3-22-2018

Audrae Visser Collection

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Recommended Citation
Audrae Visser Collection

Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections
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1300 North Campus Drive
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-5094
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Collection Summary

Identifier
MA 52

Title
Audrae Visser Collection

Creator
Dr. Charles Woodard

Dates
1938-2002

Extent
1.0 linear feet -- 1 records center box, photographs

Language
Material is mainly in English, but includes a small amount of Dutch.

Repository
South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Access note
This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.
Preferred Citation

Name of item. Audrae Visser Collection. MA 52. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Audrae Visser is an American educator and poet and was Poet Laureate of South Dakota from 1974-2001. The collection is composed primarily of correspondence with Dr. Charles Woodard, Visser’s poetry and prose writings, and photographs.

Biographical Note

Audrae Eugenie Visser was born June 3, 1919 to Harry J.L. and Addie Mae (Perryman) Visser on a farm near Hurley, South Dakota. She attended country schools in Turner and Moody counties and graduated from Flandreau High School in 1938. She received degrees from Black Hills Teachers College, South Dakota State University, and the University of Denver.

Visser’s 52 year career in the field of education began with a position in the Moody County country schools from 1939 to 1943. She also taught elementary and high school students in Hot Springs, Pierre, Elkton, De Smet, and Flandreau, South Dakota, and in Windom, Verdi, and Lake Benton, Minnesota. She spent one year in Nagoya, Japan from 1954 to 1955, teaching the children of U.S. Air Force personnel stationed there.

Visser was also a poet and wrote her first poem when she was twelve years old. Her first published poem appeared in Pasque Petals, the South Dakota Poetry Society magazine when she was 21 years old. She published her first book of poetry, Rustic Roads and Other Poems, in 1961, and was appointed to be Poet Laureate of South Dakota in 1974 by Governor Richard Kneip. She published nine more volumes of poetry from 1974-1998, and also wrote the introduction to Pages Glued Apart, a book of poetry by Evelyn Winklepleck-Stuefen. Visser’s books sometimes included her own art work.

Visser’s poetry has won numerous awards, including second prize in the 1984 National Federation of State Poetry Societies contest judged by May Swenson. She also sponsored state and national poetry contests as memorials to her parents since 1976, including the Perryman-Visser scholarship for outstanding poetically-inclined students at South Dakota State University. She served as Associate Editor and Editor of Pasque Petals during the time that she was Poet Laureate and a member of the South Dakota State Poetry Society.
Audrae Visser had a son, Lou H. Guardino, and a brother, Donald. She died on October 8, 2001 in Mabank, Texas.

**Education:**

- 1942 Associate Degree from Black Hills Teachers College, Spearfish, South Dakota
- 1948 B.S., South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota
- 1954 M.A., University of Denver, Denver, Colorado

**Honors:**

- 1974 Appointed Poet Laureate of South Dakota by former Governor Richard Kneip
- 1984 Awarded second prize by May Swenson in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies contest
- 1984-1985 Who’s Who in the Midwest
- 1989 Heritage of the Prairies Institute Scholarship, Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota
- 1990 Woman of Achievement in Literature by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs in South Dakota

**Memberships:**

- American Association of University Women
- American League of Pen Women
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit #0198 – Life Member
- National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs
- National League of Pen Women
- Delta Kappa Gamma
- General Federation of Women’s Clubs
- South Dakota Education Association
- South Dakota Press Women
- South Dakota State Poetry Society
- United Poets Laureate International
Western Women in the Arts

Contents Note

The materials in this collection were collected and donated by Dr. Charles Woodard of the South Dakota State University English Department. The collection is primarily composed of correspondence between Audrae Visser and Dr. Woodard and includes many of her writings to fulfill class assignments. Also included are photographs she took and written accounts of her frequent travel vacations, as well as materials related to her awards, honors, and activities as a poet and as a member of numerous organizations.

This collection consists of correspondence, clippings, photographs, and many poetic and prose writings by Visser including book reviews and reports, speeches, and a Pioneer Humor Project undertaken to fulfill the requirements of the Heritage of the Prairies Institute at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota.

Bibliography

Country Cousin
Call Number: PS3572.I75 C68 1986
Publication Date: 1986

Grass Roots Poetry
Call Number: PS3572.I75 G7 1991
Publication Date: 1991

Honyocker Stories
Call Number: PS3543.I58 H6
Publication Date: 1981

Meter for Momma
Call Number: PS3572.I75 M47 1974
Publication Date: 1974

Pages Glued Apart by Fern Evelyn Winklepleck-Stuefen, edited by Janet Leih
Introduction by Audrae Visser
Call Number: PS3573.I534 P33 1990
Publication Date: 1990

Pheasant Flights
Call Number: PS3572.I75 P5 1989
Publication Date: 1989

Poems for Brother Donald
Call Number: PS3572.I75 P6 1974
Publication Date: 1974

Poems for Pop
Call Number: PS3572.I75 P63 1976
Publication Date: 1976

Prairie Poetry
Call Number: PS3572.I75 P7 1998
Publication Date: 1998

Rustic Roads and Other Poems
Call Number: PS3543.I58 R8
Publication Date: 1961

South Dakota Stories
Call Number: PS3572.I75 S67
Publication Date: 1980

**Key Words**

American poetry -- 20th century
Japan -- Description and travel
Mexico -- Description and travel
Middle West -- Poetry
South Dakota -- Literature
South Dakota -- Poetry
Visser, Audrae Eugenie, 1919-2001
West (U.S.) – Poetry

**Administrative Information**

*Conditions Governing Access*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.
Researchers conducting extensive research are asked to make an advance appointment to access archival material. Please call or e-mail prior to visiting the collection and indicate as much detail as possible about a particular topic and intended use.

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Arranged and Described by

Ruby R. Wilson, 2014 May 23.

Container List

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