

MILDRED FAHRNI

An Inventory of her Papers

in

The Library of the University of British Columbia

Special Collections Division

Prepared by

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I. Introduction

This is the first donation of the Mildred Fahrni Papers received by the Special Collections and University Archives Division. These papers consist of subject titled files. In addition, prior to her marriage, Mildred Osterhout prepared a series of radio broadcasts on behalf of the C. C. F., 1933 to 1935.

II. Scope and Content

The papers consist of subject titled files. Original subject titles have been preserved as the order of material found within each subject titled file.

III. Series Description

A. Subject Files

Boxes 1-6

56 files.

Files are arranged in alphabetical order according to subject matter. Refer to appendix for a listing of file titles. Subject matters include Fahrni's involvement in V. O. W. (Voice of Women) and W.I.L.P.F. (Women's International League of Peace and Freedom). Enclosed in many of the subject files are correspondence, newspaper clippings and notes and manuscripts.

APPENDIX

A list of subject titles for subject titled files. Each subject title represents one file except for the title "Photos" and "Precis Project" which represent two files each.

C. C. F. radio broadcasts on C.K.M.O. and C.J.O.R., 1933-1935. Box 1

- Articles, speeches, letters, 1930's. Boxes 1 to 6
- Articles, speeches, letters, 1940's/50's
- Articles, speeches, letters, 1960's.
- Articles, speeches, letters, 1970's/80's.
- Canadian Politics, 1950's.
- Christmas letters from Mildred, 1937-1989.
- Christmas letters received, 1958-1986.
- Danilo Dolci.
- Family papers.
- F. O. R. Canada.
- F.O.R. Canadian newsletters, 1952-55.
- F.O.R. correspondence, 1950-1969.
- F.O.R. correspondence, etc., 1961-63.
- F.O.R. Documents, letters, 1948-1960.
- F.O.R. documents
- F.O.R. International
- F.O.R. membership lists.
- F.O.R. U.S.A.
- Friends - articles on Mildred's friends.
- Grace MacInnis.
- Guatemala, Internat. Am. Women's Conference, 1947.
- Important correspondence, 1919-1938.
- India trip, 1938-39.
- India trip, 1960-61.
- Kagawa
- K.K. Chandy/Kerala B/Indian material.
- letter to/from politicians/editors, 1956-1973.
- Letters to Mildred, 1937-38.
- Letters from Mildred, 1943-86.

- Lists, miscellaneous.
- London, 1931-32.
- Mexico.
- Montgomery/civil rights.
- New Co-op Society, 1933-38.
- New Denver, 1943-44.
- Newspaper articles, 1964-1986.
- Oral history transcript.
- Other peace documents.
- Other peace organizations.
- Pacifism - notes.
- Photos.
- Precis Project.
- Radio talks, CJOR.
- Resumes/biographies
- S.C.M./U.B.C.
- Sermons/other wisdom.
- Sevas.
- Sevagram/Gandhi movement
- V.O.W. annual meeting.
- V.O.W. conference.
- V.O.W. papers.
- War Resisters International.
- W.I.L.P.F.
- Woodsworth, J. S.
- World Pacifist Conference, 1949.

Mildred Fahrni Fonds

RBSC-ARC-1183

Finding aid

Shamin Malmas, January 2011

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia Library



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Fonds description

Mildred Fahrni Fonds

ca.1910-1992.

85 cm of textual materials and other records.

Biographical sketch:

Mildred Fahrni (nee Osterhout) was born in rural Manitoba on January 1, 1900. Between 1919 and 1923 she was educated at the University of British Columbia (UBC) where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy. Upon completion of her bachelor's degree Fahrni continued her education at UBC by beginning a Master of Philosophy in the fall of 1923.

Post graduation Fahrni worked for both the YMCA and the Canadian Memorial Church (CMC) as a secretary in Vancouver. While she was frustrated at her inability to secure work as a teacher, in her desired domain, Fahrni's employment at the YMCA and CMC introduced her to the dire situation of unemployed women and girls in Vancouver. Between 1930 and 1931 Fahrni continued her education at Bryn Mawr, in Pennsylvania, enrolled in the Department of Social Economy and Social Research.

In the spring of 1931 Fahrni completed her studies at Bryn Mawr and traveled to London to work at the East London Community Centre. There she became involved in various social and human rights groups, and through her friendship with Muriel Lester she met Mohandas K. Gandhi, who became a life-long source of inspiration for Fahrni.

Between 1931 and 1939 Fahrni traveled extensively abroad, including trips to Russia, India and Japan, with period returns to Vancouver. In 1939 she obtained a teaching position at Carleton Elementary School in Vancouver; and in 1941 she married Walter Fahrni. In 1947 she was elected head of the local branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and her 1949 trip to India introduced her to Reverend K.K. Chandy, the founder of the Kerala Banlagram School for Homeless Boys. Inspired by the work of Chandy, Fahrni became an important supporter of the school operating fundraising campaigns in Canada and making several personal donations.

Active as a public speaker addressing issues of war, poverty, non-violence, and social change made Fahrni a regular guest lecture at conferences and in university class rooms at the UBC. In 1970 devoted herself to Servas, an international organization that promoted peace through travel and home stays; through which her trip to South America was made possible.

She was awarded the Vancouver peace award in 1991 before passing away in 1992.

[Knickerbocker, Nancy. *No Plaster Saint: The Life of Mildred Osterhout Fahrni 1900-1992*. Vancouver, BC: Talonbooks, 2001.]

Custodial history: Records were donated to Rare Books and Special Collections by Marion Irish, Mildred Fahrni's niece; however, for a period of time many of the records were in the custody of Nancy Knickerbocker, research and author.

Scope and content: The fonds contains records related to Fahrni's involvement with various organizations including the Kerala Balagram School, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Fahrni's activities as a lecturer at various conferences and institutions. The majority of these records are arranged into subject, or research files, and represent Fahrni's active involvement with a variety of human rights issues and local, National and social justice organizations.

The fonds includes correspondence, subject files, newspaper clippings, sound recordings, lecture notes, speeches, and conference and lecture notes. The fonds also includes photographs, slides, and albums documenting Fahrni's family, life in British Columbia and trip to various locations overseas.

The fonds is arranged into the following series, Subject files (1947-1990), Photographs and albums (ca.1910-1992), Kerala Balagram school administrative records (1963-1992), and Sound recordings ([ca.1980]-1989).

For information about records from previous accruals please see preceding finding aid.

Source of title proper: Title based on the provenance and contents of the fonds.

Physical description note: Fonds contains 85 cm of textual records, ca. 1100 photographs, 3 photograph albums, ca 40 slides, and 24 cassette tapes.

Arrangement note: Several files were re-arranged by an outside researcher prior to their transfer. Please see series level description for more details.

Accruals note: More accruals expected.

Series descriptions

Subject files

1947-1990.

80 cm of textual records.

ca.100 photographs.

Scope and content: Series contains newspaper clipping, speeches, annotated copies of journal issues (such as India Today), and conference brochures collected by Fahrni on a variety of subjects of personal interest including national and international human rights issues, such as the Korean War, disarmament, draft dodgers, nutrition, hunger, etc.

Series also contains incoming correspondence, copies of outgoing correspondences, postcards, as well as records related to Fahrni's activities as a guest lecture (including speeches and notes), and her involvement in various activist groups such as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

For information about records from previous accruals please see preceding finding aid.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Arrangement note: Nancy Knickerbocker assigned file names to the subject file series while the fonds was in her custody for the duration of her research on Mildred Fahrni's life for the purpose of writing *No Plaster Saint: The Life of Mildred Osterhout Fahrni*. Her considerable re-arrangement of Fahrni's records made original order impossible to reconstruct. File titles therefore reflect Knickerbocker's interpretation of Fahrni's records.

Photographs and albums

ca.1910-1992.

ca. 1000 photographs.

ca. 40 slides.

3 photograph albums.

Scope and content: Series contains photographs, albums, slides, postcards, and newspaper clippings documenting Fahrni's family, life and activities in British Columbia, her wedding to Walter Fahrni in 194, and various trips including those to Japan, China, India, and Mexico.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Kerala Balagram records

1963-1992

5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series contains records related to Fahrni's involvement with the Kerala Balagram School for Homeless Children. Fahrni was a regular contributor to the schools endowment and supporting over 18 children through various foster parents programs including the Canadian F.O.R. The majority of records in this series are correspondence between Fahrni and the schools coordinators regarding her donations to the school and fundraising activities Fahrni oversaw in Canada. In addition to correspondence, the series also contains annual reports, flyers, promotional materials, and newspaper clippings.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Sound recordings

[ca 1980] -1989

24 cassette tapes.

Scope and content: Series contains interviews, conducted by a variety of individuals, with Fahrni discussing a wide variety of topics from international social and political issues to her childhood in British Columbia.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

File list

Series: Subject Files/ Research Files (files arranged by researcher)

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
7-1	Independence	1947
7-2	Death of Gandhi	1948
7-3	World pacifist conference	1949
7-4	Pictures from trip to India ca 100 photographs: b&w	1949
7-5	Articles and newspaper clippings	[ca.1950]
7-6	Correspondences	[ca.1950]
7-7	Notes	[ca.1950]
7-8	Speeches	[ca.1950]
7-9	Victor Howard Osterhout's death	1952
7-10	Book reviews	[ca.1950]
8-1	Doukhobors	[ca. 1960]
8-2	Doukhobors (2)	[ca. 1960]
8-3	Korean War	1950-1953
8-4	A-bomb and the h-bomb	[ca.1960]
8-5	Disarmament	[ca. 1950]
8-6	Hiroshima Day events	[ca.1960]
8-7	India	[ca.1960]
8-8	Miscellaneous	[ca.1950]
8-9	Peace groups	[ca.1950]
8-10	Society of friends	[ca.1950]
8-11	Articles and newspaper clippings	[ca.1960]
8-12	Correspondence	[ca.1960]
9-1	Notes and speeches	[ca.1960]
9-2	Trip to Mexico	[ca.1960]
9-3	India	[ca.1960]
9-4	International peace groups	[ca.1960]
9-5	Nutrition and hunger	[ca.1960]
9-6	Servas international association	[ca.1960]
9-7	Draft dodgers – photocopies of clippings from the Vancouver Sun	[ca.1960]
9-10	Vietnam war	[ca.1960 –

		1970]
9-11	Voice of Women – conference	[ca.1970]
9-12	Correspondence	[ca.1960-1980]
10-1	Articles and newspaper clippings	[ca.1970]
10-2	Ashrams and communities	[ca.1970]
10-3	Guildhouse trust	[ca.1970]
10-4	Yoga	[ca.1970]
10-5	War resistance international records	[ca.1970]
10-6	Canadian aid for southern African refugees, and international defence and aid fund records	[ca.1970]
10-7	Anti-nuclear movement	[ca.1970-1980]
10-8	Trident and ground zero	[ca.1980]
10-9	Central America	[ca.1980]
10-10	Nicaragua	[ca.1980]
10-11	Churches and peace	[ca.1980]
10-12	Expo '86	1986
10-13	Fundraising	[ca.1980]
10-14	Federal government peace policy	[ca.1980]
11-1	Government correspondence	[ca.1980]
11-2	Newspaper clippings and articles	[ca.1980]
11-3	NanOOSE bay conversion campaign	1985-1995
11-4	New Democrats	[ca.1980]
11-5	Peace and non-violence	[ca.1980]
11-6	Project plough shares	[ca.1980]
11-7	Tax resistance	[ca.1980]
11-8	World Council of Churches 6 th assembly	1983
11-9	Women's international league for peace and freedom	[ca.1980]
11-10	Old age and death	[ca.1990]
11-12	Martin Luther King Jr.	1955-1967

Series: Photographs and albums

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
12-1	Family photographs	[ca.1920]
12-2	Photographs from trip to Japan	1937-1939
12-3	Wedding photographs and album	1941
12-4	Photographs and album of New Denver BC	[ca. 1940]

12-5	Family photographs (2)	[ca.1920-1940]
13-1	Album from Mexico trip	1986
13-2	Personal photographs	[ca.1920] - ca.1980]
13-3	Photographs from trip to India	[ca.1960]
13-4	Family photographs	[ca.1920]
13-5	Photographs from Mildred and Bessie's at Bryn Mawr college	1930-1931
13-6	Photographs from vacation in Limberlost Ontario	[ca.1930]
13-7	Personal photographs (2)	[ca.1935- ca.1960]
13-8	Personal photographs (3)	[ca.1920- ca.1965]
13-9	Personal photographs (4)	[ca.1950- ca.1965]
13-10	Photographs from trip to India	[ca.1960]
13-11	Family photographs (2)	[ca.1930-
14-1	Family photographs (3)	[ca.1930- 1951]
14-2	Personal photographs (4)	[ca.1950-1960]
14-3	Family photographs (4)	[ca.1915-1925]
14-4	Family photographs (5)	[ca.1930-1940]
14-5	Photographs from trips to India	[ca.1930-1960]
14-6	Personal photographs	[ca.1940-1960]
14-7	Personal photographs (6)	[ca.1975]-1992
14-10	Slides of trips to Kuttayam, Madras, Kerala, Iran, Ooty, Afghanistan, and Israel	[ca.1930-1960]

Series Kerala Balagram Records

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
14-8	Correspondence	1963-1965
14-9	Correspondence	1965-1985

Photograph list

Series: Photographs

Identifier	File (Box-file)	Title	Date
BC-2138/ 1-7	12-1	Family photographs	[ca.1920]
BC-2138/ 8-11	12-2	Photographs from trip to Japan	1937-1939
BC-2138/ 12-15	12-3	Wedding photographs	1941
BC-2138/ 16-29	12-4	Photographs and album of New Denver BC	[ca. 1940]
BC-2138/ 30-33	12-5	Family photographs (2)	[ca.1920- 1940]
BC-2138/ 34	13-2	Taj mahal	[ca.1960]
BC-2138/ 35	13-2	Family photograph	[ca.1980]
BC-2138/ 36	13-2	Friends from India	[ca.1960]
BC-2138/ 37-38	13-2	School photographs of Mildred at Bryn Mawr	1930-1031
BC-2138/ 39-45	13-2	Photographs of Mildred at summer camp	[ca.1920]
BC-2138/ 46-60	13-2	Family photographs	[ca.1920]
BC-2138/ 61	13-3	Mildred riding an elephant	[ca.1960]
BC-2138/ 62-76	13-3	Photographs from trip to India	[ca.1960]
BC-2138/ 77	13-4	Vic and Mildred	[ca.1920]
BC-2138/ 78-88	13-4	Family photographs	[ca.1920]
BC-2138/ 89-95	13-5	Photographs from Mildred and Bessie's at Bryn Mawr college	1930-1931
BC-2138/ 96-105	13-6	Photographs from vacation in Limberlost Ontario	[ca.1930]

BC-2138/ 106-139	13-7	Personal photographs (2)	[ca.1935- ca.1960]
BC-2138/ 140-170	13-8	Personal photographs (3)	[ca.1920- ca.1965]
BC-2138/ 171- 181	13-9	Personal photographs (4)	[ca. 1950- 1965]
BC-2138/ 182-191	13-10	Photographs from trip to India	[ca.1960]
BC-2138/ 192-210	13-11	Family photographs (2)	[ca.1930- ca.1940]
BC-2138/ 211-225	14-1	Family photographs (3)	[ca.1930- 1951]
BC-2138/ 226-234	14-2	Personal photographs (4)	[ca.1950- 1965]
BC-2138/ 235-246	14-3	Family photographs (4)	[ca.1915- 1925]
BC-2138/ 247- 259	14-4	Family photographs (5)	[ca.1930- 1940]
BC-2138/ 260-277	14-5	Photographs from trips to India	[ca.1930- 1960]
BC-2138/ 278-295	14-6	Personal photographs (5)	[ca.1940- 1960]
BC-2138/ 296-313	14-7	Personal photographs (6)	[ca.1975- 1992]
BC-2138/ 314 - 351	14-10	Slides of trips to Kuttayam, Madras, Kerala, Iran, Ooty, Afghanistan, and Israel	[ca.1930- 1960]

Audio Visual Materials List

Series: Sound recordings

Identifier	Title	Date
SP 126 -1	Interview of Mildred discussing life in New Denver between 1918-1924	1989
SP 126-2	Mildred on Morningside	[198-?]
SP 126-3	Mildred discussing her wedding, Mexico and Victor	[198-?]
SP 126-4	Mildred discussing working with the Japanese after WWII	1986
SP 126-5	Mildred discussing Martin Luther King Jr.	[ca.1986]
SP 126-6	Mildred discussing Mexico and 1924-1930	[ca.1986]
SP 126-7	Lynda Haythorne discussing Mildred and the Osterhauts	[ca.1987]

SP 126-8	West Point Grey United Church Easter Sunday	1992
SP 126-9	Mildred discussing her childhood and trips to England and India	[ca.1986]
SP 126-10	Mildred discussing Woodsworth and Methodism	[ca.1987]
SP 126-11	Mildred discussing Martin Luther King Jr.	[ca.1986]
SP 126-12	Elizabeth Keeling discussing the 1930-1940s in the West End (of Vancouver)	[ca.1987]
SP 126-13	Daisy Webster	[ca.198-]
SP 126-14	Mildred discussing friends who have been an influence	[ca.198-]
SP 126-15	Stan Rowe	[ca.198-]
SP 126-16	Frank Dingman personal history	[ca.198-]
SP 126-17	Mildred's memorial	[ca.1992]
SP 126-18	Dr, Wee Chong Tan	[ca.198-]
SP 126-19	Mary Thomson	[ca.198-]
SP 126-20	Interview with Marion Irish	[ca.198-]
SP 126-21	Mildred Fahrni on Gaudhi	[ca.198-]
SP 126-22	Ida Vyse	[ca.198-]
SP 126-23	Mildred on the CCF	[ca.198-]
SP 126-24	Claude Campbell	[ca.198-]