WAŚEŚA 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 Waśeša 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:
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, Wašę́ša’s Pioneer Lady,” 1939 (Draft copies and 2 copies of final version)

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

Miscellaneous

Wašę́ša Activities, 1907-1908
Wašę́ša Club of Vermillion, 18 April 1929
Wašę́ša 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**

Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1907-1934, p. 01-62
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1907-1934, p. 63-105
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1934-1956, p. 01-62
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1934-1956, p. 63-101

**Box 3**

**OVERSIZE**

Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1956-1966, p.01-24
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1966-1978, p. 01-29
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1966-1978, p. 30-71
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1979-1982, p. 01-18

**Box 4**

**OVERSIZE**

Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1907-1934, p. 01-60
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1907-1934, p. 61-90
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1907-1934, p. 91-106
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1934-1956, p. 01-58
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1934-1956, p. 59-86
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1934-1956, p. 87-101
Wašę́ša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1956-1966, p. 01-24
<table>
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<th>Box No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Box 5** | OVERSIZE  
Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1956-1966, p. 25-35  
Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1966-1978, p.01-31  
Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1966-1978, p. 32-71  
Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook, 1966-1978, (misc. booklet)  
Wašeša Women’s Club Scrapbook (photocopy), 1979-1982, p. 01-18 |