



Special Collections and University Archives

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**Dr. John R. and Betty Sahli Collection  
Manuscript Group 23**

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Last Modified September 14, 2022**

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**Dr. John R. and Betty Sahli Collection, Manuscript Group 23**  
**Indiana University of Pennsylvania Special Collections and University Archives**  
**21 boxes; 21 linear feet**

**Biographical Note**

Dr. John Rankin Sahli (May 1, 1910-February 27, 1976) was a Professor of History from 1946 until his retirement in 1975 at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC), which became Indiana State College (ISC) in 1959, and achieved university status as Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 1965-1966. John Sahli was born in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and his parents were Ada Knowles Sahli (March 14, 1875-August 21, 1961) who came from Derbyshire, England, and Augustus Sahli (August 26, 1873-August 1941) who was born in Harmony, Pennsylvania. John Sahli earned his undergraduate degree from Geneva College, and went to the University of Pittsburgh for his graduate degrees in History. After teaching history at Beaver Falls Junior High School for several years, Dr. Sahli earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in 1941. John Sahli married Betty McClane (April 4, 1915-January 29, 1996) on June 4, 1939, and she was the daughter of F.W. and Anna Laura Smith McClane of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

Dr. John R. Sahli first taught in the Keith Laboratory School (see [Record Group 19](#)) at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC) in 1946, and later he taught history in the Social Studies Department and the Department of History at ISTC. He was a Professor of History from 1957 to 1975, and he served as assistant chair of the Department of History during his tenure. Moving to Indiana in 1946, John and Betty Sahli were active members of the community and belonged to Grace Methodist Church. Betty Sahli also belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star. Dr. John Sahli was involved in Freemasonry, the Indiana County YMCA, Kiwanis Club, Phi Delta Kappa, and the Republican Party. Dr. Sahli was also a founding member of the Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies (PCSS), see [Manuscript Group 88](#).

**Scope and Content**

The Dr. John R. and Betty Sahli Collection is housed in 20 archival boxes. This collection consists of one box of seminar papers of Dr. John R. Sahli, a variety of publications including commercial catalogs, sheet music, a eulogy for U. S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), and newsletters. The majority of this collection consists of commercial store catalogs that were collected by the Sahli family including Sears Catalogs from 1915-1967, Montgomery Ward Catalogs from 1938-1962, J.C. Penney Catalogs from 1988-1996, and other catalogs from regional retail store.

The majority of Dr. John R. Sahli's faculty papers, research notes, and biographical information including his diaries are in [Manuscript Group 58: Dr. John R. Sahli Papers](#) which consists of six boxes.

**Provenance**

This collection was donated to the IUP Special Collections and University Archives from the estate of former IUP History Professor John R. Sahli by his wife Betty McClane Sahli.

**Restrictions**

None, this collection is open 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. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

**Processor**

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on September 14, 2022.

**Container List****Box 1 (15 folders)**

1. *Albert Pechan: A Biography* by Andrew Oresich ([Manuscript Group 6: Albert Pechan Collection](#))
2. Bureau of the Census. Instructions to Enumerators, Thirteenth Census, April 15, 1910
3. Contemporary Europe: A Study Project Devoted to the Politics, Economics, Sociology, History, and Culture of Nine Western European Countries. Indiana State College, 1965
4. Eulogy for President Eisenhower
5. Two Seminar papers on the Harmony Society (3 folders, one green cover)
6. *Indiana County Heritage*, Vol. 1, No. 1-2; Vol. 2, No. 1-2
7. Indiana County Rural Directory, 1940-1941
8. An Economic Survey of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, 1950
9. Sheet music and lyrics by Rhodes Stabley, "Indiana is My Town."
10. "McCleary on Silver and Gold," pamphlet, 1896
11. Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Council of Social Studies, no. 1 (November 1, 1953)
12. Seminar paper. "The Salt Industry of Southwestern, Pennsylvania."
13. "The Tariff." Pamphlet of speech by D.B. Heiner, 1894
14. A list of textbooks used at Indiana Normal School (1875-1899)
15. "Underground Railroad," Indiana, Pennsylvania. Material Selected from the Mitchell Scrapbooks by Rhodes R. Stabley

**Box 2 (1 item)**

1. Catalog of Logan-Gregg Hardware Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Used in the Stewart Hardware Store, Indiana, Pennsylvania

**Box 3 (1 scrapbook)**

1. Scrapbook of the Centennial Celebration of the City of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1894

**Box 4 (1 item)**

1. Daybook of the E.L. Buterbaugh and Bros. Store, Cookport, Pennsylvania, 1873-1877

**Box 5 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, 1915-1925

**Box 6 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, 1926-1930

**Box 7 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, 1931-1933

**Box 8 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, 1934 to Spring and Summer 1937

**Box 9 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, Fall, Winter-Spring and Summer 1940

**Box 10 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, Fall and Winter-Fall and Winter 1942

**Box 11 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, 1943-1945

**Box 12 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, 1946
2. Sears Catalogs, Fall and Winter 1948

**Box 13 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, Fall and Winter 1949
2. Sears Catalogs, Fall and Winter 1951

**Box 14 Sears Catalogs**

1. Sears Catalogs, Spring and Summer 1952
2. Sears Catalogs, Spring and Summer 1961
3. Sears Catalogs, Spring and Summer 1967
4. Sears Sales Catalog, 1952.

**Box 15 Catalogs**

1. Chicago Mail Order National Cloak and Suit Spiegel Catalog

**Box 16 Catalogs**

1. Charles Williams Store Singer J.C. Penney Catalog

**Box 17 Catalogs**

1. Aldens Innovation (French) Montgomery Ward F&W Catalog, 1906-1932

**Box 18 Montgomery Ward Catalogs**

1. Montgomery Ward, Spring and Summer Catalogs, 1938-1962

**Box 19 Miscellaneous Catalogs (inner box contains 6 folders)**

1. Folder 1: John M. Smith Company (Chicago) Catalog No. 62: The World's Authority on Lowest Prices: Dictionary of Economy for Every Home on Earth, circa 1908-1910
2. Folder 2: Harris Brothers Company (Chicago) The Great Price Wrecker: Everything for the Home Workshop and Field, Everything to Wear and Eat, 1915
3. Folder 3:
  - a. Standard Mail Order (New York City), July-August 1915
  - b. Bedell Company (New York City), Fall & Winter 1917-1918
  - c. Boston Store Sales (Chicago), 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sale, 1923
4. Folder 4:
  - a. Sunset House: Your Guide to America's Most Unusual Gifts by mail from Sunset House, no date (1950s)
  - b. Hanover House Gift Guide: The Right Gifts for Everyone on your list, no date (1960s)
  - c. America's Most Unusual Gifts by mail from Sunset House, no date (1960s)
5. Folder 5: Jelmoli (French), Winter 1962-1963
6. Folder 6:
  - a. Miles Kimball, Fall 1964
  - b. Kaufmann's Toy Book: Makes it a Story Book Christmas Toys, no date (1960s)
  - c. F.A.O. Schwarz Children's World: Toys Christmas 1965 and save for reference throughout 1966 Toys and other fine things for children, F.A.O. Schwarz: The World Greatest Toy Store, 1965-1966
7. Sears, Roebuck & Company (Chicago): Consumer's Guide for 1894 (reprint)
8. Sears, Roebuck & Company (Chicago): Catalogue, 1897 and 1900 (reprints)
9. Sears, Roebuck & Company (Chicago): The Best of 1905-1910 Collectibles (reprint)

**Box 20 Sears and JC Penney Catalogs (collected by Dr. Sahli's family)**

1. Sears: The Great American Wish Book, 1989
2. Sears: Fall & Winter Catalog, 1992-1993
3. JC Penney: Fall & Winter Catalog, 1988
4. JC Penney: Fall & Winter Catalog, 1990
5. JC Penney: Christmas Catalog, 1990
6. JC Penney: Fall & Winter Catalog, 1991
7. JC Penney: Spring & Summer Catalog, 1996

**Box 21 Oversized Catalogs (3 items)**

1. E. F. MacDonald Stamp Company: MacDonald Plaid Stamp, 1964 Gift Catalog
2. Butler Brothers (New York City): Our Drummer: Goods in plenty for the cream profit month of the year; Time in plenty to get them in but no time to lose, December 1923
3. Catalog: Penn Wall Paper Mills, no date (1950s)