold Storage Arranged by Client, NMAH.AC.0618.S04.06

Ivory Soap Advertising Collection, NMAH.AC.0791

Miss America 1951 Papers, NMAH.AC.0888

Jean Bartel Miss America 1943 Photographs, NMAH.AC.0902

Maid of Cotton (MOC) Records, NMAH.AC.1176

Henry "Buddy" Graf and George Cahill Vaudeville and Burlesque Collections, NMAH.AC.1484

Helen Louise Schneider Baby Beauty Contests Photograph Album, NMAH.AC.1494

Phil Primack New England Country Fair Collection, NMAH.AC.1497

#### **Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution**

Phoenix Educational Film Collection, 1974-1980, HSFA.1993.14

#### **Other Repositories**

**Ray and Pat Browne Library for Popular Culture Studies, William T. Jerome Library, University Libraries, Bowling Green State University**

Beauty Pageant Collection

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Sarah Gediman, intern, 2019; Julia Gibson, intern, 2019; Savannah Hildre, intern, 2019; and Lauren Janik, intern, 2019; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist, 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Lenora Slaughter Papers, 1935-1996, undated, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Lenora S. Slaughter, director of the Miss America pageant from 1941-1967, played a pivotal role in significantly shaping the program in more purposeful and lasting ways. During her leadership as the first female director, she changed the perspective of the pageant and created a safer and more meaningful experience for the young women. Some of the changes she is credited with are a ban on contestants representing commercial interests, adding the talent portion of the competition, providing chaperones for participants during their time in Atlantic City, establishing rules for age and marital status, and creating the college scholarship program. Slaughter also ultimately turned the local Atlantic City beauty pageant into a national event.

Lenora S. Slaughter was born in Live Oak, Suwannee County, Florida on October 23, 1906, to Alpheus Byron Slaughter (August 1882-May 1, 1946) and Susan Letitia Johnson (February 4, 1876-June 5, 1969). She graduated from Hamilton College and married Bradford Hutton Frapart (October 12, 1910-September 27, 1972) in 1948. Lenora Slaughter died in Gilbert, Maricopa County, Arizona on December 4, 2000, at the age of ninety-four.

---

## Scope and Contents

Collection primarily documents Lenora Slaughter's reign as director of the Miss America pageant. It consists of official pageant materials, such as programs, photographs, internal memos, correspondence, manuals, official press guides, newspaper clippings, publications, and 16mm film. A small amount of the collection relates to her private life and post-retirement activities. In addition, information relating to other pageants can also be found among these materials.

The collection is arranged in five series: Series 1, Personal Papers, 1936-1967, undated; Series 2, Professional Materials, 1935-1995, undated; Series 3, Miss America Pageant, 1945-1996, undated; Series 4, Photographs, 1951, undated; and Series 5, Bradford Frapart Papers, 1954-1969.

## Arrangement

Collection is arranged in five series.

Series 1, Personal Papers, 1936-1967, undated

Series 2, Professional Materials, 1935-1995, undated

Series 3, Miss America Pageant, 1945-1996, undated

Series 4, Photographs, 1951, undated

Series 5, Bradford Frapart Papers, 1954-1969

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Beauty contestants
- Beauty contests -- United States
- Beauty culture
- Corporations
- Fashion -- 20th century
- Feminine beauty (Aesthetics)
- Pageants
- Pageants -- 1930-1940
- Shows
- Telegrams
- Weddings
- Weddings -- 1940-1950
- scholarships

Types of Materials:

- 16mm films
- Awards
- Black-and-white photographs
- Correspondence
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Costumes and clothes
- Photograph albums -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century

Preferred Titles:

*NEW JERSEY-Atlantic City*

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Personal Papers, 1936-1967, undated

Scope and Contents: Consist primarily of materials relating to Slaughter's marriage on August 12, 1948, to Bradford Hutton Frapart (October 12, 1910-September 27, 1972) including their wedding album, photographs, and congratulatory cards. A genealogy, newspaper clippings, scrapbook, and photograph of the family home provide information about Slaughter's family life. In addition, there are materials from Slaughter's graduation from Hamilton College. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 9, Folder 1	Scrapbook, 1936-1948
Box 11, Folder 1	Wedding album, 1948
Box 1, Folder 1	Wedding photographs, 1948
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs of Slaughter family, 1954
Box 1, Folder 5	Hamilton College, graduation, 1958
Box 1, Folder 6	Famous Writers Magazine, 1967
Box 1, Folder 8	Bert Parks file, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Newspaper clippings relating to Slaughter family, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Photograph of house, 66 Prospect Street, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Photograph of Leonard S. Slaughter and Bradford Fradart, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	William Homer Turner file, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Professional Materials, 1935-1995, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Contain materials relating to Slaughter's professional career and activities. Materials are divided in two subseries. Subseries 2.1 documents Slaughter's accomplishments and recognition of her work. Subseries 2.2 is Slaughter's communications with industry people, political figures, corporate sponsors, Miss America winners, and personal friends.

### Subseries 2.1: Recognition and Awards, 1946-1980, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Provides context into Slaughter's work with the Miss America pageant, how it was viewed by her peers and the wider society, and the recognition that she received. Materials include awards, newspaper clippings, and a biography. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 16	Redbook Magazine, 1946
Box 1, Folder 11	Public Service Award program, 1960
Box 1, Folder 12	She-Shell Award, 1964
Box 1, Folder 14	American Women in Radio and Television, Incorporated, 1980
Box 1, Folder 13	Newspaper clippings, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Biography, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Awards, undated

---

Box 9, Folder 2      Scrapbook, This is Your Life, Lenora Slaughter, undated

### Subseries 2.2: Correspondence, Telegrams, and Greeting Cards, 1935-1995, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Include both incoming and outgoing communications including correspondence, memos, and telegrams mostly dealing with Slaughter's leadership of the Miss America pageant. There is communication with major corporations whom she solicited as sponsors. A significant amount of the communication is between Slaughter and winners of the pageants both during and after her reign as director. Correspondence with political figures, whose participation in publicity activities Slaughter sought, include Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator Barry Goldwater. In addition, there are a few greeting cards and a list of her contacts. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1935-1948
Box 1, Folder 18	Scrapbook of correspondence from former Miss America contestants, 1938
Box 1, Folder 19	Greeting cards, 1949-1980
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1951-1956

Box 1, Folder 21	Telegrams, 1959
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1960-1967
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1980-1995
Box 1, Folder 25	List of contacts, undated

---

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## Series 3: Miss America Pageant, 1945-1996, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Documents the history and activities of the organization. Materials are divided in three subseries. Subseries 3.1 are the official programs of the pageants dating from 1961-1995. Subseries 3.2 include office files dating from 1945-1996 and Subseries 3.3 are books published between 1959-1992 documenting the Miss America experience.

### Subseries 3.1: Programs, 1961-1995

**Scope and Contents:** Include over thirty years of the official publication created by the organization for each Miss America pageant. The programs provide information relating to the order of events, participants, and corporate sponsorship. These materials offer insight into the thoughts of Slaughter and others who were responsible for the success of the pageants and the strategies they used to achieve it. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 26	Miss America Pageant, 1961
Box 1, Folder 27	Miss America Pageant, 1967
Box 1, Folder 28	Miss America Pageant, 1968
Box 2, Folder 1	Miss America Pageant, 1969
Box 2, Folder 2	Miss America Pageant, 1970
Box 2, Folder 3	Miss America Pageant, 1971
Box 2, Folder 4	Miss America Pageant, 1972
Box 2, Folder 5	Miss America Pageant, 1973
Box 2, Folder 6	Miss America Pageant, 1975
Box 2, Folder 7	Miss America Pageant, 1976
Box 2, Folder 8	Miss America Pageant, 1977
Box 2, Folder 9	Miss America Pageant, 1978
Box 2, Folder 10	Miss America Pageant, 1979
Box 2, Folder 11	Miss America Pageant, 1980
Box 2, Folder 12	Miss America Pageant, 1981
Box 2, Folder 13	Miss America Pageant, 1982
Box 2, Folder 14	Miss America Pageant, 1983

Box 2, Folder 15	Miss America Pageant, 1983
Box 2, Folder 16	Miss America Pageant, 1984
Box 2, Folder 17	Miss America Pageant, 1991
Box 3, Folder 1	Miss America Pageant, 1992
Box 3, Folder 2	Miss America Pageant, 1992
Box 3, Folder 3	Miss America Pageant, 1993
Box 3, Folder 4	Miss America Pageant, 1993
Box 3, Folder 5	Miss America Pageant Year in Review 1993, 1994
Box 3, Folder 6	Miss America Pageant Year in Review 1994, 1995

### Subseries 3.2: Office Files, 1945-1996, undated

Scope and Contents: Consist of printed material including magazine articles, reports, state pageant directory, official press guide, and biographies of contestants documenting pageant and public relation activities -- most of which Slaughter organized. Of special interest are production manuals which document the process of creating the pageants. Moving images include Philco Television's promotion of the 1962 Miss American Pageant which was captured on 16mm black and white motion picture film and the 1995 videotape titled Miss America Beyond the Crown. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 5, Folder 3	Forty year report of scholarship foundation, 1945
Box 10, Folder 1	Family dinner, 1959
Box 5, Folder 4	Staging manual, 1962
Box 5, Folder 5	The Magic of Miss America, program, 1962
Reel 1227.1	<p>Philco television promotion, 1962  1 Film reel (16mm black and white silent and sound motion picture film, 350 ft. No reference copy available.)  Language: English.  Notes: The beginning of the film is silent documentation of the 1962 Miss Arizona Pageant and includes footage of the swimsuit and evening gown portion of the competition as well as the crowning of the new Miss Arizona. The second section of the film has sound and appears to be a Philco Television Promotional film highlighting Philco's involvement with the Miss America Pageant. Lenora Slaughter, the Miss America Pageant Executive Director, speaks about the partnership with Philco Television.</p>

Box 5, Folder 6	The Miss America Girl, 1965
Box 5, Folder 7	Television program, 1966
Box 5, Folder 8	Report to committee, 1967
Box 5, Folder 9	Television program and production operations manual, 1967
Box 6, Folder 11	Campaign manual, 1967
Box 5, Folder 10	Who's Who in Pageants, 1979
Box 5, Folder 11	Directory, 1979
Box 5, Folder 12	Ladies Home Journal, 1980
Box 5, Folder 15	Contestant biographies, 1982
Box 5, Folder 16	Contestant biographies, 1984
Box 6, Folder 7	I'm Every Woman, 1996
Box 7, Folder 4	Scholarship foundation, undated
Box 7, Folder 3	Scholarship foundation, undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Twenty Years of Scholarships, publication, undated
Box 6, Folder 12	Official press guide, undated
Box 10, Folder 2	Ideal, publication, 1995
Box 6, Folder 10	Beyond the Crown, 1995 1 Videocassettes (VHS)

### Subseries 3.3: Books, 1959-1992

Scope and Contents: Include novels, instructional material, biographies of contestants, and a history of the Miss America pageant. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 3, Folder 7	Miss America by Daniel Stern, 1959 Notes: A novel
Box 3, Folder 8	How to Win a Beauty Contest by Jacque Mercer, 1960
Box 3, Folder 9	How to Win a Beauty Contest by Jacque Mercer, 1960

Box 3, Folder 10	Look Your Best by Candy Jones, 1964
Box 4, Folder 1	Dear Vonda Kay by Vonda Kay Van Dyke, 1967
Box 4, Folder 2	There She Is: The Life and Times of Miss America by Frank Deford, 1971
Box 4, Folder 3	Miss America 1945: Bess Myerson's Own Story by Susan Dworkin, 1987
Box 4, Folder 4	The Compulsive Woman by Sandra Simpson LeSound, 1987
Box 5, Folder 1	Miss American In Pursuit of the Crown by Ann-Marie Bivans, 1991
Box 5, Folder 2	The Not-So-Compulsive Woman, Sandra Simpson LeSound, 1992

---

#### Subseries 3.4: Other Beauty Contests, 1980-1996, undated

Scope and Contents: Contains information primarily relating to state beauty contests including Miss Oklahoma Pageant, Miss Arkansas Pageant, Miss Arizona Pageant, Miss Michigan Scholarship Project, and the Eddie Corcoran Beauty Pageant. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 5, Folder 13	Miss Oklahoma, 1980
Box 7, Folder 1	Who's Who in Pageants, 1980
Box 5, Folder 14	Miss Arkansas, 1981
Box 6, Folder 1	Miss Arizona, 1993
Box 6, Folder 2	Miss Michigan, scholarship project, 1993
Box 6, Folder 3	Miss Arizona, program, 1994
Box 6, Folder 4	Miss Arizona, newsletter, 1994
Box 6, Folder 5	Miss Michigan, scholarship program, 1994
Box 6, Folder 6	Miss Arizona, program, 1995
Box 6, Folder 8	Miss Arizona State University (ASU), scholarship project, 1996
Box 6, Folder 9	Eddie Corcoran Beauty Pageant, undated
Box 10, Folder 4	Miss Texas, magazine, undated

---

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 5: Photographs, 1951, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Include both personal and work-related photograph albums, snapshots, and photographs. Personal photographs primarily document travel, including camping in a trailer, Christmas parties, birthday celebrations, and retirement. Many photographs include political figures; for example, there is one of Slaughter with President and Mrs. George Bush. Several hundred official photographs document both the pageants held in Atlantic City but also the subsequent publicity activities in which Miss Americas engaged during their year-long reigns. Most of the photographs are in black and white and are all captioned on the back by Slaughter. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 7, Folder 10	Album, 1951
Box 7, Folder 5	Album, undated
Box 7, Folder 6	Album, undated
Box 7, Folder 7	Album, undated <a href="#">Image(s): Photograph album</a>
Box 7, Folder 8	Album, undated
Box 7, Folder 9	Miss America Pageant, undated
Box 7, Folder 11	Friends, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Album, undated
Box 8, Folder 2	Album, undated
Box 8, Folder 3	Album, undated
Box 8, Folder 4	Album, undated
Box 8, Folder 5	Album, undated
Box 10, Folder 5	Slaughter and contestants, undated
Box 7, Folder 14	Photographs, undated
Box 7, Folder 15	Unidentified photograph, undated
Box 10, Folder 6	Unidentified photograph, undated
Box 7, Folder 16	Slaughter with other people, undated

Box 7, Folder 17

Colonial Costumes Ball, Hundred CWB Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 5: Bradford Frapart Papers, 1954-1969

Scope and Contents: Consists of the personal papers of Slaughter's husband. The papers include honorary memberships, awards, and a notary license. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 7, Folder 12      Honorary memberships, 1954

Box 10, Folder 8      Honorary citizen certificate, 1962

Box 10, Folder 7      Banana Festival certificate, 1964

Box 7, Folder 13      Notary license, 1969

[Return to Table of Contents](#)