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Retrospect

[News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University](#)

February 2022

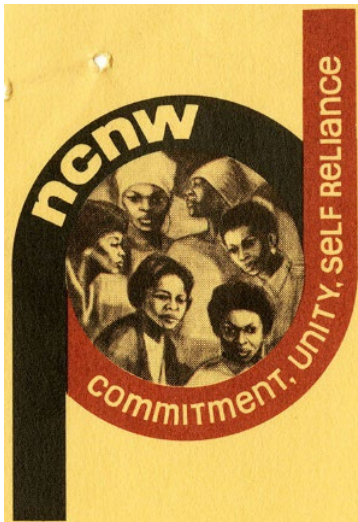
Volume 18, Number 1



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. Archives & Special Collections

National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Records



women, their families and communities.

The Pettus Archives has two collections of records pertaining to the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW): NCNW-Columbia Section Records [Acc. 179 M180 (2210)] and NCNW-Florence Section Records [Acc. 445 M181 (222)]. These records consist of agenda notes, letters, correspondence, charters, newsletters (*Black Women's Voice*), brochures, pamphlets, clippings and newspaper clippings relating to the organization's activities at the local, state, and national levels, the history of the organization, and of the life of Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955). The National Council of Negro Women was founded by Mary McLeod Bethune in 1935. It was the first national coalition of African American women's organizations and was the most influential national women's organization during the civil rights movement. Bethune envisioned NCNW functioning as a clearinghouse, facilitating networking and coalition building, and advocating the use of collective power on issues affecting

The finding aids may be viewed on Digital Commons: [Columbia Section](#); [Florence Section](#).

For more information on the Manuscript Collection, contact the Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



From the Processing Archivist

By Carson Cope, Processing Archivist

The Linda Williams Collection



Linda Williams

If you are interested in art and local history, stop by the Louise Pettus Archives to view the Linda Williams Collection which has been fully arranged and described. Winthrop Alumna ('64, '69, '80) Linda Williams donated her collection to the Pettus Archives on May 10, 2021. This collection primarily consists of memorabilia featuring the artwork of Vernon Grant [1902-1990], who was an active member of the Rock Hill community and led the Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce in the late 1950s and 1960s. Specifically, the collection consists of memorabilia such as posters, buttons, Christmas cards, magazines, and advertisements that feature Vernon Grant's illustrations. There are many toys highlighting the illustrations of Vernon Grant as well. For example, there is a xylophone, a record player, pick-up-stix set, and paper dolls. Also included is a Hershey's mascot doll, plate, and mug; a Rice Krispies bowl, mug, and plate; and a Rice Krispies jigsaw puzzle.

Additionally, there are several copies of Linda Williams' biography of Vernon Grant covering his life and artwork, correspondence concerning the book's creation, and copyright permissions. If you would like to learn more about Vernon Grant and his artwork, stop by the Louise Pettus Archives or look at the finding aid on Pettus Archives Digital Commons: [Linda Williams Collection Acc. 1751](#). The collection has now been fully processed and is ready to be used by the researchers. See also the [May 2021 issue of Retrospect](#) for more information on Vernon Grant and this collection. Pictured below is one of the many posters included in the collection.



50 Years Ago

From [The Johnsonian January 21, 1972](#)



1972 Ebonites

“In history, the black man’s role in relation to the white man’s has been one of subordination. But people are changing, and moods are changing. Realizing this, the Ebonites have chosen the theme *Changing Moods of Blackness* for Black Week, to be held January 23-29 [1972]. Cynthia Mickens, co-chairman of Black Week, explains the theme as ‘a breakdown of how the black people have changed.’ She continued, ‘At first, calling someone *black* was a connotation of him being equivalent to dirt; but now, because he has become more aware of himself and his heritage, he is proud to be called black.

Vickie Young stated that the purpose of Black Week ‘is to display various forms of black culture. It helps the whites as well as the blacks to better appreciate the Black culture for what it is.’”

Quote of the Quarter



One of the early women's rights advocates of South Carolina origin was **Angelina Grimké**. She and her sister Sarah were primarily known as abolitionists but in assuming a public role in their activities, which was criticized even among abolitionists, became pioneers in the women's movement promoting not only racial equality but also gender equality. Angelina and Catherine Beecher, who was Harriet Beecher Stowe's older sister, got into an ongoing public debate, in a series of letters, over abolition principles and women's public activism. In 1837 Beecher wrote an article concerning her "general views in relation to the place woman is appointed to fill by the dispensations of heaven." Angelina's response was to offer objections to Beecher's arguments and "throw before thee my own views." Beecher believed that women should take a subordinate role. Angelina had much to say in answer to Beecher's stance. In part, Angelina's response includes these words:

"I believe it is woman's right to have a voice in all the laws and regulations by which she is to be governed, whether in Church or State; and that the present arrangements of society, on these points, are a violation of human rights, a rank usurpation of power, a violent seizure and confiscation of what is sacredly and inalienably hers."

To see the Digital Commons record for this book: <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/rarebooks/89/>

For more information concerning the *Quote of the Quarter* please contact Gina White at (803) 323-2334 or whitegp@winthrop.edu.



Current Exhibition

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

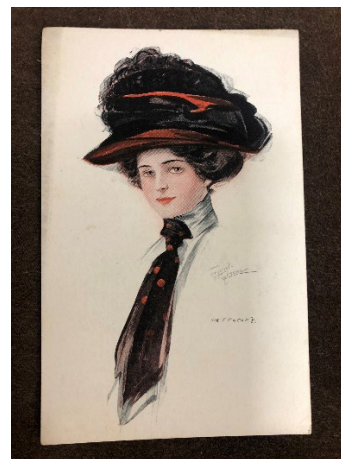
The Feminine Portrayal: Varied Representations of Women in Art



*Japanese Doll
Ida Crawford Stewart Papers*



*Female Ceramic Whistle
A.D. 200-600
Salazar Collection*



*Postcard
ca, early 1900s
Postcard Collection*

Join us to explore the ways in which women are portrayed in different art forms across different time periods. You will find various archival pieces that highlight the impact of art and culture on the feminine image. Throughout this display, you can explore the themes and complexities of womanhood and how deeply image impacts what women do, how women act, and what societal roles women play. We aim to explore images that can be seen as beautiful, harmful, and healing to women and provoke a sense of change and hope for a more positive future. The exhibit includes items from ancient civilizations in Central America, 19th and 20th century China and Japan, as well as local and regional art. Please come to enjoy the display beginning March 1, 2022, continuing through the spring semester.



Photograph of the Quarter

Evangelist Willie Laurel Olive Panoramic Photograph [Acc. 1673 M811 (868)]



Willie Laurel Dick Olive [1886-1959] was a Pentecostal evangelist who worked throughout the Carolinas and other areas in the southeast in the first half of the 20th century. She was the founder of the Elizabeth Temple, largest of the Four Square Gospel Churches, in Concord, NC. Mrs. Olive was known as a healer but did not claim to be one. She said that she does not heal but “prays for people to believe in the Lord, and they are healed by Him.” She died in 1959 and is buried in Dothan City Cemetery in Dothan, Alabama. The collection consists of a large panoramic photograph measuring 32” x 8” and dated September 5, 1923 (possibly 1926, the date is unclear) It captures the crowd of hundreds of people who attended the nightly Sunday tent service in Rock Hill, SC. The people are standing and sitting in front of the large tent on which a sign states, “Willie Laurel Olive, Evangelist, Nightly At 7:45, Preaching The Four Square Gospel.” The adults are

primarily standing in the rear with children in front mainly sitting on the ground. Within the crowd, there are a few parked automobiles of different models. The photographer was J. W. Moon of Charlotte, N.C. The photograph was donated to the Pettus Archives by Mr. Avery Taylor in 2017.



For more information on the collection and to view a larger version of the photograph:
https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/manuscriptcollection_findingaids/1278/

For more information on the Photograph Collection, contact the Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

A Century Ago...

[Chester News Tuesday, September 7, 1920](#)

From an editorial written the week after the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution went into effect giving women the right to vote:

“Man, conceited man, is slow to admit the influence that women have, but there is no dodging the issue, women have great influence in this world and without them, this would be a darn poor country in which to reside.”



University Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

The Pettus Archives has biographical, personnel, and other records pertaining to many of the thousands of Winthrop employees (faculty and staff) over the past 135 years. Recently, we came across a [Johnsonian article from October 9, 1959](#) about a 36 year employee named Sarah Burns Ferguson. She is most likely the first African American staff member employed in a professional position. Winthrop managed its bookstore in the early days and students rented many of the textbooks rather than buying them. Mrs. Ferguson served as a book clerk in the bookstore from 1950 until her retirement in 1981. In 1959, the bookstore was located in the basement of Main Building (now Tillman). The following Johnsonian article gives us Sarah Ferguson's story:

Year-Round WC Book Work Satisfies Sarah B. Ferguson

By Betty McMakin



“They always come down here and say, ‘I want a book.’ Well, I say ‘What kind of book?’ ‘A sociology book.’ Now, how am I supposed to know?” Naturally, she is talking about the first semester freshmen, but Sarah B. Ferguson, Winthrop’s book clerk, has developed a knack for sleuthing since coming here. Sarah can track down the freshmen and get them to reveal a few pertinent facts . . . like the name of the book and who wrote it. She is an old hand at handling the numerous requests of the “fairest flowers of the Southland.”

Sarah graduated from Friendship College in Rock Hill in 1940 and came to Winthrop in 1945. During her first four years, she worked as a maid in Roddey, McLaurin, and Bancroft. For the past ten years, she has worked as book clerk. She considers herself lucky because she truly loves her work. She has never had to contend with a hateful or demanding student. “The students are all very nice. The faculty is helpful. They will explain anything about a book to me.”

Sarah’s work is literally never done. Her work day begins at 8:00 am and lasts until 4:00 pm, and the job is year-round! “When you’re not issuing books, which I like to do, you’re sending notices. There is always something to do down here. The hardest thing is getting books in. You

have to send students notices all the time. Sometimes I have to go get the books.”

“The fun begins when the books are in: Inventory must be taken. We have to count every book in this bookroom. I hate that worse than anything. When a book is missing, there is no way to determine who did or did not return her books if no name is written in the book. It would save us time if the students would put their names in their books.”

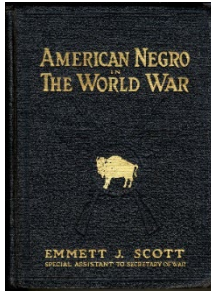
For a glimpse at her personal life: Sarah is married and has two children. Her husband is employed as a plasterer. Her daughter, 19, graduated last year from Emmett Scott High School and is now married. Her 16 year old son is attending Emmett Scott.



Rare Book Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

Scott's official history of the American Negro in the World War



Published in 1919, Scott's Official History of the American Negro in the World War by Emmett J. Scott is "a complete and authentic narration from official sources of the participation of American soldiers of the Negro race in the World War for democracy. It is "profusely illustrated with official photographs." The work is "a full account of the war work organizations of colored men and women and other civilian activities including the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A. and the War Camp Community Service with official summary of the Treaty of Peace and the League of Nations Covenant."

Emmett J. Scott, born in Houston, Texas in 1873, was a journalist, founding newspaper editor, government official and envoy, educator, and author. He served as Booker T. Washington's closest adviser at Tuskegee Institute and was Special Advisor of Black Affairs to Secretary of War Newton D. Baker. Scott also traveled to Liberia for the United States and was the highest-ranking African American in President Woodrow Wilson's administration. He died in 1957 at the age of 84.



This volume was given to the Pettus Archives by John Snyder in 2018. To view the table of contents, selected photographs and bibliographic information click here: <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/rarebooks/55/>

For more information on the Rare Book Collection, contact Gina White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Collegiate Contemplations

From The Winthrop Journal, April 1922 issue by D.D.R Class of 1923

My Sprite



I see her on a lily-pad
A-floating in the lake:
I see her in the winter's cold
On every fluffy flake.

I see her in the morning light
On a morning-glory blue.
She come again as twilight falls
And flits in evening dew.

In every dream she smiles at me
And when I wake I pine
To dwell within an elfin bow'r
With this fairy sprite of mine.

For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Telephone: (803) 323-2334

E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu

Website: <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>

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