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Guide to the Nena Ivon Collection

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Nena Ivon Collection

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College Archives & Special Collections at Columbia College Chicago

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Summary Information

Repository: College Archives & Special Collections at Columbia College Chicago

Creator: Ivon, Nena

Title: Nena Ivon Collection

ID: RG 1000.06

Date [inclusive]: 1964-2009

Physical Description: 28.10 Cubic Feet Forms of Material: Correspondence; Interviews;

Magazines (periodicals); Newsletters; Newspaper Clippings; Photographs; T-shirts; objects, statuettes, perfume bottles

Language of the

Material:

English

Abstract: Nena Ivon, of Chicago, Illinois, was promoted to Assistant Fashion

Director of the Saks Fifth Avenue store in Chicago at age 17 and later became the Director of Fashion and Special Events for forty years. She began teaching in the Fashion Studies program at Columbia College Chicago and works extensively with Fashion Columbia. This collection of Ivon's personal papers chronicles her activity as the Director of Fashion and Special Events at Saks Fifth Avenue, offering a snapshot of the history of fashion marketing, local designers, and the fashion

business in Chicago.

How to Cite This Collection

Folder/Item Title, (date). Series Title, Nena Ivon Collection, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago.

Biography - Nena Ivon

Nena Ivon grew up in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood and in Evanston, Illinois. When she was 16 she took a summer job with Saks Fifth Avenue in downtown Chicago selling sportswear. The unexpected death of her father the following year changed her plans to attend college and she continued to work for Saks. At age 17 was promoted to assistant fashion director and eight years later became the director of fashion and special events, the job she held for the next forty years.

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She began teaching in the Fashion Studies program of Columbia College Chicago, developed the Skrebneski Scholarship awarded annually, and works extensively with Fashion Columbia.

Ivon has served on numerous industry, civic, and charitable boards, including: The Fashion Group of Chicago, the Chicago Apparel Industry Board, Chicago Historical Society's Costume Collection Committee, Childrens Memorial Hospital, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Concert Society, and the Lincoln Park and Brookfield zoos.

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About the Collection

The Nena Ivon Collection dates from 1964 to 2009 in 28.10 cubic feet (31 boxes). The strength of the collection lies in the chronicling of activity for a Director of Fashion and Special Events that offers a snapshot of the history of fashion marketing, local designers, and the fashion business in Chicago.

The collection consists of published newspaper and magazine articles detailing the professional and charitable activities of Nena Ivon and Saks Fifth Avenue including event programs and brochures, color and black and white photographs of fashion shows and other events, signed or personalized portraits of many designers, and a realia including posters, perfume bottles, trophies, plaques, clothing, and promotional items.

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Collection Arrangement

As of Summer 2017, the arrangement of the Nena Ivon collection is under revision.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

College Archives & Special Collections at Columbia College Chicago

Chicago, IL

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Terms Access

The entirety of the Nena Ivon collection is currently unavailable to all users as it is undergoing arrangement revisions. To research with the collection, please estimate a longer turnaround period for reference and assistance.

Terms of Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Nena Ivon, gift: 2008

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Controlled Access Headings

- Fashion
- Department stores
- Chicago (Ill.)
- Ivon, Nena
- Saks & Company (New York, N.Y.)
- Columbia College (Chicago, Ill.)

Requirements for Researcher's Access

All physical materials and reformatted media must be viewed during a scheduled appointment time within the College Archives & Special Collections office. No materials are to be circulated unless otherwise consulted with the Archivist.

Access to some audiovisual media in the collection, such as VHS or audio cassette, may be temporarily unavailable pending digital reformatting.

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Technical Requirements for Researcher's Access

Access to reformatted media in the collection, such as VHS, audio cassette, phonographic records, or computer files, must be viewed within the College Archives & Special Collections office during a scheduled appointment. Although reformatted, these items cannot be sent electronically nor can be published in our online database due to copyright restrictions. A computer and other necessary equipment will be provided during the appointment to access these materials.

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