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Guide to PH089 Mary A. Sarber postcard collection

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Guide to

PH089

Mary A. Sarber postcard
collection

Circa 1907 – 1930, Span Dates

3 feet, 6 inches (linear)

Processed by Nancy Chauvet Wilson
October 17, 2017

Donated by Mary A. Sarber, May 4, 2017.

Citation:

Mary A. Sarber postcard collection, PH089, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections
Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Biographical Sketch:

Mary A. Sarber was an important librarian and supporter of historic preservation efforts in El Paso. She expanded the Southwest Collection of the El Paso Public Library and turned it into a valuable resource for the community. Sarber began working at the El Paso Public Library in 1975 and held various positions there during her long career. These positions included Head of the Southwest Collection, Interim Director, and Main Library Administrator. Over the years Sarber helped facilitate the inclusion of El Paso buildings designed by Henry C. Trost into the National Register of Historic Places, promoted collections of historical photos with traveling exhibits and slide shows, and publicized the works of southwestern writers. In addition to her library career, Sarber wrote or edited: *Census of 1841 for Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario*; *Charles F. Lummis: A Bibliography*; *Photographs from the Border: the Otis A. Aultman Collection*; and *The Southwest Book Awards: The First Twenty-Five Years*. She also published several articles about Mexican Revolution-era postcards and about public libraries, such as *A Century of Growth: The El Paso Public Library*. Additionally, Sarber served on the Border Regional Library Association's Southwest Book Awards Committee for many years and chaired the *El Paso Herald-Post* Writer's Hall of Fame Committee. She also founded the Borderland Postcard Club and was an active member of the Texas Library Association, the Public Library Association, and the Border Regional Library Association. For her service to the El Paso community, Sarber received multiple awards and honors including Librarian of the Year from the Border Regional Library Association, an Achievement Award from the El Paso Historical County Commission, and membership in the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor.

Series Arrangement:

Postcard images of libraries: arranged alphabetically by state.

Postcards of women: arranged by themes assigned by processor.

Larger categories are formal portraits, informal portraits, and scenes from everyday life.

Scope and Content Note:

The Mary A. Sarber collection contains thousands of postcards featuring women and libraries from the early twentieth century. Sarber primarily collected postcards that featured women engaged in work, everyday tasks, and leisure activities. The collection dates circa 1907 – 1930 and includes many real photo postcards.

Provenance Statement:

Donated by Mary A. Sarber on May 4, 2017. She collected the postcards from various sources including online purchases and at book and paper shows.

Restrictions:

None.

Literary Rights Statement:

Photographers and artists unknown. Most of the photographic postcards date from the early twentieth century.

Notes to the Researcher:

Most of the postcards are undated.

See also:

Haskell Monroe postcard collection, PH088.

Stansel postcard collection, PH049

Lena Butchovsky postcard collection, PH083

McMaster postcard collection, PH018

Container List:

Box # 1	# of Post Cards		United States Libraries
	1		Andrew Carnegie
	5		Alabama
	8		Arizona
	4		Arkansas
	49		California
	9		Colorado
	11		Connecticut
	2		Delaware
	9		Florida
	6		Georgia
	2		Hawaii
	2		Idaho

	78		Illinois
	32		Indiana
	6		Iowa
	19		Kansas
	6		Kentucky
	6		Louisiana
	51		Maine
	2		Maryland
	50		Massachusetts
	39		Michigan
	17		Minnesota
	1		Mississippi
	13		Missouri
	1		Montana
	23		Nebraska
	1		Nevada
	19		New Hampshire
	10		New Jersey
	13		New Mexico
	44		New York
	1		Nevada
Total	536		
Box # 2	# of Post Cards		United States Libraries
	8		North Carolina
	3		North Dakota
	62		Ohio
	7		Oklahoma
	4		Oregon
	24		Pennsylvania
	5		Rhode Island
	4		South Carolina
	5		South Dakota
	7		Tennessee
	33		Texas
	6		Utah
	4		Virginia
	7		Washington
	27		Washington D.C.
	3		West Virginia
	30		Wisconsin
	3		Wyoming
	3		Unidentified

	34		Libraries-Interiors
Total	279		
Box # 3	# of Post Cards		People
	467		Portraits (Formal)
	259		Portraits (Informal)
Total	726		
Box # 4	# of Post Cards		People
	116		Portraits (Informal)
	7		African-Americans
	3		Males
	22		Couples (Formal)
	51		Couples (Informal)
	21		Weddings
	1		Pregnant woman
	44		Mothers with Children
	25		Children Portraits (Formal)
	26		Children Portraits (Informal)
	27		Family Group (Formal)
	79		Family Group (Informal)
	29		Elderly people (Formal)
	81		Elderly people (Informal)
	41		Mourning/Funerals
Total	573		
Box # 5	# of Post Cards		People
	149		Sisters/Friends (Formal)
	155		Sisters/Friends (Informal)
	63		Groups (Formal)
	193		Groups (Informal)
	62		Teaching/Students
	9		Organizations
Total	631		
Box # 6	# of Post Cards		People-Everyday Life
	32		Boating

	25		Church
	41		Music
	13		Needle work
	18		Parades
	52		Pets
	83		Reading
	13		Risqué
	28		Sports
	29		Swimming
	109		Theatrical
	100		Vacation/Camping
Total	543		
Box # 7	# of Post Cards		People-Everyday Life
	21		Driving Cars
	73		Driving Horses
	90		Gardening/Farming
	9		Guns
	52		House work
	24		Medical work
	37		Office Work
	37		Special Effects
	62		Uniforms
	105		Houses/Exteriors
	52		Houses/interiors
Total	562		
Grand Total	3309		