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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 | | |