Dr. John R. and Betty Sahli Collection
Manuscript Group 23
Dr. John R. and Betty Sahli Collection, Manuscript Group 23
Indiana University of Pennsylvania Special Collections and University Archives
20 boxes; 20 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 July 28, 2015.

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
4. Eulogy for President Eisenhower
5. Two Seminar papers on the Harmony Society (3 folders, one green cover)
7. Indiana County Rural Directory, 1940-1941
9. Sheet music and lyrics by Rhodes Stabley, "Indiana is My Town."
11. Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Council of Social Studies, no. 1 (November 1, 1953)
14. A list of textbooks used at Indiana Normal School (1875-1899)

Box 2 (1 item)

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

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
1. Miscellaneous Catalogs

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

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