

# **Guide to the Lucia R. Briggs Collection**

**Collection number: MD-ARC01**

University Archives  
Seeley G. Mudd Library

Lawrence University  
Appleton, Wisconsin

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## Descriptive Summary of the Collection

**Title**

Lucia R. Briggs collection

**Inclusive dates**

1921-1990

**Collection number**

MD-ARC01

**Extent**

0.2 linear feet (1 box)

**Language of collection material**

Collection is in English.

**Repository**

Lawrence University. Seeley G. Mudd Library. University Archives.  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

**Abstract**

This collection includes the correspondence of Lucia R. Briggs, the second President of Milwaukee-Downer College, along with articles written about and by her. It also contains photographs documenting Briggs's 30 year tenure at Milwaukee-Downer College.

## **Important Information for Researchers**

### **Access**

Collection is open for research.

### **Publication rights**

Property rights and copyright reside with Lawrence University. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the University Archivist.

### **Preferred citation**

Lucia R. Briggs Collection. MD-ARC01. University Archives, Seeley G. Mudd Library, Appleton, Wisconsin.

### **Acquisition information**

Gift of Milwaukee-Downer College after it merged with Lawrence University in 1964.

### **Processing history**

Preliminary processing was done prior to 2005. Further processing and finding aid was completed by Katherine Elchert, 2008.

## Biography

Lucia R. Briggs, president of Milwaukee-Downer College from 1921-1951, was born in 1887. As the daughter of LeBaron Russell Briggs, Dean of Harvard (1891-1902), of its Faculty of Arts and Science (1902-1925) and President of Radcliffe College (1903-1925), Briggs was experienced with campus life. After graduating from Radcliffe College in 1909, and going on to receive her M.A. in 1912, Briggs spent several years teaching on the East coast.

During her 1921 inaugural address, Briggs pledged to continue the tradition of liberal arts at Milwaukee-Downer College. Like her predecessor, Ellen Sabin, Briggs valued the combination of a broad liberal arts curriculum along with the need for practical, professional training. Throughout her presidency, the endowment of the college significantly increased, student enrollment grew and new buildings were added to the Milwaukee campus. Under her tenure, the curriculum was increasingly strengthened and reorganized. Retiring from office in 1951, Briggs passed away nine years later on January 10, 1960.

## Chronology

- 1887 • Year of birth
- 1909 • Graduated from Radcliffe College with English major
- 1912 • Awarded Master of Arts degree from Radcliffe College
- 1915-1921 • Taught at Simmons College, in Boston, within the English Department
- 1921 • Became the second President of Milwaukee-Downer College
- 1922 • Vice-President of the Association of Wisconsin Presidents and Deans
- 1923 • Vice-President of Association of American Colleges
- 1926 • Degree of Doctor of Laws from Lawrence College
- 1927 • Vice-President of Association of American Colleges
- 1928 • President of the Association of Wisconsin Presidents and Deans,  
President of Association of American Colleges
- 1951 • Retired after 30 years as Milwaukee-Downer College President
- 1960 • Year of death

## **Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection includes the correspondence of Lucia R. Briggs, the second President of Milwaukee-Downer College, along with articles written about and by her. It also contains photographs documenting Briggs's 30 year tenure at Milwaukee-Downer College.

## **Related Collections**

The following collection in University Archives contains related materials:

- Milwaukee-Downer College Vertical File Collection

## Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

### *Subjects*

Briggs, Lucia Russell, 1887-1960.  
Education, Higher.  
Milwaukee-Downer College.

### *Genres and Forms of Materials*

Clippings.  
Letters.  
Photographic prints.

### *Occupations*

College presidents.  
Teacher.

Collection Contents

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