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11.001 Lesley College Schools for Children, 1909-2002

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Lesley College Schools for Children, 1909-1914, 1918-1964, 2002

By Alyssa Pacy

Collection Overview

Title: Lesley College Schools for Children, 1909-1914, 1918-1964, 2002

ID: 11/001

Creator: Lesley College Schools for Children (1948-1981)

Extent: 2.0 Cubic Feet

Arrangement: Chronological by each school.

Date Acquired: 01/09/2007

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This collection contains catalogs produced annually and other records from the Lesley College Schools for Children (the Carroll-Hall School, the Lesley-Dearborn School, and the Lesley-Ellis School) that the then Lesley College acquired. Each catalog contains a history of the school, information about faculty, admission, buildings, course descriptions, academic calendars, school policy, and tuition and expenses. The collection also contains a book of published poems from students in Lesley-Ellis Schools' creative writing class from 1958 - 1964.

Biographical Note

During the winter of 1948-1949, the Board of Trustees of Lesley College purchased from the Cambridge School of Weston, its Concord Avenue educational plant in known for many years as the Cambridge Lower School. The long-established private school for boys and girls (pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8) along with a separate remedial school known as the Cambridge

Town School was operated by Lesley College as the Lesley-Ellis and Lesley-Dearborn Schools. In September 1957, Lesley established its third laboratory school at 34 Mellen Street - The Carroll-Hall School for children with special needs. The three schools came to be known as the Lesley Laboratory Schools or Lesley Lab Schools. They provided an opportunity for undergraduate students to observe and participate in childhood education activities and for Lesley College faculty and other scholars to research early childhood education.

During the 1967-1968 academic year, the Lab Schools were renamed Lesley College School for Children and were administered by the Research, Evaluation, and Special Tutoring Staff. Numerous programs were tested in the schools under the direction of qualified researchers.

In 1977, a fourth school was added called the Dearborn Pre-Vocational School to provide special programs for children with emotional disabilities.

On July 1, 1981, the Schools for Children began to operate as an independent non-profit corporation but continued a close professional relationship with Lesley College.

A short history of each school is provided below:

The Carroll-Hall School. In September 1957, the Carroll-Hall school, a private day school, was established on Lesley College's campus becoming the first New England day school for special needs children to be founded and conducted by a fully accredited institution of higher education. Each student's program was created to fit his or her personal requirements. The school admitted 30 boys and girls between the ages of six to sixteen. Classrooms were kept intentionally small with six students maximum. In addition to faculty members, apprentice-teachers from Lesley College acted as fulltime assistants and special tutors.

The Lesley-Dearborn School. The Walter F. Dearborn School or the Lesley-Dearborn School grew out of the remedial program of the Cambridge Lower School called the Cambridge Town School. The School was renamed the Lesley-Dearborn school after the then Lesley College purchased it in 1949 to honor Dr. Walter F. Dearborn, former professor of education at Harvard University's School of Education and the Director of Lesley College's Psychological Clinic. In addition, Dr. Dearborn was a pioneer in the field of remedial reading. The School, which was located at 34 and 36 Concord Avenue in Cambridge, Massachusetts, enrolled roughly 65 boys and girls of all age levels and scholastic achievement. (For more information about the Cambridge Lower School, see the Cambridge School, Inc. below.)

The Lesley-Ellis School. In 1949, the then Lesley College purchased the Lesley-Ellis School, formerly the Cambridge Lower School, after four years of collaboration in which Lesley students would practice teaching. The name change reflected Lesley College's desire to honor Miss Harriet A. Ellis, the School's longtime director of 30 years. Lesley-Ellis was a co-educational day school with small classes, serving students from nursery school to the sixth grade. The emphasis was on small classes to "promote the free and meaningful growth of the individual student within a democratic climate." (For more information about the Cambridge Lower School, see the Cambridge School, Inc. below.)

The Cambridge School, Inc. In 1886, Arthur Gilman, the original sponsor of Radcliff College, founded the first private school in Cambridge, Massachusetts, called the Cambridge School, popularly known by his name as the Gilman School. In 1909 it was incorporated as the Cambridge School for Girls, Inc. In 1918, the school merged with Mary E. Haskell's Boston school in Cambridge. The rapid growth and development of the combined school was recognized in 1920 in the new name Cambridge-Haskell School. The school was both a college preparatory and "finishing" school and offered courses for students aged 3 and a half to 18. In addition, there was a Child School for both boys and girls aged 3 and a half to 12 that began in 1919. During the Second Grade, the students entered an Open Air School, a learning environment based on the idea that students are kept "fresh and unwearied" throughout the day by keeping the widows open year round. The Upper School program (Grade 8 and beyond) was for girls only. In 1930 the school went fully co-ed and the name was changed to the Cambridge School, Inc. The high school division was moved to Weston, Massachusetts and the elementary school was known as the Cambridge Lower School. The School's remedial program was so successful that it developed into a separate school, the Cambridge Town School, with its own principal, faculty, and facilities. Lesley University's relationship with the Cambridge School began in 1949, when the then Lesley College purchased the Cambridge Lower School and renamed it the Lesley-Ellis School. The Cambridge Town School was renamed the Lesley-Dearborn School.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: In-Library Use Only.

Acquisition Source: The Office of the President

Acquisition Method: Interoffice transfer

Appraisal Information: In good condition

Related Materials: Course Catalogs, Lesley College

Processing Information: The Collection was processed by Alyssa Pacy in 2007.

Finding Aid Revision History: The Collection was reprocessed by Alyssa Pacy in 2008.

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Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1: Cambridge School for Girls, 1909-1914

This folder contains the Docket, a catalog from 1909-1914 that gives a comprehensive description of the Cambridge School for Girls by academic year including information about calendars, clubs, teams, events, students. The folder also contains holiday cards.

Folder 2: Cambridge-Haskell School, [post 1918 to pre-1922] - 1925 to 1926

Folder 3: Cambridge-Haskell School, 1926-1927 to 1929-1930

Folder 4: Cambridge School, Inc., 1930-1931 to 1933-1934

Folder 5: Cambridge School, Inc., 1934-1935 to 1939-1940

Folder 6: Cambridge School, Inc., 1941-1942 to 1945-1946

Folder 7: Carroll-Hall School, 1957

Folder 8: Lesley-Ellis School, [mid-1950s] - [1960s], N.D.

Folder 9: Lesley-Ellis School, [1954 - 1955] to 1961-1962

Folder 10: Lesley-Ellis School, [early to mid 1960s to mid-1960s]

Box 2

Folder 1: The Lesley-Ellis School, Behind the Blue Door, 1958-1964

A book of poems written by Lesley-Ellis' creative writing class.

Folder 2: Schools for Children, 1963, 1965, 2002