



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Susan B. Crossman Kindergarten Collection

NMAH.AC.1208

Alison Oswald.

2011

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Susan B. Crossman Kindergarten Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1902-1932
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1208
<b>Creator:</b>	Crossman, Susan (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Cubic foot (2 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Papers document the training and career of Susan B. Crossman as a kindergarten teacher in the early twentieth century.

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## 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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged topically.

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## 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

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## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Photograph of Susan B. Crossman, 1932</a>
Box 1, Folder 1	Washington City Normal Kindergarten Institute commencement exercises, 1902 January
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