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## Audrae Visser Collection

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# Audrae Visser Collection

## Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
Email: [arcrefs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

## 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

1981-1982 Who's Who of American Women

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

## 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.

South Dakota State University supports access to the materials, published and unpublished, in its collections. Nonetheless, access to some items may be restricted as a result of their fragile condition or by contractual agreements with donors.

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*Arranged and Described by*

Ruby R. Wilson, 2014 May 23.

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Activities and Events	1975-1988
1	2	Awards, Honors, and Memberships	1951-1990
1	3	Biographical Information	1918-2002
1	4	Clippings: Awards, Honors, and Activities	1938-1998
1	5	Clippings: Information about Other Writers	undated
1	6	Clippings: Miscellaneous	1988-1991
1	7	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1979, 1988
1	8	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard, January-June	1989
1	9	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard, July-December	1989
1	10	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1990
1	11	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1991
1	12	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1992
1	13	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1993
1	14	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1994
1	15	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1995
1	16	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1996

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	17	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1997
1	18	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1998
1	19	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	1999
1	20	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	2000-2001
1	21	Correspondence with Dr. Woodard	undated
1	22	Correspondence with Others	1946-1998
1	23	Humor	undated
1	24	Photographs: Events and Activities	1990
1	25	Photographs: Family	undated
1	26	Photographs: Trip to Mexico	1997
1	27	Poems by Other Writers	undated
1	28	Poems by Unknown Authors	undated
1	29	Published Work: Country Cousin	1986
1	30	Published Work: Honyocker Stories	1981
1	31	Published Work: Pheasant Flights	1989
1	32	Published Work: Prairie Poetry	1998
1	33	Writing: Autobiographical	undated
1	34	Writing: Children's Stories	undated
1	35	Writing: Fiction	undated
1	36	Writing: Instructional	undated
1	37	Writing: Other Class Reports	undated
1	38	Writing: Miscellaneous	undated
1	39	Writing: Pioneer Humor Project	undated
1	40	Writing: Poems A-L	undated
1	41	Writing: Poems M-Z	undated
1	42	Writing: Reports on Books, Authors A-L	undated
1	43	Writing: Reports on Books, Authors M-Z	undated
1	44	Writing: Reports on Poetry	undated
1	45	Writing: Speeches	undated
1	46	Writing: Trips	undated