

Millikin University Archives: Staley Library

Grace Patten Conant Collection

Collection Number : 5.02en.110

Inclusive Dates : 1908 – 1950

Bulk Dates : 1908 – 1927

Quantity: One scrapbook in 1 box.

Acquisition Information: Received from Birks Museum (Ed Walker), August 2018.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research

Copyright: Millikin University, The Chronicle (Brookline, Massachusetts), Decatur Herald and Review, and The Boston Photo News Company.

Photographs: Yes. Multiple photographs within this collection. Photographs vary in size and type. Present are cyanotypes and black and white photographs, many with writing on the back or below them in the scrapbook to identify people, locations, and/or years.

Condition Notes: Good to fair condition. At some point the scrapbook has been exposed to moisture or water. As a result of the exposure, there was mold present in this scrapbook at one time. There is purple discoloration on some photographs early in the scrapbook, and warping to some pages and the spine. Staples and paper clips have rusted. The binding of the scrapbook is in fair condition. While the binding staples are intact, the front and back covers are separating from the rest of the scrapbook.

Processed by: Lisa Hill, August 2018.

Biographical Note

Dr. Grace Patten Conant was the head of the English Department at Millikin University from 1906-1926. She founded Millikin's first English Club in 1920 (renamed the Conant Society in 1927) for students with an interest in English literature. Conant was born in 1874 in Littleton, Massachusetts and held degrees from Bates College and Cornell University. In addition to Millikin, Conant also taught at Cornell, the University of Chicago, Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, and Western College in Oxford, Ohio. Dr. Conant's first endowment to Millikin University was \$1,000 for the issuance of a yearly award given to the English major who has the highest grade point average for seven semesters. In 1962, Conant provided another endowment of \$5,000 to provide for two annual achievement awards in English literature. She also founded the Decatur chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Conant died on March 15, 1965 at 92 years old.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains the personal scrapbook of Grace Patten Conant containing photographs and ephemera.

Series Notes

Series 1: Scrapbook

1 item

Photographs, ephemera, arranged in a chronological fashion within the pages of the scrapbook.

Collection Inventory

Folder/Item Title	Container #	Folder/Item #	Description
Scrapbook	E-0013	1	Photographs, newspaper clippings, programs, ticket stubs and other ephemera from Dr. Conant's time at Millikin. Students, faculty, and Millikin staff are clearly identified within most photographs. Also included are photographs of the Decatur area from the late 1910s to the mid 1920s.