Guide to the Susan B. Crossman Kindergarten Collection

NMAH.AC.1208
Alison Oswald.

2011
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Susan B. Crossman Kindergarten Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1208
Date: 1902-1932
Extent: 1 Cubic foot (2 boxes)
Creator: Crossman, Susan
Language: English
Collection is in English.

Summary: Papers document the training and career of Susan B. Crossman as a kindergarten teacher in the early twentieth century. The collection includes workbooks that were part of the Friedrich Froebel method of kindergarten teaching, which are filled with cut and folded paper and needlecraft projects that were part of a kindergarten teacher's training; a 1932 photograph of Crossman; her 1902 graduation program; class notes from 1903-1904; and a manual of Froebel's teaching methodology, undated.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Collection donated by Crossman’s grandson, John L. Menke, in 2010.

Processing Information
Processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, September, 2011.

Preferred Citation
Susan B. Crossman Kindergarten Collection, 1902-1932, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions
The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning intellectual property rights. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.
Biographical / Historical

Susan B. Crossman Gray (d. early 1960s) was a kindergarten teacher at the Washington City Normal Kindergarten Institute in Washington, D.C., where she trained from 1902-1903. Crossman married Leslie Gray in 1906 and they had one daughter, Dorothy.

Crossman studied the "Froebel Method" of early childhood education developed by Friederich Froebel (1792-1852) a German teacher. Froebel created the "Froebel Gifts," a series of activity-based playthings ranging from simple sphere-shaped objects to geometric wooden blocks for instructing children. More advanced Gifts relate to sewing, cutting, weaving and the modelling of objects in clay.

Scope and Contents

Papers documenting the training and career of Susan Crossman as a kindergarten teacher in the early twentieth century. The collection includes workbooks that were part of the Friedrich Froebel method of kindergarten teaching, which are filled with cut and folded paper and needlecraft projects that were part of a kindergarten teacher's training program; a 1932 photograph of Crossman; her 1902 graduation program from the Washington City Normal Kindergarten Institute of Washington, D.C.; class notes from 1903-1904; and a manual of Froebel's teaching methodology, undated.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged topically.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
  Education
  Kindergarten
  Teachers

Types of Materials:
  Manuals -- 1900-1950
  Workbooks

Names:
  Froebel, Friedrich Wilhelm August, 1782-1852
Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1  Photograph of Susan B. Crossman, 1932

Box 1, Folder 1  Washington City Normal Kindergarten Institute commencement exercises, 1902

Box 1, Folder 2  College program book (class notes), 1903-1904

Box 1, Folder 3  Friedrich Froebel Manual of "Gifts", undated

Box 2, Folder 1  Kindergarten workbook (bound volume), undated

Box 2, Folder 2  Kindergarten work (bound volume), undated