



Mississippi University
for Women
A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

University Archives Inventory

Record Group Number: DP004

Title: Emma Ody Pohl Papers

Date: 1907-1955

Extent: 13 boxes

Creator: Emma Ody Pohl

Administrative/Biographical Notes: Emma Ody Pohl was born in the Delta region near Greenville, Mississippi in 1880. During President Henry Whitfield's tenure as state superintendent in Mississippi, he had received news of the reputation of Miss Pohl. President Whitfield wanted to implement changes to the then current state of the Physical Education programs. Miss Pohl, known as Whitfield's protégé, was enlisted at the Industrial Institute and College (now Mississippi University for Women) to revitalize the level of activity of students at the college.

Pohl's long tenure at Industrial Institute and College and Mississippi State College for Women was full of implementations that would change the history of the university forever. Emma Ody Pohl, known as a dynamic young teacher, served in the Physical Education department from 1907 until her retirement in 1955. Pohl was highly popular with students and strived to bridge the gap of the relationships between students and administrators. Under those nearly five decades, Pohl vitalized school spirit and added aesthetic value to the school through her use of ceremonies and productions.

Emma Ody Pohl was responsible for many valuable contributions to the university. She assisted in innovations under the Whitfield Administration. These innovations included immediately implementing dance classes, May Day ceremonies, and physical education courses that became mandatory for all students. Pohl had an aesthetic dance class that featured an original burlesque wedding. This would eventually form the Junior-Freshman wedding, which symbolized friendship and school loyalty. Les Sylphides and the Masque of Columbus were popular ballets led by Pohl on school campus. Also, under the advisement of Emma Ody Pohl, the first coed dances were created.

Pohl set forth many traditions on the campus of the university. Under her direction, at least one event each year was sponsored by the Physical Education department. Among her most notable contributions were the Zouave marching drills. Zouave was a Mississippi State College for Women trademark. These French military-inspired drills were in effect from 1912 until Pohl's retirement in 1955. It was revived again once in 1978. Another notable contribution was the creation of the university's old Alma Mater, in which she collaborated on this with Frances Jones Gaither, an alumna and best-selling novelist in the 1940s. Pohl would also collaborate on other class songs and would be responsible for many other programs and pageants on campus.

The end of the Pohl era came in the 1950s. She retired as the head of the physical education department in 1955. She later died on June 23, 1966. Pohl has been remembered for her accolades



through many publications, scholarship, and two gymnasia at Mississippi University for Women that were named in her honor (sponsored by her niece and alumnae, Marie Stark). Emma Ody Pohl will also be remembered for the impacts that she made on many students' lives and the colleagues who surrounded her.

Scope and Content Notes: There is significant overlap between this collection and the Marie Charlotte Stark Papers. A number of objects belonging to this collection were housed in the museum and may be located in Miscellaneous object collection. There are also some pieces not currently in possession of the archives, including a series of porcelain ballerinas currently located in Orr Annex.

Collection focuses on Pohl's political work, travel, and accolades from the campus and community.

System of Arrangement: The Emma Ody Pohl Papers are not purposefully arranged.

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: All unpublished materials are protected by copyright held by Mississippi University for Women. Permission to publish or reproduce must be requested in writing to the University Archivist. Published materials may also be protected by copyright, and the user must locate and request permission from copyright holder to publish or reproduce.

Language: English

Appraisal/Destruction: This collection is slated for permanent retention.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Related Archival Materials: Marie Charlotte Stark Papers, Connie Sill Kossen Memorabilia Collection, Eugenia Summer Collection

Description Control: Description based on DACS 2nd Edition. Access points based on Library of Congress Subject Headings and Name Authority File. Finding aid created by Derek Webb, 2015.

Folder List

Year	Box	Folder
1967		The Pohl of Memories (Printing Materials)
1927		Theatre Playbill
1916		MII&C Bulletin
1910		Photo: Class Day
1916		Clipping: Class of 1916
1911		Maypole Dances Ticket
1925		MSCW Booklet
1880's		Parasol
1923		Photo: C.L. Callaway
1922-1923		Book: Record of permits to leave school/town
1892		Friendshipo Album: M.S. Holt



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1980		Medal: presented to W. Stobel
1938		Invitation: Freshman Prom
		2pr Ballet Slippers worn by E.O. Pohl
1953-1973	C114	Collection: Holiday Travel Material
1956-1957		Trophy: Bowling
1994	C113	Plaque: AAUW
1989	C114	Plaque: MUW
1951-1961	C113	Resolution Doc.
		Plate: Color Transfer of MUW Clock Tower
undated	C113	Carousel of 35mm slides: Turkey professional
undated	C113	Carouseal of 35mm slides: China
1976	C113	Collection: 35mm slides approx 170: Holidays, Far East
undated	C113	Collection: 35 mm slides approx. 800: Holidays
undated	C113	Linen Hankercheifs (E.O. Phol?)
	C115	Photo Album: unidentified conference
1952-1955	C117	Photo Album: Holidays
1988	C117	Photo Album: China
	C117	Collection: Publications
1980-1988	C117	E.O. Phol papers, clippings
	C117	Collection: photos, passports
	C117	Stark: Survey of Records archieves and Libraries
	C117	Stark: Survey of Records archieves and Libraries
1982-1990	C117	Collection of 11 Publications: U.N. Educational
1946, 1987-1993	C117	Collection of Booklets; archives
1945-1965	C117	IMF vols I, II, and III
1966-1971	C117	IMF Vols I and II
	C117	Gold: Voting and Decisions
	C117	Laughlin: So you're Going to Paris!
	C118	Inventory: Material Shipped to MUW
	C118	E.O. Pohl Scholarship, fellowship
	C118	Rent Inauguration
	C118	E.O. Pohl reminiscences
	C118	Musical Scores
	C118	Maxwell: Mississippi Jewel
	C118	Nat. Bd. Of Distinguisted Women
	C118	Photos, com me moration
	C118	Letters to Grace P. Stark (Mother)
	C118	Photos, Travel Souvenirs, family photos
	C118	reitrement Collage: IMF framed
	C118	Callaway Hall Renovation Plans



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	C118	Boehm porcelain figure collection document.
1957-1958	C119	Dancewear
1957	C119	Living Endowment
1957	C119	Clipping: Spectator
2955-1966	C119	Correspondance
1947-1949	C119	Royal Ballet Program
1919	C119	Shores of Happiness
1940-1958	C119	Clippings: Dance Programs
	C119	Press Reseal: Pohl Dance Program
1931-1951	C119	Programs: Pohl Dance Programs
1927-1955	C119	Programs
	C119	Junior- Freshman Class Ceremony Text
1925-1930	C119	Pohl Dancers: Summer tours
1919-1970	C119	Correspondance
	C119	Physical Education Dept.
1937	C119	South American Cruise
	C119	Speech: Phys. Ed. Dept.
	C119	Speech: Gone With the Wind Premier
1940	C119	Defense of Deomcracy
1940-1945	C119	White Hosue Correspondance
	C119	Alumnae Fund Rasing plans
1931-1956	C119	Programs: Phol Dance Programs
1938	C119	Russell, Theodore, score, dedication to E.O. Phol
1935-1959	C119	Correspondance: B.L. Parkinson
1936	C119	College Objectives
1937	C119	Parkinson Portrait
1938	C119	Correspondance: M.W. Chandler
1955	C119	Bounds of Love for Pohl
1955	C119	Certificate of Merit
1958	C119	Brussels World's Fair, Paris
1955	C119	Retirement Tributes
1955	C119	F. Gaither: Tribute
	C371	
	C435	
	C436	
	C436	
	C439	
	C451	
1897	C267 oversize	Emma Ody Pohl teaching certification
1966	C451	Photo of Pohl, Pohl's memorial service program



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unknown	asrs	Portrait of Emma Ody Pohl
1914-1967	C451	Emma Ody Pohl: scores, books, scrapbooks, and files related to choreography and dance
1914-1967	C574	Emma Ody Pohl: scores, books, scrapbooks, and files related to choreography and dance
1913-1966	C588	Scores, magazines, bound volumes, and letters belonging to Emma Ody Pohl