

Margaret Thornton, BVM, Ph.D., Papers
1905-1993, n.d.

Creator: Thornton, Margaret, BVM, Ph.D. (1910-1989)

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Provenance: Consolidated from papers donated to the Mundelein College Archives by Margaret Thornton, BVM

Separations: None

See Also: Mundelein College Records; BVM Archives in Dubuque, Iowa.

Biographical History

Mary Margaret Thornton was born to James and Anne Devitt Thornton in De Witt, Iowa, on March 22, 1910. She attended Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, graduating with a bachelor's degree in history in 1931. That same year, she entered the order of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs), taking the name Sr. Mary Crescentina. Sr. Margaret earned her master's degree in history from the Catholic University of America in 1938 and later her Ph.D. in Latin American history in 1948 from the same institution. Her dissertation, *The Church and Freemasonry in Brazil, 1872-1875: A Study in Regalism*, was also published in 1948.

Sr. Margaret served as the dean of Clarke College from 1946 until 1957, before coming to Mundelein College in Chicago. At Mundelein, she worked as a professor in the history department, chairing the department from 1963 until 1969. Sr. Margaret's sister, Sr. Madelena Thornton, BVM, also taught at Mundelein in the journalism department until she was transferred to Clarke College in 1957. She had been one of Mundelein's first faculty members. Sr. Margaret remained at Mundelein until her retirement in 1983.

Sr. Margaret focused her research on Latin American history and particularly examined the history of the church in Brazil. In 1962, she participated in a seminar on Brazilian Civilization and Culture at the University of Sao Paulo and received research grants from the Organization of American States, the Social Science Research Council, and the American Philosophical Society to conduct research in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, for fourteen months between 1962 and 1963. She eventually published her resulting manuscript as *The Church and the First Brazilian Republic*.

Sr. Margaret died on May 21, 1989.

Scope and Content

The Margaret Thornton, BVM, Ph.D., Papers consist of materials related to Sr. Margaret's research on Brazilian church history. Sr. Margaret conducted research in Brazil from 1962 until 1963 on the Catholic Church's influence on Brazil in the Old Republic period. Most of the materials in the collection relate to this research and the resulting manuscript. In 1975, she examined the Protestant influence on Brazil in the same period and some of the materials included also relate to this research.

Series 1: Brazilian Church History, 1905-1993, n.d., Box 1

This series contains materials related to Sr. Margaret's research on the history of Catholic and Protestant influence in Brazil. The materials include articles related to Brazilian history and religious organizations, correspondence, articles about Sr. Margaret from Mundelein College's newspaper, the *Skyscraper*, and Sr. Margaret's research notes and manuscripts. The items are arranged alphabetically. Please note that some of the materials are written in Portuguese.

Subjects:

Brazil

Cardinal Joaquim Arcoverde de Albuquerque Cavalcanti

Catholicism

Maurras, Charles

Protestantism

Seventh-Day Adventists

Thornton, Margaret, BVM

Women and Leadership Archives
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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Brazilian Church History, 1905-1993, n.d.			
1	1	Brazil	1966-1971, n.d.
	2	“The Catholic Electoral League,” Margaret Todaro Williams	n.d.
	3	Charles Maurras	1905-1937, n.d.
	4	Conferencia Dos Religios Do Brasil	n.d.
	5	Correspondence: Catholics in Brazil research	1962-1969
	6	Correspondence: Edits to manuscript	1967-1976, 1993
	7	Correspondence: Protestants in Brazil research	1975
	8	Correspondence: Publication of manuscript	1975-1983
	9	“The First Cardinal and the Brazilian Church” edited manuscript, chapters 1-6	n.d.
	10	“The First Cardinal and the Brazilian Church” edited manuscript, chapters 7-11	n.d.
	11	“The First Cardinal and the Brazilian Church” edited manuscript, chapter 12-conclusion	n.d.
	12	“The First Cardinal and the Brazilian Church” manuscript, table of contents and introduction	n.d.
	13	Research notes	n.d.
	14	Seventh-Day Adventists	n.d.
	15	<i>Skyscraper</i> news articles	1962-1966
	16	Untitled manuscript	n.d.