

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **Alliance Française of Toledo Records, 1962-1999** ◀

MSS-143

Size: 4.5 linear feet (plus oversize)

Provenance: Gift of Christopher Malhoit, president of the Toledo Chapter of Alliance Française, on behalf of Alliance Française.

Access: Open

Collection Summary: Collection contains the organization's constitution and by-laws as well as administrative files, correspondence, printed materials and ephemera documenting the Alliance Française's dedication to promoting French culture and language in the Toledo area.

Subjects: [Civic Interests](#), [Education and Schools](#), [Ethnic Culture](#), and [Social Life and Customs](#)

Related Collections: Betty Mauk Papers, MSS-135

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Historical Sketch

The origins of The Alliance Française in the United States are rooted in Alliance de Paris, an organization dedicated to the promotion of French language and culture and founded in Paris in 1883. The first chapter of the Alliance de Paris in the United States emerged in 1888, and by 1902 there were 33 chapters across the country. These 33 chapters, deciding they were large enough to form their own organization, united in 1902 to form the Federation of Alliance Française aux États-Unis. The organization grew quickly and by the mid 1960s had reached over 200 chapters.

Nationwide, the organization's official mission was "to increase understanding of the French language, literature, history and culture among people in the United States and to encourage cultural exchange, mutual understanding and friendship." This goal was achieved in a variety of ways, including cultural events, language instruction, and foreign exchange programs. Alliance Française has since developed an online presence; their website can be found at <http://www.afusa.org/>.

The roots of Alliance Française in Toledo can be traced to a singular, dynamic individual: Mrs. Betty Mauk. In the late 1950s, Mrs. Mauk and several other French-speaking Toledoans began to meet regularly to converse in French and promote French culture. As this group became larger and increasingly formal, they decided in 1967 to be officially incorporated into the national Alliance Française. Membership continued to grow quickly, reaching 200 individuals by 1967 and 250 by 1969.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Mauk, Alliance Française of Toledo offered the community lectures, films, a French library, trips to France, and programs devoted to French culture. In 1967, setting a precedent of cultural activity that they would continue for years to come, the group sponsored a troupe of French actors to perform *Turcaret*, an 18th century French play.

Throughout the late sixties, Alliance Française offered private language instruction for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students. As the organization expanded, so did the demand for their services. In the late 1960s, Alliance Française organized a school where French language courses could be taught to the general public.

Mrs. Mauk was also known for her ardent support of the revitalization of Toledo's downtown riverfront. During the 1970s, when the aging Harbor and Bridges Building was demolished, she approached the director of Toledo's Urban Renewal program with a plan for a riverfront park. After much lobbying, hard work and persuasion, her dream became a reality and Promenade Park was born. To the delight of many native Toledoans, she sold homemade French crepes at the riverfront concession stand. Betty also converted a downtown tailor shop near the park into Alliance office space.

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The vision and ideals upon which Alliance Française was founded continue to guide the organization today. Alliance Française donates scholarship money to outstanding French language students for travel to France, organizes lectures with internationally known speakers, and plans cultural events to be enjoyed by its members and the city at large. The club's membership has remained steady and plans to continue its efforts to educate Toledoans about French culture and language well into the next century.

Scope and Content Note

The Alliance Française of Toledo Records has been separated into nine series: **Administrative Materials, Affiliate Organizations, Cultural Events, Financial Files, Legal Files, Photographs, Printed Materials, School Materials, and Oversize.**

The first series, **Administrative Materials**, documents the operational proceedings of the organization and is further subdivided into six subseries: *Annual Meetings*, *Board Meeting Minutes*, *Contacts*, *Correspondence*, *Membership Materials*, and *Volunteers*. *Annual Meetings* is comprised of materials from the annual meetings of both Alliance Française Toledo and Alliance Française aux États-Unis (the national organization). *Board Meeting Minutes* contain the minutes of board meetings held by the Alliance Française Board of Trustees. *Contacts* includes lists of individuals with whom there was an important affiliation. The fourth subseries, *Correspondence*, consists of letters that have been separated by the type of correspondence and the organizations involved. Where appropriate, the letters have been separated into French and English to facilitate research. The fifth subseries, *Membership Materials*, consists of rosters, account books, lists, and summary reports. These items authenticate membership in Alliance Française in different ways. The sixth and final subseries, *Volunteers*, chronicles the activities of the organization's volunteers.

The second series, **Affiliate Organizations**, series contains office files with interaction between the Alliance Française of Toledo and the National Federation of Alliance Française, the International Institute of Greater Toledo, and the Toledo Area International Trade Association (TAITA).

The third series, **Cultural Events**, documents the many varied activities sponsored, organized, and attended by Alliance Française members. Included here are pamphlets, playbills, advertisements, budget materials, correspondence, and reports. They are arranged into three subseries, *Cultural Events - General*, *Cultural Events - Project/Trip Sponsoring*, and *Cultural Events - Specific*. *Cultural Events - General* is arranged chronologically and contains general subject files kept by the organization. The second subseries, *Cultural Events - Project/Trip Sponsoring*, consists of trips and projects sponsored by the Alliance Française. The third subseries has information on individual cultural events relative to the organization.

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The fourth series, **Financial Files**, details the financial status of the organization. Treasurer's reports, financial statements, and budget information constitute this series and are arranged alphabetically then chronologically. Additional financial materials can be found in the Oversize series.

Series five, **Legal Files**, is a small series of only three folders. The formal Code of Regulations and the legal paperwork surrounding the organization's official incorporation can be found here, as well as a building lease and facility renovation plans.

Photographs, series six, are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically by the event named in the folder title. Additional large-scale photos are located in the Oversize series.

The seventh series consists of **Printed Materials**. Included in this series are three sub-series: *Newsletters*, *Newspaper Clippings*, and *Pamphlets*. The *Newsletters* subseries contains copies of the *Newsletter* published by Alliance Française. *Newspaper Clippings* are cuttings from various local newspapers relating to the activities of Alliance-Française. These materials date to the earliest days of the organization. *Pamphlets* are informational brochures or fliers created by the organization for purposes of self-promotion. Arrangement is alphabetical by folder title and chronological inside each folder.

Series eight, **School Materials**, denotes activities of the school, whose purpose was to provide French language instruction and promote French culture in Northwest Ohio. It contains correspondence, financial materials, administrative materials, essays, resumes, and student lists.

The ninth series, **Oversize**, contains has many larger items from the original eight series, including scrapbooks with news clippings, photographs, financial documents, and ephemera. These items are distributed among boxes 4, 5, and 6. **Note:** while the first four numbered sections in this series correspond to the numbers in the original eight series, number eight in the Oversize series is labelled "ephemera," not "school materials."

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Folder List

Box	Folder	SERIES 1: ADMINISTRATIVE FILES
		Subseries A: Annual Meetings
1	1	Alliance-Française Toledo, 1982-1999
1	2	Alliance-Française USA, 1983-1997
		Subseries B: Board Meeting Minutes
1	3	1969-1978
1	4	1978-1981
1	5	1982-1987
1	6	1988
1	7	1989
1	8	1990
		Subseries C: Contacts
1	9	Contacts, n.d.
		Subseries D: Correspondence
1	10	Alliance Française Toledo (English), 1984-1988
1	11	Alliance Française Toledo (English), 1989
1	12	Alliance Française Toledo (English), 1990-1996
1	13	Alliance Française Toledo (French), 1985-1990
1	14	Alliance Française USA (English), 1982-1995
1	15	Alliance Française USA (French), 1989-1997
1	16	Board of Trustees, 1984-1992
1	17	Legal, 1984-1990
1	18	Personal (English), 1965-1991, 1994
1	19	Personal (French), 1965-1994
		Subseries E: Membership Materials
1	20	Membership Account Book, 1975-1985
1	21	Membership List – Alliance Française USA, 1983-1988
1	22	Membership Payments and Donations, 1988-1992
1	23	Membership Rosters, 1968-1969
1	24	Membership Rosters, 1984-1993
1	25	Membership Summary Reports, 1988-1993
1	26	Miscellaneous Membership Materials, 1980-1992
		Subseries F: Volunteers
1	27	Alliance Française Toledo, 1989-1991

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		SERIES II: AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS
2	1	Alliance Française Chapters in the United States, 1985-1989
2	2	Federation of Alliance Française United States, 1982-1996
2	3	International Institute of Greater Toledo, 1988-1990
2	4	Toledo Area International Trade Association (TAITA), 1988-1991
		SERIES III: CULTURAL EVENTS
		Subseries A: General Files
2	5	Cultural Events, 1962-1977
2	6	Cultural Events, 1979-1983
2	7	Cultural Events, 1984-1987
2	8	Cultural Events, 1988
2	9	Cultural Events, 1989
2	10	Cultural Events, 1990
2	11	Cultural Events, 1991-1994
2	12	Cultural Events, 1995
2	13	Cultural Events, 1996
2	14	Cultural Events, 1997-1999
		Subseries B: Project/Trip Sponsoring
2	15	Concourse Nationale de France, 1986-1997
2	16	Local Project Sponsoring, 1986-1996
		Subseries C: Specific Events
2	17	30th Anniversary Celebration, 1997
2	18	Bastille Day Celebration, 1989
2	19	Bicentennial of the French Revolution - School Registrations, 1989
2	20	Christmas Party, 1997
2	21	International Heritage Festival, 1997
2	22	<i>Jacques Brel</i> play at Toledo Rep, 1997
2	23	Nouveau Beaujolais Celebration, 1997
2	24	Renoir Exhibit Trip, 1997
		SERIES IV: FINANCIAL FILES
2	25	Budget Information – Alliance Française Toledo, 1987-1991
2	26	Financial Materials, 1967-1982 (1 of 2)
2	27	Financial Materials, 1967-1982 (2 of 2)
2	28	Financial Statements – Alliance Française USA, 1988-1995
2	29	Travel, 1989-1996
2	30	Treasurer's File, 1973-1975
2	31	Treasurer's Reports, 1983-1989 (1 of 2)
2	32	Treasurer's Reports, 1983-1989 (2 of 2)
3	1	Treasurer's Reports, 1990-1994

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		SERIES V: LEGAL FILES
3	2	Building and Grounds, 1984, 1990
3	3	Code of Regulations, 1982-1988
3	4	Incorporation Materials, 1966-1988
		SERIES VI: PHOTOGRAPHS (See also: Series IX: Oversize)
3	5	Beaujolais Party, 1998
3	6	Christmas, 1990
3	7	Christmas, 1991
3	8	Christmas, 1994
3	9	Entre Amis, 1995
3	10	French Photographs, 1981 & n.d.
3	11	French Students Visiting, 1994
3	12	Friends' Meeting, 1991
3	13	Le Piaf Fete, 1994
3	14	Mardi Gras, 1993
3	15	Soiree au Restaurant, 1994
3	16	Miscellaneous, 1986
3	17	Miscellaneous, 1989
3	18	Miscellaneous, 1991
3	19	Miscellaneous, 1993-1995
		SERIES VII: PRINTED MATERIALS
		Subseries A: Newsletters
3	20	1974-1999
		Subseries B: Newspaper Clippings
3	21	1967-1980
3	22	1984-1997
		Subseries C: Pamphlets
3	23	French Revolution Bicentennial, 1989
		SERIES VIII: SCHOOL MATERIALS
3	24	Experiment in International Living, 1971-1972
3	25	French Courses, 1969-1998
3	26	Payments to Teachers, 1988-1990
3	27	Private Lesson Payments, 1989-1990
3	28	Resumes in English, 1984-1988
3	29	Resumes in French, 1982-1987
3	30	School Correspondence, 1985-1995
3	31	School Income Reports, 1988-1990
3	32	School-Related Materials, 1988-1990
3	33	Student Essays, 1992

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3	34	Student Lists, 1984-1990
3	35	Teacher Information, 1986-1989
3	36	M. Jacques Navarro (Teacher), 1971
3	37	Mlle. L. Annichini (Teacher), 1969
3	38	Teachers' Time Sheets, 1987-1988
		SERIES IX: OVERSIZE
		Items distributed among 3 oversize boxes: 4, 5, and 6.
4,5,6		III. Cultural Events: Ephemera - Mardi Gras, 1993; Scrapbook, Cultural Events, 1985-1987; Scrapbook, Cultural Events, 1987-1988; Scrapbook, Cultural Events, 1989-1990
		IV. Financial Files: Cash Receipts and Disbursements Journal, 1975-1981; Financial Information, 1980-1982; Financial Information, 1982-1983
		VI. Photographs: Photographs, Assorted, n.d.
		VII. Printed Materials: Scrapbook, News clippings, 1959-1977
		VIII. Ephemera: Medallions, Commemorative Coins