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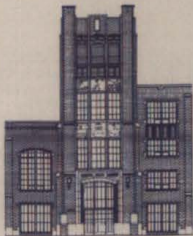


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Lux et Lex

"By the light of Knowledge we read the laws of life"

Volume 7 Number 1

Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

Spring 2001

WOMEN'S VOICES

Until the late 1960's and early 1970's when the feminist movement encouraged historians to investigate the collective history of society, the study of one half of the population was not impressive. Before those turbulent decades, women's history emulated the vast majority of historical research, operating under what could be called the "greatness syndrome." Historians focused upon well-known women, when they looked at women at all. Or, historians focused upon the plight of women, operating under the "oppression syndrome." In the past twenty-five years, research energy has produced a more balanced interpretation of the contributions of women to the social order.

Saving the historical record is the charge of archivists, who take that trust seriously. Their responsibility has never changed. What has changed is the subject matter of records and personal papers placed into safekeeping and archival appraisal methods. Since the emergence of social history in the 1970's, archivists have increased their collecting activity in the areas of women's history, minority history, ethnic history, and labor history. Previous generations of archivists often collected in bulk and applied few appraisal criteria to collections. The archival profession came to realize that speculating the interests of future historians was not appropriate. Present-day appraisal ideally requires an inductive approach.

Volume I of the "Guide to the Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection," published by the Department of Special Collections in 1975, illustrates fairly typically the collecting focus of many repositories of that period. Of the 292 collection guide entries, thirty-six offer information recounting the lives of North Dakota women. The strength of the Libby Collection has been and continues to be its political collections. Since the '70's though, collecting efforts have increasingly sought documentation across the spectrum of North Dakota's social and cultural heritage.

Access to primary source documentation has always been an issue, no matter the subject area. The Internet has encouraged, or perhaps forced, archivists to reconsider the ease of access to their collections. Today the general public increasingly expects to find the information it needs on the Internet. This environment has compelled archivists to reexamine strategies in response to the ever-changing expectations of researchers and scholars. Instead of relying on printed guides to collections, footnotes and bibliographic citations, or word of mouth to advertise their holdings, archivists are creating home pages and launching indexing projects. Some have mounted their printed guide entries on the Web, some their finding aids or inventories, and some have digitized and made available portions of their collections to which they hold copyright.

The Department of Special Collections has chosen the middle ground. Through a Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant received in July 1999, Special Collections and the Library's Cataloging Department completed an information access proposal. The project enhanced and mounted finding aids for women's papers and women's organizational records on Special Collections' web site and created respective online catalog records in ODIN. To date Internet access to primary research materials within 115 women's collections is available on ODIN with links from ODIN to Special Collections manuscript page found at www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/Collections/ogmain.html. This project in turn accelerated the creation of web finding aids for collections in other subject areas and a redesign of the Department's web site.

Manuscript collections housed in Special Collections offer original documentation of women's lives and attempt to claim the diverse past of North Dakota women from settlement on. Letters, diaries, scrapbooks, financial records, minutes of meetings, programs and newsletters, newspaper and magazine articles, and photographs chronicle their lives.

A series of courtship letters narrate the experiences of one Norwegian immigrant, Caroline Gjelsness, who arrived in Reynolds, ND, from Kongsvinger in 1886. Caroline describes her work as a housekeeper for Grand Forks Sheriff Swan and two families in Crookston, fairly typical employment for a new arrival. Marius, her husband-to-be, worked for the Great Northern Railroad. Introduced by extended family members, letters kept their courtship alive. Writing in a flowery style, Caroline

poignantly declared to Marius in December 1886 that "You are my everything both in life and death... You are fastened solidly to my heart..." Caroline and Marius married in 1888 and established a farm near Reynolds.

Horticultural articles and drawings for regional and national publications offer insight into the work of Fannie Mahood Heath, Grand Forks County homesteader. After the death of her only son in 1902, Heath immersed herself into plant culture, seed exchanges, and the advocacy of farm shelterbelts. Known as the "Flower Woman of North Dakota," she helped establish the National Horticulture Society in 1922, becoming its first Vice-president.

Anna Kirk arrived in Dakota Territory as an infant in 1884. Three years after her marriage, she joined the North Dakota Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) in 1908. She became president of the Niagara Union in 1909 and



MRS. ANNA KIRK.

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vice-president for Nelson County in 1910. Her scrapbook entitled "My Public Life" reveals her opinions, explicitly linked with the suffrage movement, in articles for the W.C.T.U. *White Ribbon Bulletin* and various newspapers. Kirk expounds, "The saloonkeeper, the white slave trader, the grafter, the gambler, all the baser elements of society are afraid of women's votes. They are willing that she shall use her indirect influence, which many good men and women consider all powerful, rather than her direct vote..." Contemporaneously, monthly meetings of The Votes for Women Club of Grand Forks, established in 1912 as a chapter of the Votes for Women League of North Dakota, addressed these very concerns. This largely single-issue club disbanded when Governor Frazier signed the bill in 1919 to ratify the Susan B. Anthony Federal Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1914, Kirk's political activism suggested that "if good government means pure food, pure drugs, good roads, clean streets, better education, better homes to live in, better conditions of the industrial workers of all ages and both sexes, better moral conditions, it is woman's right, nay her duty, to take her share in the government of the nation." This sentiment was shared by members of other women's organizations. The clubwoman movement was well established in North Dakota by that time and club membership, primarily urban and middle-class, often overlapped. The minute books of the Grand Forks Federation of Clubs indicate that in April 1897 twelve clubs, "organized for the study of literature, art, music, or any other subject pertaining to higher and broader education," joined the Federation.

The records of over fifty North Dakota women's organizations establish their civic and humanitarian contributions to the state. As well, these organizations fulfilled the intellectual and social needs of their members. The Thursday Musical Club, organized in 1898, encouraged the formation of high school Junior Federated Music Clubs, and until 1948 sponsored the Rural School Music Project and Contests for over twenty-five years. The Bathgate Study Club, federated in 1942, launched the Bathgate Free Public Library three years later and supported its collections with innumerable fundraisers until 1964 when the library closed. The Langdon Women's Club supported a variety of public school projects, maintained a park, and sponsored an annual art show. With more women joining the work force and an ever-decreasing local population, the club disbanded in 1989 after more than ninety years of service.

After World War I, five Business and Professional Women's Clubs formed to elevate standards for women in business and to promote cooperation and educational opportunities. Expanding to fifteen chapters by 1985, BPW operated placement services, created young careerist programs, established scholarships, organized seminars and workshops, and actively supported passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The relatively recent Community Input Committee offered Grand Forks area business women a bi-weekly opportunity to dialogue and learn about community concerns and events.

Numerous other personal papers define the diverse lives of North Dakota women. Twenty-two meticulously kept

diaries span sixty-four years of the life of Grace Jurgens Kraker, a Wahpeton and Grand Forks homemaker. From 1915 to 1979, Kraker recorded the events of her life, including running her household and her church work and club activities. Helen Normand Murphy, wife of a Niagara, ND, farmer, similarly described her life from 1937 to 1973 in thirty-six diaries. Sister Ellen Murphy, Helen's second child, entered the Novitiate of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Paul in 1934, professing her vows three years later. Following her mother's zeal, twenty diaries, in addition to her poetry, short stories, and professional elementary education articles, reveal Sister Ellen's academic life at the College of St. Catherine, her religious life, and her love of family.

After many years of working as a stockbroker, Stella Fritzell was elected a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention in 1972 and was also elected that year to the North Dakota Senate where she served until her death in 1984. She served on several Grand Forks boards and was an active environmentalist. Jane Sinner, First Lady of North Dakota from 1984 to 1992, addressed some of today's issues, teen pregnancy and television violence. She passionately promoted beautification of the state's roadsides and encouraged local arts, assisting in the establishment of Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts Camp, a summer youth program.

UND Archives provide a record of the education of women, particularly in the fields of teaching, nursing, and home economics. The Normal Department educated North Dakota teachers from the establishment of the University. Records date to 1952 when the School of Education became the College of Education. Before that, meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees, annual reports, and other statistical information offer source material. Country School Legacy Project materials detail the lives of North Dakota rural teachers.

UND President McVey instituted a "Course for Nurses" in 1909 that was discontinued in 1916. After World War II, UND joined national efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage. By 1950 the Division of Nursing Education offered a four-year B.S. degree program which, along with College of Nursing programs, is well documented. Less so is UND's Home Economics Department, although program records are augmented by the papers of Glinda Crawford, former Head of Home Economics Education.

The *University Catalogue* and the *Dakota Student* document women's early physical education, the advent of UND women's basketball in 1898 and its competitive demise after World War I. Attitudes regarding sports for women changed in the 1960's. Pat Warcup, '56, returned to UND in 1965 to become Director of Physical Education for Women and coach of UND's first women's intercollegiate basketball team. 1969 marked the year that women's basketball turned the corner. On October 14, Warcup writes, "This year the league in which we play has voted to play the Division for Girls and Women's Sports experimental five player rules. These rules parallel the men's game."

Offered here is but a fleeting image of those women who have come before and a snapshot of research possibilities. Ever mindful of our trust, we continue to search out new acquisitions. Those interested in donating personal papers or organizational records, may contact Special Collections at (701)777-4625.

Sandy Slater, Head, Special Collections



Adella Eppel (left) and Grace Jurgens
1889

Cataloging Settlers' Values

Preservation is a component of the Chester Fritz Library's mission, but the preservation of older books is not essential to the mission of every library. Often those libraries that retain older materials do not usually set a high cataloging priority for these items, especially when faced with the pressing need to catalog new books, and recently, digital journals, books, maps, etc.

For some time, a veritable mini-library of books, hand carried across a continent, representing the lives of our forebears, their faith, their stories, their poetry, songs and values, has waited silently, patiently. Generously gifted to the Chester Fritz Library, descendants of North Dakota's Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and German immigrants have preserved the printed culture and history of that generation. Most of these books were published before North Dakota became a state and were printed in a foreign language, which entailed challenging library cataloging. Over the last 10 years, the Library's Head of Acquisitions and Bibliographic Control, Shelby Harken, has undertaken a project to catalog several hundred of these books every year. She has been assisted in part by Karen Holte, Renae Arends, and Delores Clark. The cataloging of over 3000 titles with no or inadequate bibliographical records is now complete. This mini-library is now accessible and fully described for users of the Chester Fritz Library and its preservation has become part of our heritage.

Many special books were discovered in the collection. A Danish treasure has survived as the only known set of its kind. Twenty-six volumes of *Folkedagave* by Adam Gottlieb Oehlenschläger were published in Copenhagen by Philipsens beginning approximately in 1884, and were edited by F.L. Liebenburg. The library owns 21 volumes, some of which are bound together into four volumes. Oehlenschläger was well appreciated by the Danish people. He wrote about ancient sagas, about Aladdin, Balder, and Queen Margareta. The encyclopedia *Salmosens konversations leksikon* (1915) discusses his works at length (p.799-805) and confirms that the best editions of Oehlenschläger's poetry were edited by F. L. Liebenburg, and that at that time there were no complete editions and originals were very rare. All but two of the Library's volumes required original cataloging.

If immigrants settled the state with no other book, it was their Psalm book or Bible that they carried with them. These were often worn from use or even rebound by their owners. Ten Norwegian, seven Danish, one Swedish, and two Icelandic Psalm books were added to the Library's collection, along with eight Norwegian, eight Icelandic, four Danish and two German Bibles. Included are several editions of the Norwegian *Vor Herres og Frelsers Jesu Christi nye Testamente*, which was printed between 1850 and 1870 by Grundahl, and the Icelandic *Their aegietu og andriku psalma flokkar ut af faeding*, published in 1780. Another interesting example is the 1866 edition of a Norwegian hymnal *Choral-melodier for psalmedicon til de 1 Konges, Guldbergs of den Evangelisk christelige psalmbog forekommende psalmer*, which was first published in 1835. Immigrants, once settled in America, continued to print such works in their native language, such as the *Illustreret familie-Bibel*. Published in Chicago in 1889 it is a weighty volume at 1137 pages illustrated with 278 plates, some in color.

A particularly charming book by J. G. Zimmerman,

Solitude, published in London in 1824, expounds on the premise that it is "under the peaceful shades of solitude that the mind regenerates and acquires fresh force, it is there alone the happy can enjoy the fullness of felicity or the miserable forget their woe." This is the book for which the Russian Empress presented the author a casket with a ring of extraordinary size diamonds and a portrait to thank him for the excellent precepts he had given mankind in his treatise upon solitude. The German *Verhältnis der Philosophie zur Christlichen Glaubenslehre*, a number of Norwegian theological works, and the sagas of Iceland, *Saga Fornkirkjunnar* demonstrate how seriously our ancestors considered their eternal, not temporal destiny.

Drama by authors of the settler's homeland, in prose and poetry, convey the importance of stories and beauty of language to encourage the life of the spirit in a new and sometimes lonely place. Most appealing was *Eichendorff's Werke*, prose of purest Romanticism replete with valiant knights, heroic love poetry, living statues, "soldaten". This popular homeland work emphasizes a spiritual, rather than a political cure for moral ills. His sensitivity to nature inspired musicians Schubmann, Mendelssohn and Strauss.

Catalogers consulted a range of sources in their meticulous search for information. Reference sources such as Charles Evan's *American Bibliography*, and Shaw & Shoemaker's *American Bibliography, a Preliminary Checklist* were helpful in researching books in English. Old Script was painfully transcribed and reaffirmed in bibliographic lists, Norwegian student assistants determined book subjects, and rare books were searched page by page for information. A Reference Librarian, Victor Lieberman, translated the title page of the Yiddish Bible, and special magnifying aids yielded vital information. Throughout the process, great care was taken in regard to the fragility and preservation of these rare volumes.

Salmosens konversations leksikon was not the only foreign encyclopaedia used. *Aschehous konversations leksikon* (1968) and *Svensk uppslagsbok* (1947) verified author's names. In some cases, the project created Name Authority (NACO) records to identify the authors of these works. These records were in turn submitted through OCLC to the Library of Congress.

To determine the exact book in hand, lengthy searches using innovative search strategies often uncovered bibliographic records, but only a few libraries were listed as owning any of the books. Most existing records required extensive editing and in other cases, there simply was no record. Out of the approximately 37,000 libraries using OCLC, we are the only library that owns many of these books, or at least has them cataloged. Online catalogs allowed searches outside of OCLC libraries, including old Library of Congress files, Bibsys (Norway), KVK (Germany), and sometimes individual American or European libraries. If a record was found, information from it was incorporated in a new record, but this was a rare occurrence.

The Library's ten year cataloging project has been not simply the preservation of books, but the preservation of the history of our people. The books our settlers brought tell about them, who they were and what they valued. Religion, literature, and poetry played the dominant role. The books attest to what they held true, what they valued, what they believed and thought beautiful, and upon which they built their homes on the North Dakota sod.

Shelby Harken, Head, Acquisitions/Bibliographic Control
Delores Clark, Acquisitions/Bibliographic Control



SPECIAL LEARNER COLLECTION

The Chester Fritz Library has long been committed to providing books and resources broadly in the field of education at the University of North Dakota. From its inception, UND prepared North Dakota's teachers. With the opening of its doors in September 1884, UND's Normal Department assumed this responsibility. The most recent departmental re-organization in 1996 resulted in the creation of the College of Education and Human Development, which includes six academic departments. For many years the Library has acquired the educational research documents produced by the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) in the form of ERIC microfiche and its indices. ERIC provides the world's largest source of education information. In recent years, access to the ERIC database has been expanded digitally via WebSpirs and through the Internet via AskERIC. A vocational education program in North Dakota has made these materials widely available across the state to educators.

Cognizant of its commitment, the Library expanded into a new area, servicing education materials not previously collected. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction offered the Library an opportunity in May 2000 to apply for a grant to acquire, house and disseminate materials in what is now the Special Learner Collection. ERIC microfiche are just that, microfiche. They are indexed, but not cataloged, except for a small group of print-only ERIC documents. Although the focus of the Special Learner Collection is a narrow field of education, the collection, which also includes Talented and Gifted Resources, provides access to books and tangible materials for both educators and parents. The collection developed over approximately thirty years, long enough that it needed an appraisal. Tricia Lee of the UND resident teacher program and several assistants evaluated the collection after it arrived in June, discarding out-of-date worn materials and keeping newer relevant items for the collection.

The range of subject areas within the Special Learners Collection is rather diverse. *The Fence*, a video designed to stimulate discussion on how we treat others, is an animated allegory without narration that illustrates the consequences of an inconsiderate act when a man throws rubbish over the fence into his neighbor's yard. *Call it Courage* is a study guide to be used with Armstrong Sperry's book by junior high English or literature students. Based on a Polynesian legend, the story relates how Mafatu, which means Stout Heart, overcomes his fear of the sea and becomes a hero of his people. *Reading Beyond the Basal* is series of books for primary teachers and librarians that help children share ideas and engage in critical thinking. Titles include *Stone Soup*, *Miss Nelson Is Missing*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*. *AIDS, Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion*, one of the books in a series *Opposing Viewpoints Juniors*, encourages discussion about social issues. A video, *Important Special Education Law Cases*, reviews case law relative to the 1997 amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, providing practical applications for special education. *The Assassination of President Kennedy*, part of *The Great Mysteries* series, examines the conflicting evidence regarding the search for Kennedy's assassin.

These examples illustrate not only the variety of subjects, but also the mixture of format within the collection. The latter has presented some cataloging challenges. In some cases, the item is curriculum material for which many libraries generally do not

provide full cataloging. There are folders with lesson plans, games, kits, cases with objects and activity guides, and videos, both U-Matic (high quality) and VHS. The Library's approach has been to catalog these items as thoroughly as it catalogs all its other materials in order to maximize usage of the collection.

The Head of Acquisitions and Bibliographic Control, Shelby Harken, trained an Associate Cataloger, Teji Kaur, to produce advanced copy and original cataloging. Since this is a unique collection, cataloging rules were reviewed and standards, policies and procedures set up to manage the collection. A new branch of Chester Fritz Library was created in ODIN, the online catalog. Users of ODIN may now select "Special Learner Collection" in the Chester Fritz Library drop down menu and search for materials specifically held in that collection. Previously, access to the contents of the collection had been available only in print, which listed materials by title and included a simple subject index. By cataloging the materials, the Library is able to emphasize full subject access and further expand access to producer's names, contents, titles, etc. By cataloging the records in an online library system, users can access the collection from anywhere via the Internet, search for a variety of topics, and place online requests for delivery of the material.

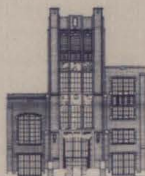
Teachers, parents, and organizations in North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and certain areas of Canada may check out items from the Special Learner Collection. Users may go to the Chester Fritz Library home page at <http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library> and click on Collections for the Special Learner Collection (http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library/Collections/special_learner.html). An electronic form is available for users to request items. When Interlibrary Loan receives a request, the materials are checked out to a unique barcode and sent to the user. Checkout periods vary according to items requested. All users of the Special Learner Collection are asked to fill out a survey card that addresses any service needs and allows for suggestions.

Since its availability in September, the Collection has been well received by North Dakota public schools and Upper Valley Special Education in Grafton. It also enables UND faculty and pre-service teachers access to additional resources, materials that may be integrated into lessons and classroom activities in K - 12 field experiences, in turn benefiting students across North Dakota.

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Library home page: www.und.nodak.edu/dept/library