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Finding Aid to the Constance C. West Papers

West, Constance C., 1907-1994

Constance C. West, Papers, 1932-1977

1 linear ft.

Record Group 11.33.1

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OVERVIEW

- Links:** Finding Aid to the [Don Larew Theatrical Productions Scenic and Costume Designs Collection](#)
Finding Aid to the [M. Joy Erickson Papers, 1981-1997](#)
Finding Aid to the [Frederick G. Walsh Papers, 1944-1996](#)
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Finding Aid to the [Little Country Theatre – Prairie Stage](#)
Finding Aid to the [Little Country Theatre – North Dakota Repertory Theatre](#)
Finding Aid to the [Little Country Theatre – Production Posters](#)
Finding Aid to the [Little Country Theatre Slides & Negatives Collection](#)
Finding Aid to the [R. Tal Russell Stage Drawings and Photographs Portfolio](#)

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

Provenance: Verbal permission from Dr. West's niece to Don Larew, Theatre Arts, to retrieve material from West's former home prior to being torn down, summer 2001.

Property rights: The University Archives owns the property rights to this collection.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Constance C. West Papers, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Constance Catherine West was born in Chicago in 1907. Her family moved to Moorhead, Minnesota and she graduated from Moorhead High School. She attended the State Normal School (MSUM) in Moorhead, Minnesota, but transferred to North Dakota Agricultural College [NDAC] where she received her bachelors' degree in 1931 from the School of Education. She received her masters' degree from Northwestern University and her doctorate from the University of Minnesota. She taught school in Ayr (1926-1929), Davenport (1929-1930), Beach (1931-1937), and at Fargo Central High School (1937-1944) before coming to NDAC.

Dr. West came to NDAC as an instructor in speech in September 1944. She retired as a Professor of Speech and Drama in June of 1977. She was named Professor Emeritus of Speech and Drama by the Board of Higher Education on July 1, 1977. Dr. West passed away in May 1994.

In 1991 she was inducted into the North Dakota Speech and Theater Association Hall of Fame. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Zeta Phi Eta and the Drama Section of the Fargo Fine Arts Club.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers consists of material that was salvaged by Professor Don Larew, Theater Department, and Michael Robinson, Archivist, NDSU, prior to the demolition of Dr. West's former home, in Fargo, in the summer of 2001. It also consists of material that Dr. West's sister (Gloria) had kept and turned over to Professor Larew. This collection represents but a sampling of the career of Dr. Connie West.

The papers are arranged primarily in three series: the first is a [General Material](#) with her collegiate years, correspondence, courses taught, scrapbook pages, and reader's theater; the second covers some [Fargo Central High School Productions](#) she directed (some photos); and the third series with [NDAC/NDSU Productions](#) she directed. There is also a folder when she was a graduate student at Northwestern University.

SEPARATIONS RECORD

- Photographs from the following productions were dispersed into the NDSU Photography Collection in the API 29 section:

“Androcles and the Lion” (1952), “Blood Wedding” (1970), “East Lyne” (1949), “Joan of Lorraine” (1947), “King Lear” (1965), “Romeo and Juliet” (1952), and “Years Ago” (1948).

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

1/1 Finding Aid and background information

General

- 1/2 Kappa Delta sorority, NDAC
- 1/3 Professional Correspondence – Fargo Board of Education – 1944-1945
- 1/4 Personal Correspondence – 1970s
- 1/5 NDSU – Little Country Theater – Scrapbook pages – 1944-1946
- 1/6 NDSU - Classes Taught - Speech 391 & 209 – Poetry; additional unidentified – c 1976
- 1/7 NDSU - Readers' Theatre – material – n.d.

Fargo Central High School

- 1/8 Yearbook biographies/photographs
- 1/9 Clippings & Play Photographs (unidentified) – c. 1933-1944
- 1/10 The Patsy – clipping, program - May 1942
- 1/11 Three One Act Plays: The Trysting Place, Manikin and Minikin, Until Charlot Comes Home – program – December 1942
- 1/12 Sun-Up – clipping, program - April 1943
- 1/13 Midsummer Night's Dream – clipping, program– May 1943
- 1/14 She Stoops to Conquer – program - December 1943
- 1/15 Letters to Lucerne – clippings, program - April 1944
- 1/16 The Admirable Crichton – clippings, program – May 1944
- 1/17 Imaginary Invalid – ticket, photographs, clippings, program, watercolor costume designs – November 1944

Northwestern University

- 1/18 Graduate School - 1946

North Dakota Agricultural College/North Dakota State University

- 1/19 Is Life Worth Living – program, flyers - March 1945
- 1/20 Our Town – program - November 1945
- 1/21 The Skin of Our Teeth – program, poster - January 1946
- 1/22 Wild Duck – clippings - May 1946
- 1/23 State of the Union – program, clippings, small poster - November 1946
- 1/24 The Far Off Hills – clipping, program, small poster – January 1947
- 1/25 Ghosts – clippings, program – March 1947
- 1/26 Twelfth Night – program - April 1947
- 1/27 Joan of Lorraine – program, clippings, small posters, photograph (see NDSU Photography Collection) - November 1947
- 1/28 Years Ago – clipping, program, photograph (see NDSU Photography Collection) – February

1948

- 1/29 Up in the Air – NDAC Faculty sketch, Bison Brevities – clipping - April 1948
- 1/30 Hedda Gabler – program, clippings – April 1948
- 1/31 The Playboy of the Western World – program - December 1948
- 1/32 Ah, Wilderness – program, clippings – May 1949
- 1/33 East Lynne - program, clipping, photograph (see NDSU Photography Collection) –
November 1949
- 1/34 Candida – program, postcard flyer, clippings – February/March 1950
- 1/35 The Heiress – program – April 1950
- 1/36 Antigone – program, postcard flyer, clippings – December 1950
- 1/37 What Every Woman Knows – program, clippings – March 1951
- 1/38 Hamlet – program, clippings – May 1951
- 1/39 Gold in the Hills – program, clippings – November 1951
- 1/40 Arms and the Man – program, clippings – February 1952
- 1/41 Romeo & Juliet – program, clippings, photograph (see NDSU Photography Collection) – May
1952
- 1/42 Androcles and the Lion – program, clippings, photographs (see NDSU Photography Collection)
– October 1952
- 1/43 Death of a Salesman – program - 1963
- 1/44 King Lear – program, clippings, stage set-up, vocal music, notes, photograph (see NDSU
Photography Collection) – February 1965
- 1/44a King Lear - Director’s Book - February 1965
- 1/45 Blood Wedding – program, color photographs (see NDSU Photography Collection), clippings,
Forum review, “Blood Wedding Music” – February 1970
- 1/45a Director & Assistant Director Books – February 1970:
- 1/46 Antigone 70 – script notes, ground plan & sketch, rehearsal schedule, program, program copy,
cast list, clippings, *Spectrum* review – November 1970
- 1/46a Antigone 70 – Director’s Book – November 1970

BOX 2

- 2/1 Tartuffe – program, program copy, clippings, director notes, cast list, rehearsal schedule, music
notes, sketch, cast thank you, epilogue to Tartuffe, congratulations letter - April 1972
- 2/1a Tartuffe- Director’s Book & Assistant Director Book with ground plan – April 1972
- 2/2 “the effect of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds” - music notes, program copy,
program, publicity release, student critiques – July 1972
- 2/2a “the effect of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds” - Director’s Book – July 1972
- 2/3 The Birds – program, program copy, congratulatory letters, director notes, director research,
music notes, script notes, cast list, director research - February 1973
- 2/3a The Birds – Director’s Book – February 1973
- 2/4 As You Like It – program, clipping, music– February 1974
- 2/4a As You Like It - Director’s Book – February 1974
- 2/5 Desire Under the Elms – program, clippings, script notes, N. E. dialect suggestions, research,
rehearsal schedule – April 1972

- 2/5a Desire Under the Elms – Director’s Book – April 1972
- 2/6 Peer Gynt – program, flyer, permission to stage, clippings – February 1976
- 2/6a Peer Gynt- Director’s Book – February 1976
- 2/7 Pygmalion – program, program copy, clippings, flyer copy- February 1977
- 2/7a Pygmalion- Director’s Book - February 1977 (*last production by Connie West*)

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