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# Guide to MS316 Betty Mary Smith Goetting Papers

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Guide to  
MS 316  
Betty Mary Smith Goetting Papers

Span Dates, 1910 – 1979  
Bulk Dates, 1937 – 1979

10 feet, 3 inches (linear)

Processed by Abbie Weiser  
April 18, 2007; 2016, 2017; April 3, 2019

Donated by Kurt and Doris Goetting.

Citation: Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers, 1910 – 1979, MS 316, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
University of Texas at El Paso

## Biography or Historical Sketch

Betty Mary Smith Goetting (1897 – 1980) worked as a librarian at the El Paso Public Library and later as the El Paso County Historical Society's first curator. In addition to her career in librarianship, she helped found the Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso, and actively promoted women's social, economic, and reproductive rights in the El Paso community.

Goetting was born in Jefferson, Texas in 1897. The Smith family moved to El Paso, Texas from Jefferson in 1910 and lived at 1009 Florence Street. Goetting attended Lamar Grade School and graduated from El Paso High School in 1915, where she wrote for *The Tattler* school publication. Starting in 1913, Goetting began working at the El Paso Public Library and became the protégé and close friend of head librarian, Maud Durlin Sullivan who noticed Goetting's love for books and history. Goetting left El Paso in 1917 to attend Riverside Library Service School. In 1918 she was appointed as assistant in the New York's Reference Library, and became involved in the women's suffrage movement. After returning to El Paso, she married Charles A. Goetting, who had volunteered and served with Major Richard Burges during World War I, in 1919. The Goettings had two sons, Charles A. Goetting Jr. and Kurt E. Goetting. During the 1920s Goetting, along with several other El Paso women, started a book club and later a history club under the guidance of Maud Sullivan.

Deeply interested in the birth control movement, Goetting began corresponding with birth control movement pioneer Margaret Sanger (1879 – 1966) and others about birth control education, family planning methods, and medical services for women in 1918. Goetting developed a close friendship with Sanger and the two frequently corresponded. In 1937 Goetting and Sanger, along with fifteen other women, six doctors, and several clergymen opened the El Paso Mothers' Health Center (later called Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso), and Goetting was named its first president. The Center faced much opposition from the Catholic Church and other individuals and groups. Despite this opposition, the Center saw 247 patients in its first six months, and from 1938 – 1939 the Center served 1140 patients. Services were originally limited to married women who could not otherwise afford medical care. In its early days the Center offered birth control, educational materials, and marital counseling. Goetting's involvement in the birth control movement continued after her term as president of the El Paso clinic. In 1938 Goetting retired as the Center's president, but was quickly named honorary president, and in 1950 and 1951 she was a member of the National Planned Parenthood Board.

Goetting also served in leadership positions in many El Paso civic and social organizations, such as the Woman's Club of El Paso, the El Paso Community Chest Council, and the El Paso County Historical Society, where she served as its curator for fifteen years. In 1932 she was commended as chairman of the El Paso Community Chest Council, Women's Division for her fundraising efforts. She also participated in Pro Cathedral of St. Clements, Women's Committee of the El Paso Symphony Association, Daughters of the Confederacy,

Daughters of the American Revolution, the El Paso Women's Chamber of Commerce, and was a charter member of the El Paso County Historical Society. In recognition of her many civic endeavors, women's rights activism, and participation in the birth control movement, Goetting received the Margaret Sanger Award in 1966. Other honors include the Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso Leadership Award (1968), the Presidential Award (1970) and the Paseña Valerosa (Courageous Woman) Award (1974) from the El Paso County Historical Society, recognition by the El Paso Women's Political Caucus as a Pioneer in Women's Rights (1977), and an honorary life membership from the El Paso Library Association (1979).

(Sources: Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers and donor file, Biographical sketch of Betty Mary Smith Goetting by Kurt Goetting)

## **Series Description or Arrangement**

The Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers are arranged in six series:

### I. Biographical information

Series is arranged chronologically.

### II. Planned Parenthood material

Series is arranged into four subseries (correspondence, clippings, publications, and other material) by type of material and then chronologically.

### III. Other activities

Series is arranged chronologically.

### IV. Margaret Sanger correspondence

Series is arranged chronologically.

### V. Scrapbooks

Series is arranged chronologically. Personal scrapbook from about 1910 – 1918 was photographed and then taken apart and foldered, due to its poor condition.

## VI. Photographs and other media

Series is arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers date 1910 – 1979, bulk 1937 – 1979. Types of records include correspondence, clippings, publications and other printed material, scrapbooks, recordings, and photographs. Arranged in six series (Biographical information, Planned Parenthood material, Other activities, Margaret Sanger correspondence, Scrapbooks, and Photographs and other media), these papers document Goetting's life and career, her relationship with Margaret Sanger, the Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso, and the birth control movement in El Paso and the United States.

The Biographical information series covers Goetting's family life, education, career in librarianship, honors, and women's rights activism. This series includes a short biography of Goetting. The Planned Parenthood material series documents the birth control movement from the 1920s to the 1970s, the history and activities of the Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso as well as national and international Planned Parenthood organizations. This series also contains various articles and publications of the birth control movement and Planned Parenthood and its supporters and critics. The Other activities series covers Goetting's activities outside of Planned Parenthood and mostly contains information about her participation in the El Paso History Club. The Margaret Sanger correspondence series includes correspondence primarily between Margaret Sanger and Betty Mary Smith Goetting, and are photocopies of the original letters. The Scrapbook series covers the Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso's history and activities, news about the birth control movement, and Goetting's involvement with Planned Parenthood. Loose materials in the scrapbooks were separated and foldered, while loose photographs in the scrapbooks were moved to the Photographs and other media series. The Photographs and other media series includes images of Betty Mary Smith Goetting, Margaret Sanger, other individuals involved in Planned Parenthood, and Planned Parenthood signs and exhibits. This series also contains several recordings (records) of Margaret Sanger's lectures and interviews from the 1950s.

### **Provenance Statement**

Donated by Kurt and Doris Goetting in 1995, 2006, 2007; Kurt Goetting in 2017; Margaret Sanger Award donated by Kurt Goetting on April 1, 2019.

### **Restrictions**

None.

## Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers, must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## Notes to the Researcher

Some of the Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers are fragile and brittle. Please handle with care. Photocopying of materials in poor condition might be restricted.

Box 13 contains original clippings and is placed at the end of the collection.

The 1910 – 1918 scrapbook was taken apart and foldered due to its extremely poor condition from dirt, dust, and mold damage. The scrapbook was photographed and digitized before it was dismantled. Researchers should use caution and wear a mask and rubber gloves when handling this scrapbook (boxes 12,14,15).

These books were removed from the Betty Mary Smith Goetting papers and placed in Special Collections Rare books:

- *What Every Mother Should Know*, Margaret Sanger, 1914
- *Women and the New Race*, Margaret Sanger, 1920 (2 copies)
- *The New Motherhood*, Margaret Sanger, 1922
- *The Pivot of Civilization*, Margaret Sanger, 1922
- *My Fight for Birth Control*, Margaret Sanger, 1931
- *Road to Survival*, William Vogt, 1948
- *The Margaret Sanger Story and the Fight for Birth Control*, Lawrence Lader, 1955
- *The Dollar and the Vatican*, Avro Manhattan, 1956
- *Babies by Choice or by Chance*, Alan F. Gottmacher, M.D., 1959
- *And the Poor Get Children: Sex, Contraception, and Family Planning in the Working Class*, Lee Rainwater and Karol Kane Weinstein (printed for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America), 1960
- *People! Challenge to Survival*, William Vogt, 1960

Researchers should also see:

Eva Ross Women's History Collection, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Maud Durlin Sullivan papers, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Planned Parenthood of El Paso records, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## Container List

### Series I. Biographical information

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
4	4	School certificates (oversize)	1910
11	1	Notebook on Dewey Decimal system with notes and comments about library patrons' requests	1915
11	18	Riverside Library School diploma	August 9, 1918
11	19	Handwriting analysis	April 27, 1924
1	1	Short biography of Betty Mary Smith Goetting, clipping, correspondence, and Who's Who application for Maud Durlin Sullivan (copies of material loaned to Special Collections by Kurt and Doris Goetting)	1925, about 1938, about 1980
1	2	Daily calendar	1937
11	2	Correspondence with Maud Durlin Sullivan (includes pamphlet " <i>We Episcopalians</i> "), Alan Guttmacher, and Laura B. Flores (contains photograph)	about 1930s, 1943 – 1944, 1964

### Series II. Planned Parenthood material

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	3	Correspondence, 1 of 5	about 1918 – 1967

1	4	Correspondence, 2 of 5	about 1918 – 1967
1	5	Correspondence, 3 of 5	about 1918 – 1967
1	6	Correspondence, 4 of 5	about 1918 – 1967
1	7	Correspondence, 5 of 5	about 1918 – 1967
3	1	Correspondence – Note from Anna Marie Jones to Betty Mary Smith Goetting with clipping, regarding Margaret Sanger Award	May 4, 1966
4	1	Clippings (oversize)	1957
1	8	Clippings	about 1957 – 1974
3	2	Clippings	about 1959 – 1966
11	3	Clippings, loose material removed from books (now in Special Collections Rare books)	about 1950s
1	9	Publications – <i>The Birth Control Review</i>	April 1919
1	10	Publications – “ <i>Every Child a Wanted Child</i> ,” pamphlet	1938
1	11	Publications – “ <i>The Doctor Talks With the Bride</i> ,” booklet	about 1941
1	12	Publications – “Catholicism Fights Birth Control,” <i>The New Republic</i>	January 22, 1945
1	13	Publications – “ <i>One Hundred Fifty Years of Birth Control</i> ,” booklet	about 1948
1	14	Publications – <i>News of Population and Birth Control</i> , published by the International Planned Parenthood Committee (10 issues)	1952
1	15	Publications – “ <i>Transition</i> ,” 1957 Annual Report of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America	1957
1	16	Publications – <i>News of Planned Parenthood/El Paso Planned Parenthood Newsletter</i>	October 1958, October 1960, April 1966
1	17	Publications – <i>Annual Report of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America</i>	1958
1	18	Publications – “ <i>Breakthrough</i> ,” 1959 Annual Report, Planned Parenthood Federation of America	1959



1	19	Publications – <i>World Population Emergency Campaign Newsletter</i>	June 1961
1	20	Publications – <i>Planned Parenthood News</i> , published by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America	Fall 1961
1	21	Publications – “Finally, Congressmen Are Beginning to Talk About Birth Control,” <i>Maclean’s Reports</i>	September 8, 1962
1	22	Publications – “An Inventory of Contraceptive Methods Adopted to Public Health Practice,” <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>	October 1962
1	23	Publications – “Why Americans Must Limit Their Families,” <i>Redbook</i>	August 1963
3	3	“ <i>Let’s Be Honest With Ourselves</i> ,” part II, by Dwight D. Eisenhower	1963
1	24	Publications – “ <i>This is Planned Parenthood – World Population</i> ,” booklet	1963
1	25	Publications – <i>International Development Review</i> , The Society for International Development	about 1963
1	26	Publications – “ <i>Planned Parenthood Challenge in Democracy</i> ,” booklet	about 1963
1	27	Publications – “Changing Attitudes Toward the Massachusetts Birth-Control Law,” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>	October 15, 1964
1	28	Publications – “Are Smaller Families Coming Back in Style?” <i>Parents’ Magazine</i>	November 1964
1	29	Publications – “Parenthood, Its New Responsibilities,” <i>Smith Alumnae Quarterly</i>	November 1964
1	30	Publications – “Population Expansion and Birth Control – An Appropriate Problem for High School Study,” <i>The American Biology Teacher</i>	December 1964
1	31	Publications – “ <i>The Threatening Crowd</i> ,” pamphlet	1964
1	32	Publications – “Sex vs. the Law, A Study in Hypocrisy,” <i>Harper’s Magazine</i>	January 1965
1	33	Publications – Now It’s Official: U.S. Backs Birth Control Aid,” <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	March 22, 1965

1	34	Publications – “What the Planned Parenthood People Are Up To,” <i>Cosmopolitan Magazine</i>	March 1965
1	35	Publications – “The Married Teenager,” <i>Journal of the International College of Surgeons</i>	April 1965
1	36	Publications – <i>International Planned Parenthood News</i> , Index for January 1952 – June 1965	about 1965
1	37	Publications – <i>International Planned Parenthood News</i>	October 1966
1	38	Publications – <i>Planned Parenthood News</i> , Planned Parenthood – World Population	October 1966
1	39	Publications – “ <i>Building Stronger Families, Happier Children</i> ,” Planned Parenthood – World Population Fiftieth Anniversary (booklet)	1966
1	40	Publications – various World Health Organization articles	about 1966
1	41	Publications – “ <i>Knock On Every Door</i> ,” Planned Parenthood of El Paso (booklet)	October 1967
4	1	Publications – <i>Today’s Health</i> , published by the American Medical Association (from 1968 – 1971 scrapbook, loose material, 2 copies)	January 1969
1	42	Publications – “ <i>Guide to Films</i> ,” Planned Parenthood – World Population (booklet)	about 1960s
4	1	Publications – <i>Life Magazine</i>	May 19, 1972
1	43	Publications – “ <i>Viewer’s Guide to Population and the American Future</i> ,” booklet	about 1972
1	44	Publications – “ <i>By 15, All Kids Have Had Sex Education in School...In Hallways, Locker Rooms and Washrooms</i> ,” Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S. (pamphlet)	about 1977
2	1	Publications – “ <i>Abortion Must Be A Personal Decision</i> ,” pamphlet	about 1970s
2	2	Publications – “ <i>Now! Something Better Than...the Pill?</i> ,” booklet	about 1970s
2	3	Publications – “ <i>Wanted...Every Baby Should Be</i> ,” pamphlet	after 1918

2	4	Other material – <i>History of Charity Organizations in El Paso, Texas</i> , by Olga Kohlberg	January 20, 1925
16	1	Other material – copy of Mother's Clinic meeting minutes	February 24, 1937
2	5	Other material – Possible loose scrapbook pages with clippings	1937 – 1939
4	1	Other material – Building plans for El Paso Mothers' Health Center (oversize)	about 1937
2	6	Other material – Letterhead (blank)	about 1937 – 1960
2	7	Other material – Reports, Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso, Texas	1938 – 1939, 1951 – 1952, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1967
2	8	Other material – Various notes and printed material	about 1930s – 1940s, 1960
2	9	Other material – Constitution and bylaws of the General Council of Social Agencies of El Paso, Texas	April 11, 1944
17	1	Other material – Betty Mary's Planned Parenthood notebook	1948 – 1953
11	4	Other material – Drafts of speeches on Planned Parenthood and the birth control movement	about 1940s – 1950s
2	10	Other material – Invitations to luncheons and lectures	1951 – 1953, 1955 – 1956, 1959
2	11	Other material – Agendas, graph, and other Planned Parenthood items	about 1952 – 1976
2	12	Other material – Name tags and pins	about 1954 – 1970s
3	4	Other material – Material regarding the United Fund and the Executive Committee of the General Council of Social Agencies	about 1950s
11	5	Other material – Notes on Margaret Sanger	about 1950s
11	20	Other material – "History of the Birth Control Movement in El Paso, Texas"	about 1950s
2	13	Other material – Subscription forms and booklet for the Margaret Sanger Fiftieth Anniversary Fund	about 1965
2	14	Other material – Leadership award certificate for Mrs. Charles A. Goetting	February 14, 1968

2	15	Other material – Annual meeting of the Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso, program	March 26, 1969
16	2	Other material – Margaret Sanger lecture, 4 track reel tape and CD	undated
-----	-----	Margaret Sanger Award presented to Betty Mary Goetting (located in the McNeely Room)	undated

### Series III. Other activities

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
11	17	Clipping (copy) of article on Betty Mary Smith's appointment to New York's Reference Library	1917
11	6	Clippings on the History Club and the Book Review Club	about 1930s
11	7	History Club notes and lectures, 1 of 3	about 1930s – 1940s
11	8	History Club notes and lectures, 2 of 3	about 1930s – 1940s
11	9	History Club notes and lectures, 3 of 3	about 1930s – 1940s
13	1	Drama activities, clippings	August 24, 1931; May 16, 1932
4	4	History Club Schedule (oversize)	1942 – 1943
11	10	Article by Betty Mary Goetting on Maud Sullivan and bond for new library	about 1950
11	21	Historical Society correspondence, clipping	1955, about 1950s

### Series IV. Margaret Sanger correspondence

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
2	16	Correspondence, 1 of 7	1918 – 1961
2	17	Correspondence, 2 of 7	1918 – 1961
2	18	Correspondence, 3 of 7	1918 – 1961
2	19	Correspondence, 4 of 7	1918 – 1961
2	20	Correspondence, 5 of 7	1918 – 1961
2	21	Correspondence, 6 of 7	1918 – 1961
2	22	Correspondence, 7 of 7	1918 – 1961
11	22	Correspondence [Margaret Sanger to Ruth Tracht]	March 26, 1953

### Series V. Scrapbooks

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
4	4	Possible loose scrapbook material (oversize)	about 1910s – 1920s
5	1	Loose scrapbook material from February 1937 – April 1942 scrapbook	February 1937 – April 1942
5	2	Loose scrapbook material from April 1942 – July 1957 scrapbook	April 1942 – July 1957
5	3	Loose scrapbook material, clippings and correspondence (material already removed from scrapbooks)	1957, 1977
5	4	Loose scrapbook material from February 1958 – April 1964 scrapbook	February 1958 – April 1964
5	5	Loose scrapbook material from January 1965 – September 1968 scrapbook	January 1965 – September 1968
5	6	Loose scrapbook material from September 1968 – May 1971 scrapbook, 1 of 4	September 1968 – May 1971
5	7	Loose scrapbook material from September 1968 – May 1971 scrapbook, 2 of 4	September 1968 – May 1971
5	8	Loose scrapbook material from September 1968 – May 1971 book, 3 of 4	September 1968 – May 1971
5	9	Loose scrapbook material from September 1968 – May 1971 scrapbook, 4 of 4	September 1968 – May 1971
5	10	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook, 1 of 6	1972 – 1979
5	11	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook, 2 of 6	1972 – 1979
5	12	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook, 3 of 6	1972 – 1979
5	13	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook, 4 of 6	1972 – 1979
5	14	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook, 5 of 6	1972 – 1979
5	15	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook, 6 of 6	1972 – 1979
5	16	Loose scrapbook material, not identified (clippings and name tags)	after 1918
5	17	Photocopy of scrapbook, 1 of 2	February 1937 – April 1942
5	18	Photocopy of scrapbook, 2 of 2	February 1937 – April 1942

4	3	Photocopy of scrapbook (oversize)	April 1942 – July 1957
4	3	Photocopy of scrapbook (oversize)	February 1958 – April 1964
4	4	Photocopy of scrapbook (oversize)	January 1965 – September 1968
4	4	Photocopy of scrapbook (oversize)	September 1968 – May 1971
4	2	Loose scrapbook material from September 1968 – May 1971 (oversize envelope and printed material)	September 1968 – May 1971
4	2	Loose scrapbook material from 1972 – 1979 scrapbook (oversize photocopies of clippings)	1972 – 1979
12		Scrapbook (original)	about 1910s – 1920
14		Scrapbook (original)	about 1910s – 1920
15		Scrapbook (original)	about 1910s – 1920
6		Scrapbook (original)	February 1937 – April 1942
7		Scrapbook (original)	April 1942 – July 1957
7		Scrapbook (original)	February 1958 – April 1964
8		Scrapbook (original)	January 1965 – September 1968
8		Scrapbook (original)	September 1968 – May 1971

Series VI. Photographs and other media

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
11	11	Betty Mary Smith Goetting in library school and as a Red Cross nurse in California	about 1910s
11	12	Loose photographs from scrapbook (with NMMI on cover)	about 1910s – 1920s
16	3	Betty Mary Smith Goetting, friends, unidentified photographs	about 1910s – 1930s
11	13	History Club photograph album	about 1920s – 1940s
3	5	Betty Mary Smith Goetting	about 1930s – 1940s
2	23	Margaret Sanger	1941, May 1,

			1949, 1958
2	24	Loose photographs and negatives from 1942 – 1957 scrapbook (Planned Parenthood exhibit and Margaret Sanger)	about 1942 – 1957
11	14	Loose photographs of History Club (removed from History Club photograph album), 1 of 2	about 1940s – 1950s
11	15	Loose photographs of History Club (removed from History Club photograph album), 2 of 2	about 1940s – 1950s
2	25	Margaret Sanger (loose photograph from 1958 – 1964 scrapbook)	about 1950s
2	26	Betty Mary Goetting, Planned Parenthood members, and other unidentified individuals (loose photographs from 1968 – 1971 scrapbook)	about 1950s
13	2	Negatives of Margaret Sanger	about 1950s
11	23	Café Charmant, Juarez – group photograph of Betty Mary Goetting, Florence Melby, and Imogen Moore	January 1954
2	27	Planned Parenthood Center of El Paso sign	about 1960s – 1970s
9		Margaret Sanger interview, KTSM, El Paso, Texas (record)	April 25, 1952
9		Margaret Sanger interview #2, KTSM, El Paso, Texas (record)	April 25, 1952
9		Margaret Sanger lecture #2, San Angelo, Texas (record)	about 1950s
9		Margaret Sanger lecture #4, San Angelo, Texas (record)	about 1950s
9		Margaret Sanger lecture #6, San Angelo, Texas (record)	about 1950s
9		Margaret Sanger 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, KTSM (record)	about 1950s
9		Margaret Sanger, San Angelo, Star Records, (record)	about 1950s
4		Margaret Sanger lecture, KTXL, San Angelo, Texas (oversize record)	about 1950s
11	16	El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor plaque for Maud Sullivan (photograph)	about 1962
9		Art Linkletter, drug abuse fundraiser record	about 1960s