

Dona Brown Papers

Collection Summary

Identifier: MA 105

Title: Dona Brown Papers

Dates: 1940-1995

Extent: 0.42 linear feet (1 document case)

Creator:

Language: English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, MA 105, box number, folder number, Dona Brown Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The Dona Brown Papers document the life, professional career, and literary initiatives of South Dakota educator and community leader Dona Brown (1909–1996). Brown earned degrees from South Dakota State College and devoted more than four decades to education as a teacher and counselor in Woonsocket and Huron, South Dakota. She was active in public service and higher education leadership, including service on the South Dakota Board of Regents from 1957 to 1969 and as chairman of the board of trustees at Huron College. Her civic and professional involvement included participation in numerous educational, cultural, and community organizations across the state.

The collection primarily contains research and project materials assembled by Dr. April Brooks and Dr. Ruth Ann Alexander of South Dakota State University and donated to the archives in 2004. Materials relate largely to a humanities grant and the “Poets and Writers of South Dakota” literary documentation project initiated by Brown. The papers include correspondence, project notes, questionnaires, biographies, articles, obituaries, and records associated with Huron College. Together these materials document efforts to identify, document, and preserve the work of South Dakota poets and writers and provide insight into grant-supported humanities research and regional literary history.

Biography

Dona Brown was born on May 25, 1909, in Brookings, South Dakota. She graduated from Huron High School in 1927 and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from South Dakota State College in 1931, followed by a master's degree in education in 1937. Brown dedicated 43 years to education as a teacher and counselor in Woonsocket and Huron, South Dakota.

She served on the South Dakota Board of Regents from 1957 to 1969 and held leadership roles including chairman of the board of trustees at Huron College. Brown was active in numerous organizations, including the SDSU Benefactors Club, South Dakota Centennial Commission, South Dakota Personnel and Guidance Association, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and First Federal Savings and Loan of Huron. She was also a member of the American Association of University Women, Huron Chamber of Commerce, and the South Dakota Education Association.

In recognition of her contributions, Brown was awarded an honorary doctorate and Distinguished Alumnus Award by South Dakota State University in 1970. She was inducted into the South Dakota Cowboy and Western Heritage Hall of Fame in 1980.

Dona Brown passed away on May 25, 1996.

Scope and Content

The Dona Brown Papers contain research and project records compiled by Dr. April Brooks and Dr. Ruth Ann Alexander, professors at South Dakota State University, and donated to the Archives in 2004. The material primarily relates to a humanities grant and a literary documentation initiative. Contents include general correspondence, an address index for

group members, articles, obituaries, and records from Huron College. Also included are project notes, biographies, and questionnaires related to the “Poets and Writers of South Dakota” project, a literary documentation effort initiated by Dona Brown.

This collection documents scholarly and creative efforts to support and recognize South Dakota’s literary community. It provides insight into grant-funded humanities research as well as the collection and preservation of regional literary histories. The materials reflect both institutional involvement in the humanities and a grassroots approach to documenting the voices of local poets and writers.

Access Points

Subjects

- Women educators

Names

- Brown, Dona, 1909-1996
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Conditions Governing Access

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Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Correspondence	1955-1966
1	2	Group Membership Address Index	undated
1	3	Humanities Grant (articles, obituary)	1989-1996
1	4	Humanities Grant (Huron College)	1982-1989
1	5	Humanities Grant (Correspondence)	1940-1995
1	6	Poets and Writers of South Dakota Project Notes	1956