

A Guide to the Ruth Conn Papers, 1884-1993 SC 0339

Ruth Conn papers
1884-1993



Title Statement

A Guide to the Ruth Conn Papers, 1884-1993 SC 0339

Author: Grace Thomsen

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



January 2023

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-11-06 07:01:42 -0500.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0339

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/713

Unit Date

1884-1993

Language

English

Abstract

The Ruth Conn Papers, 1884-1993, comprise seven folders with materials primarily focused on Ruth Conn's life surrounding her attendance at the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, now James Madison University. The collection mainly focuses on campus events, correspondence between her and her fellow students, and poetry she worked on or read in her lifetime.

Creator

Conn, Ruth R, (Ruth Randolph), 1893-1993

source

Dixon, Lori

Extent

0.33 cubic feet 1 box

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Lori Dixon, daughter-in-law of Madelyn Dixon who was a lifelong friend of Ruth Conn, donated the collection on August 16, 2022.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Ruth Conn Papers, 1894-1993, SC 0339, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Ruth Randolph Conn (1893-1993) was born on January 16, 1893 in McGaheysville, Virginia. Raised in McGaheysville, Conn was known locally as the great-great granddaughter of the town's founder, Tobia McGahey. She attended the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, now James Madison University, where she graduated in 1912. While a student, Conn was involved in the Lanier Literary Society, Racket Tennis Club, and the editorial staff for the yearbook. After graduation, she became a school teacher before moving to Richmond, Virginia where she became an office manager for the Fiedens Typewriter Company.

Scope and Contents

The Ruth Conn Papers, 1884-1993, comprise seven folders with materials primarily focused on Ruth Conn's life surrounding her attendance at the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, now James Madison University. The collection mainly focuses on campus events, correspondence between her and her fellow students, and poetry she worked on or read in her lifetime.

Correspondence in the collection ranges in content but predominantly focuses on Ruth Conn's time in the Harrisonburg and McGaheysville area with a focus on her friendships and time at the State Normal School. Ephemera primarily contains pamphlets, flyers, and grades pertaining to Conn's time at the State Normal School with some items being associated with her early jobs right after graduation. In addition, her collection of poetry primarily comprises her original work. Occasional pieces included are not originally by her but are works that she recited or wrote out. The majority of her poetry in the collection is dated between 1975-1989; however, there is some undated poetry that is estimated to be prior to 1975. As a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, Conn also had a collection of sermons from the 1940-1950s, mostly preached by Reverend Vincent C. Franks, D.D.

Related Materials

Control #Alumni85+2, JMU Historic Photos Online, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Keywords

Poetry

Letters (correspondence)

Printed Ephemera

Photograph albums

Universities and colleges -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg -- History

Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History

McGaheysville (Va.) -- History

Dixon, Lori

State Normal and Industrial School for Women (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- Students

State Normal and Industrial School for Women (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- Students -- Social life and customs

State Normal and Industrial School for Women (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- History

James Madison University -- History

Appraisal Information

A copy of the 1912 Schoolma'am yearbook was not retained due to significant preservation issues.

Bibliography

"Ruth Randolph Conn (1893-1993) • FamilySearch." FamilySearch, <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/L71N-8K3/ruth-randolph-conn-1893-1993>. Accessed 23 January 2023.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28055

Unit Date 1884-1902, undated

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Ephemera

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28056

Unit Date 1907-1985

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Music Appreciation 451 notebook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28057

Unit Date before 1913

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28058

Unit Date 1911-1993

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Photo album

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28059

Unit Date circa 1919

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Sermons

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28060

Unit Date 1940-1954

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Poetry

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28061

Unit Date circa 1975-1989

Mixed Materials [1000897858] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)