



**Special Collections and University Archives**

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**Manuscript Group 234  
Maria Dietz Memorial Collection of Royal Memorabilia**

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Last Modified November 8, 2018**

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**Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
302 Stapleton Library  
Indiana, PA 15705-1096  
Voice: (724) 357-3039  
Fax: (724) 357-4891  
Website: [www.iup.edu/archives](http://www.iup.edu/archives)**

**Maria Dietz Memorial Collection of Royal Memorabilia; Manuscript Group 234  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collection and University Archives  
10 boxes; 11 linear feet**

**Biographical Information**

Maria Ann Dietz (June 14, 1940 – May 25, 2018) was born in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. She moved to Indiana, Pennsylvania in 1972 with her husband John Dietz and their four children, when John was appointed professor of voice in the music department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). John retired in 2004 after nearly 32 years of service. During this time, and until her death in 2018, Maria was an active member of the IUP community. She supported John in his role as a music professor at IUP, sometimes as an accompanist on the piano for student voice lessons; she gave tours of Breezedale Hall (Alumni Office) when it was restored in the 1980's, along with John Sutton Hall. As a member of St. Thomas More University Parish, she organized advertising for the church's annual book sale for many years. For twenty years she worked at the Open Door in Indiana and spoke to IUP classes regarding suicide prevention. Two of her children graduated from IUP.

One of Maria's interests throughout life was the history of the British Royal Family. She became interested at age 7 with the marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. She remembered being invited to the local movie theater for a screening of the wedding newsreels. When Princess Elizabeth became Queen in 1952, Maria's mother made a special coronation cake and Maria followed the news up to the Queen's coronation in 1953. Maria continued to collect rare photographs, publications, and items related to visits Queen Elizabeth made to the United States and Canada. Her interest in the British Royal family prompted many connections from around the world. Her friends and family sent postcards, photos, and letters to her on their travels to the United Kingdom and Canada about their experiences seeing members of the royal family, visiting palaces and museums, and talking with local citizens about the role of royalty in their countries.

**Scope and Content**

This collection includes several different series including biographical information, memorabilia, photographs, publications, scrapbooks, and commemorative tins related to the British Royal family. Special emphasis was placed on the collection of memorabilia from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and her immediate family.

**Series List**

- Series I: Background Information (1 box)
- Series II: Memorabilia (1 box)
- Series III: Periodicals (2 boxes)
- Series IV: Porcelain China (2 boxes)
- Series V: Scrapbooks (4 boxes and oversized)
- Series VI: Tin-ware (1 box)
- Series VII: Dolls (2 boxes)
- Series VIII: Oversized Materials (2 items)

**Provenance**

This collection was donated by the children of Maria Dietz in 2018.

**Restrictions**

None, this collection is open and available for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs.

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**Processor**

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on November 8, 2018.

**Container List****Series I: Biographical Information****Box 1 Files (5 folders)**

1. Biographical Information about Maria Ann Dietz (1940-2018)
2. Biographical Information about Queen Elizabeth II and the British Royal family
3. Photographs related to the Royal Family and Great Britain (pre-World War Two)
4. Framed 8x10 photograph of the Royal Family (color)
5. Postcards of Queen Elizabeth II and the British Royal family

**Series II: Memorabilia****Box 1 (items)**

- 1.

**Series III: Periodicals****Box 1 (items)**

- 1.

**Series III: Periodicals****Box 2 Oversized (items)**

- 1.

**Series IV: Porcelain China****Box 1 (items)**

- 1.

**Series IV: Porcelain China****Box 2 (items)****Series V: Scrapbooks****Box 1 (items)**

**Series V: Scrapbooks  
Box 2**

**Series V: Scrapbooks  
Box 3**

**Series V: Scrapbooks  
Box 4**

**Series V: Scrapbooks  
Box 5**

**Series V: Scrapbooks  
Box 6**

**Series V: Scrapbooks  
Box 7**

**Series VI: Tin-ware  
Box 1 Tin boxes and platters**

**Series VII: Dolls  
Box 1 (2 dolls)**

**Series VII: Dolls  
Box 2 (1 doll)**

**Series VIII: Oversized Items (2 items)**

1. Framed Portrait: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip (1977)
2. Poster: Wedding Day of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, July 29, 1981