Making Women’s History Materials Available at Whitworth

Janet Hauck
Whitworth University Archives
Pacific Northwest History Conference
November 5, 2010
Activist Archivists

“Activist archivists [are those] making deliberate decisions to give voice to the otherwise under-documented individuals and communities in our midst.”

Mark Greene
SAA President, 2008
“Unexpected: Women, Sources, and Histories”

“We must seek new historical spaces and ask keener questions of women who modestly continue to appraise their historical experiences.”

Kimberly Springer
Ohio State University
Women’s Task Force Records

“Required Procedure for Hiring at Whitworth College”

1979

“Employment procedures followed by persons acting on behalf of the college must comply with federal acts relating to equal opportunity, where applicable.”
“Feted at an Italian gala... Chuck E. Cheese’s Pizza Time Theater was the scene of birthday frivolity on Friday, November 15...”
Christians for Biblical Equality Records

“Resource Ministry Catalog”
1998

- Equal to Serve
- Beyond Sex Roles
- Study Bible for Women
- Women, Abuse, and the Bible
- The Magdalene Gospel
2009 Women’s Memory Symposium

• “The Problem of Sources in Women’s Memory”
• 50 papers presented
• Turkey, Europe, Middle East, Australia, and United States

Women’s Library and Information Center
Istanbul, Turkey
Symposium Presentations

• Challenges to collection – political turmoil, modesty

• Challenges to establishment – banning, confiscation

• Challenges to preservation – burning, disappearance
Symposium’s Mission

“To empower women through knowledge of their history, and to serve researchers, women’s organizations and initiatives, and the media seeking information related to women.”
Whitworth’s Mission

“To actively collect, process and preserve all records and materials pertaining to the history of Whitworth University... and the history of Protestantism in the PNW... and to make its materials available to researchers.”
Mary Johnston Papers

“I don’t want to research another white male!”
“The honor of winning the first game of basket-ball has fallen to the girls. On February 1, in the U.P.S. gymnasium, our girls’ team defeated the girls of the University of Puget Sound by a score of 9 to 6.”
“Housewifery: this course includes the planning of the daily routine, care of the house, study of labor-saving appliances, house furnishings and their cleaning and care. One hour lecture and two hours laboratory.”
“Lessons from a 1940s Home Ec Class”

“Reading this made me curious about the classes that my grandmother had to take in college to get her Home Economics degree. She graduated from Washington State College, which is now Washington State University, in 1948...”

Nostalgia Magazine
February 2007
“Dear Mother... We did go out calling this week, of course. One place there was a woman whom they say is demon possessed. It is the second case I have seen in China.”
June 7, 1868

“Clouds flying, warm morning, we all went to church... singing teacher started the tunes... had a good Sabbath school.”

Mary Eliza Whitworth
2003 PNW AAR-SBL Conference

- Rose Sliger Krause
- Whitworth Class of 2002
- “Mary Eliza Whitworth: Perceptions of a Missionary Wife and Pioneer Woman”
Spokane Visitors’ Bureau

• Planning a Centennial Celebration for a well-known holiday founded in Spokane…
• Father’s Day!
• Central Methodist Church?
• NO???

Sonora Smart Dodd
“I am so happy to send greetings to you... the members of Knox Presbyterian Church, the church in which father’s day had its nativity.”

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Sonora Dodd’s Letter
June 13, 1967
Northwest Digital Archives

NWDA provides access to descriptions of primary sources in the Northwestern United States, including correspondence, diaries, or photographs. Digital reproductions of primary sources are available in some cases.

search NWDA

Idaho State Historical Society
Idaho State Capitol building under construction, Territorial Capitol building in the background. 1906 or 1907.
Whitworth University Archives

You are invited to Whitworth... to seek new historical spaces and uncover voices that can only be heard through the papers and records of women... and to be empowered!