George Franklin Bowerman scrapbooks 4079407

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Bowerman, George Franklin, 1868-1960
Title:	George Franklin Bowerman scrapbooks
ID:	4079407
ID:	MS#0139
Date [inclusive]:	1894-1904
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 1 document box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Handmade scrapbooks of George F. Bowerman covering the periods from when he was in Library School at the NY State Library School (1894-1895)in Albany, his career as Reference Librarian at the Reynolds Library in Rochester (1895-1896) and Librarian to the Wilmington Institute Free Library (1901-1904). Also includes materials from his time as member of the Delaware State Library Commission (1901-1904).

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); George Franklin Bowerman scrapbooks; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

George Franklin Bowerman (1868-1960) is best known for his career as Chief Librarian of the District of Columbia Public Library, 1904-1940.

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Biographical / Historical

He was born in Ontario County, NY, on Sept. 8, 1868, to Jarvis and Anna M. Bowerman. His family was Quaker on both sides. This would become the back bone of his advocacy for peace later on in his career.

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Biographical / Historical

Bowerman attended university at the New York State Library School in Albany, NY from 1894-1895. Upon graduation he worked as a reference librarian and journalist in Rochester, NY at the Reynolds Library from 1895-1896.

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Biographical / Historical

He married in Albany on June 1, 1901 to Sarah N., the daughter of Reverend Henry Graham. Later that same year, he and Sarah moved to Wilmington, Delaware where he worked at the Wilmington Institute Free Library and as a member of the Delaware State Library Commission from 1901-1904.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1904 Bowerman became the Chief Librarian of the District of Columbia, which he would serve for most of his career, until1940. During this time Bowerman established The District of Columbia Special Collections, known as Washingtonia (1905).

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Biographical / Historical

In the latter half of his career Bowerman was the ALA Treasurer and the President of the District of Columbia Library Association (1906-1907). He also championed such issues as libraries against censorship, the war, advocated the libraries important role in education and for improved salaries for librarians.

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Biographical / Historical

Bowerman's most popular written work is Censorship and the Public Library with Other Papers (1931).

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Summary

The Bowerman Collection includes three scrapbooks that narrate the early portion of Bowerman's professional career in librarianism. The first scrapbook chronicles the period when Bowerman went to library school at the NY State Library School in Albany, NY (1894-1895). Of interest in the first volume is that it contains a handwritten account of Bowerman's trip to the Boston area with classmates as well as an invitation to dine at Melvil Dewey's home (with Dewey's signature attached). There is also a photograph on the final page of undisclosed individuals. This is the only original photo included in all three scrapbooks. The second scrapbook is a collection of newspaper clippings of articles written by Bowerman when he was a reference librarian at the Reynolds Library in Rochester (1895-1896). The third scrapbook contains magazine and newspaper clippings written by Bowerman during the period when he was the librarian at the Wilmington Institute Free Library in Delaware as well as member of the Delaware State Library Commission (1901-1904). Of interest in this volume is a copy of the address Bowerman made to the Delaware State Federation of Women's Clubs (May 1901) and the First Biennial Report of the State Library Commission of Delaware (1901-1902).

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-09-29 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room. This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions, but the third scrapbook of the Wilmington Institute Free Library and the Delaware State Library Commission is in extremely fragile condition and should be handled carefully in the presence of a Columbia University RBML staff member.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Bowerman, George F. Method of acquisition--Transferred from the School of Library Service Library, 1973; Date of acquisition--1948. Accession number--M-48.

Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of George F. Bowerman, l948; transferred from the Columbia University School of Libraray Service, 1973.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 04/07/89.

Processing Information

Papers Processed Vanessa Cano (Pratt Institute, Class of 2011) 05/--/2010.

Processing Information

Finding aid written Vanessa Cano (Pratt Institute, Class of 2011) 05/--/2010.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Library education -- New York (State) -- Albany
- Government libraries
- Librarians
- Librarians -- United States -- Biography
- Library finance
- Library science
- Library trustees

- Public libraries -- New York (State) -- Rochester
- Boston (Mass.) -- Description and travel
- Scrapbooks
- Librarians
- Bowerman, George Franklin, 1868-1960
- District of Columbia. Public Library. Chief Librarian
- New York State Library. School -- Students
- Reynolds Library. Reference Librarian
- Wilmington Institute Free Library (Wilmington, Del.). Librarian
- Delaware. State Library Commission

Collection Inventory

Scrapbooks, 1894-1904

Title/Description	Instances	
N.Y. State Library School, 1894-1895	box 1	folder 1
Photocopy of N.Y. State Library School, 1894-1895	box 1	folder 2
Reynolds Library, 1895-1896	box 1	folder 3
Photocopy of Reynolds Library, 1895-1896	box 1	folder 4
Wilmington Inst. Free Library / Delaware State Library Commission, 1901-1904	box 1	folder 5

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