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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**WAŠEŠA CLUB
VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Papers 1904-1982
(bulk dates 1907-1982)

Quantity: 2.5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION: This collection was donated to the University of South Dakota in 1985 by Dr. Grace Beede, USD Prof. of Latin from 1928-1970. Dr. Beede was also a member of the Wašeša Club and the daughter of Rosa Hyde Beede, a founding charter member. Dr. Judith Sebesta, chair of history department, signed an instrument of gift form to officially transfer these materials to the Richardson Collection.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

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PROCESSED BY: Gayla Koerting, April 2005, updated January 2006, Andrea M. Peterson

ACCESSION #: RC2005.05

LOCATION: Richardson Collection

History

Wašeša began as a literary club in Vermillion, South Dakota, on December 17, 1904. The original charter members were as follows: Laura Dunham Barrett, Rosa Hyde Beede, Clara Jones Gunderson, Gertrude B. Gunderson, Abbie Davenport Olson, Erminnie Wright Price, and Effie Walker Thoms. The club was limited to 22 members. The name “wašeša” was derived from the Dakota and Nakota languages meaning “red clay” and has also been interpreted as meaning “prairie.” In 1908 the club was elected into the South Dakota Federation of Women’s Clubs and was federated nationally in 1914. The official club flower was a red carnation and the motto for the organization was: “Slumber not in the tents of your father; the world is advancing, advance with it.” Wašeša members oftentimes raised or donated funds for charitable works, philanthropic projects, and community service. Their activities included support for the local Civic Council, libraries, planting white birch trees in Prentis Park, and forming an early version of the P.T.A. (Parent Teachers Association) in the community. Members also actively campaigned for the construction of fine arts buildings throughout the state.

Scope and Content Note

The Wašeša Club papers are organized in eight series, **Club Minutes/Summaries, Correspondence, Photographs, Printed Materials, Typescripts, Oversize (Scrapbooks), Ephemera** and **Miscellaneous**.

The **Club Minutes/Summaries** series comprise the discussions, events, and activities at each club meeting from 1907-1964. Duplicates of the club minutes can also be found in the scrapbooks.

The **Correspondence** series contains only one letter in the folders. The majority of the correspondence is found in the scrapbooks.

The **Photographs** series consist of individual photographs of the original charter members. These were found in the scrapbook from 1907-1934, and due to preservation concerns, have been removed from this scrapbook and placed in acid-free folders. There are also individual and group shots, however, the majority of images are found pasted, taped, or glued into the scrapbooks.

The **Printed Materials** contain programs and brochures from annual conventions for the South Dakota Federation of Women’s Clubs. The series has booklets produced by the Wašeša Club that denote the annual activities, events, and membership lists. Many of these items are also pasted, taped, or glued into the scrapbooks.

The **Typescripts** series contain poems, songs, and some misc. materials.

The **Oversize** series comprises five scrapbooks that span from 1907-1982.

The **Miscellaneous** series contains booklets, pamphlets, and posters.

The **Ephemera** includes name badges and ribbons, for Wašeša club representatives to annual South Dakota women’s conventions as well as decorations from these events.

The **Printed Materials, Photographs, Ephemera, and Miscellaneous** in Box 1 originally belonged to the **Oversize (Scrapbooks)**. Many of these materials were separated during the initial process due to their deteriorating condition.

The **Scrapbooks** were photocopied to prevent further damage and deterioration.

Related Subjects:

Women—South Dakota—Societies and Clubs—History
Clay County (S.D.)—History

Related Materials:

Gere, Anne Ruggles. *Intimate Practices: Literacy and Cultural Work in U. S. Women's Clubs, 1880-1920*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997.

Location: 3rd floor; Call No.: HQ1906 .G48 1997

Roth, Darlene R. *Matronage: Patterns in Women's Organizations, Atlanta, Georgia, 1890-1940*. NY: Carlson Pub., 1994.

Location: 3rd floor; Call No.: HQ1906 .A7 R67 1994

Steinschneider, Janice. *An Improved Woman: The Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, 1895-1920*. NY: Carlson Pub., 1994.

Location: 3rd floor; Call No.: HQ1905 .W6 S74 1994

Box No. Description

Box 1

CLUB MINUTES/SUMMARIES

1907-1936

26 Jan. 1948-10 Feb. 1958

24 Feb. 1958-18 May 1964

Events and Officers, Summaries, 1907-1934

CORRESPONDENCE

Abell, Usher, USD Music Prof., 5 Oct. 1956 (w/ encl.)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Barrett, Laura Dunham (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Beede, Rosa Hyde (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Fox, Jassamine Lee (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Price, Erminnie Wright (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Gunderson, Clara Jones (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Hawkins, Letitia Jones (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Olson, Abbie Davenport (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Thomas, Effie (Walker) (Charter Member: 1907-1934 Scrapbook)

Individual and Group

Beede, Grace L., 1940

Beede, Rosa H. ca. 1940s

Gunderson, Gertrude, 1941-1942

Group Photo, 1-3 Oct., 1940

Miscellaneous

Doll Collection, n.d.

PRINTED MATERIALS

Annual Conventions, 4th District

South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs, 1934-1961

3-5 Oct. 1934

22-23 April 1936

20-21 April 1938

27-28 April 1939 w/ Banquet Brochure, 27 April 1939

11-12 April 1940 w/ Banquet Brochure, 11 April 1940

24-25 April 1941

21-22 April 1942

6-8 October 1948

3-5 May 1954

18-20 April 1955 w/ "Official Call Brochure"

3-4 November 1955

2-3 May 1961

Booklets

1936-1937

1956-1957

1965-1966

Pamphlets

Proposal for University Chapel at USD, ca. 1954-1955

Proposal for Fine Arts Memorial at USD, ca. 1954-1955

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.

TYPESCRIPTS

Poems/Songs

Songs

“Dakota Hymn” and “You Can Defend America”

Poems

“To Rosa Hyde Beede, Wašeša’s Pioneer Lady,” 1939 (Draft copies and 2 copies of final version)

“Bird House for Rent,” by Edna Dean Wendt, Canton

Miscellaneous

Wašeša Activities, 1907-1908

Wašeša Club of Vermillion, 18 April 1929

Wašeša Club Scrapbook (w/ draft copy), 23 Oct. 1933

Booklets, Pamphlets, Posters

Dakota Territory Federation Womans[sic] Club, 4 May 1954

Every Club a Member, General Federation of Women’s Club, general background flyer, n.d.

Flandreau Indian School, tour of campus, 1938-1939

Homestake Mine, A South Dakota Enterprise, 1953

Passion Play, Summer Session, Spearfish, SD, 1954

South Dakota Federation of Women’s Clubs, Art Gallery and Museum, South Dakota State University, Brookings, 1952?, 2 copies

Oversize

Black Hills Teachers College, Spearfish, South Dakota, campus map to Memorial Art Building (poster)

Golden Jubilee, 1890-1940: General Federation of Women’s Clubs, Program-Atlantic City, 19-24 May 1941

EPHEMERA

Name Badges

Box 2

OVERSIZE

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1907-1934, p. 01-62

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1907-1934, p. 63-105

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1934-1956, p. 01-62

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1934-1956, p 63-101

Box 3

OVERSIZE

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1956-1966, p.01-24

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1956-1966, p. 25-35

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1966-1978, p. 01-29

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1966-1978, p. 30-71

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1979-1982, p. 01-18

Box 4

OVERSIZE

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1907-1934, p. 01-60

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1907-1934, p. 61-90

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1907-1934, p. 91-106

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1934-1956, p. 01-58

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1934-1956, p. 59-86

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1934-1956, p. 87-101

Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1956-1966, p. 01-24

Box No. Description

Box 5

OVERSIZE

- Waśeśa Women's Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1956-1966, p. 25-35
- Waśeśa Women's Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1966-1978, p.01-31
- Waśeśa Women's Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1966-1978, p. 32-71
- Waśeśa Women's Club Scrapbook, 1966-1978, (misc. booklet)
- Waśeśa Women's Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1979-1982, p. 01-18