

## Froebel Collection Fonds

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**Froebel collection.** – 1877 - 1935. – 5.9 m of textual materials, printed materials and objects

**Biographical sketch:** Friedrich Froebel, 1782-1852, was a German educator who founded the first Kindergarten in 1837. His theories of early childhood education were influenced by his training with John Pestalozzi (1788-1845), but he expanded his teacher's theoretical basis in the importance of nature and creativity to encompass the spiritual nature of man and his belief that the world follows God's plan. From this he constructed a theory of education based on free self expression, creativity, social participation and motor expression. In 1815 he founded the Universal German Educational Institute in Griesheim; over time his career took him to Keilhau, Berlin, Switzerland and Bad Blankenburg. In 1840 he launched the Universal German Kindergarten, a new word created by Froebel to express his vision for early childhood education.

His first book *The Education of Man* was published in 1826 and translated into English in 1885. As a teacher and educator of teachers, Froebel developed a set of play materials, called 'gifts', that would help children learn an underlying concept represented by the object. His Gifts include balls, cubes, rectangular blocks, parquet tiles, lines, rings, points, cylinders, etc. His concept of 'occupations' encompassed materials that children could shape and manipulate (clay, sewing, beads, etc.). He also encouraged the use of songs designed to help mothers provide stimulation in the first months of life. An underlying symbolic meaning was seen in all activity, with clean-up time as a reminder to the child of God's plan for order.

Froebel's theories of education were influential for other theorists such as Maria Montessori, and his concepts were used in the training of teachers in Canada. The Froebel Collection at the Osborne includes material kept by Clara LeHuquet Brenton from her training days at the London Training School in 1893-1894 and at the Toronto Normal School 1894-1895. Miss Brenton was born in London Ontario in 1874. She graduated with her Kindergarten Director's Certificate and was appointed to the staff of the London Board of Education the same year, retiring in 1943.

**Custodial history:** The Collection is the gift of Marian Cornwall in 1999. Information on the history of kindergarten education in North American and on Froebel's Gifts and Occupations has been provided by the donor and is included at the end of this Finding Aid.

**Scope and content:** The Collection contains materials collected by Marian Cornwall of Belleville Ontario from a number of kindergarten teachers. Materials include study books created during Clara Brenton's student days at the London (Ontario) Training School, including eight hand-made books showing the use of Froebel's Gifts and Occupations. Also included are story books hand-copied by Flora Carsen for use in her kindergarten class in London, a child's work book from a Froebel-inspired kindergarten, and information about Miss Emma Duff, a revered teacher from the Queen Victoria School, Toronto. A set of Froebel's Gifts and materials related to his Occupations are also contained in this collection. Forty-eight books and periodicals relating to early childhood education are included, many written by important figures in the field at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century regarding music and stories appropriate for kindergartners.

**Arrangement:** The collection has been arranged by the archivist into the following 2 series:

1. Kindergarten materials
2. Books

## **Series and Sub-series**

### **Series One: Kindergarten Materials**

Kindergarten Materials. – 1894-1935. – 4.9 metres of textual records and objects.

**Scope and content:** Series contains materials produced by Miss Clara Brenton as she underwent the teacher training program at the London Training School and the Toronto Normal School. These include her set of Froebel's Gifts, and her beautifully worked books Occupations, including sewing, weaving, cutting, perforation, etc. Also included is a student workbook with examples of the occupations. Miss Brenton's lecture notes form part of this series. Information regarding Lorna L. Duff, renowned Toronto kindergarten teacher and author, collected by Miss Brenton, is also contained in this series. Material includes newspaper clippings about her, cards and letters from her, and poetry written by her. Two notebooks containing stories collected by Miss Flora Carson for use at story-time in her classroom in London, Ontario, also form part of this series.

#### **1.0 Gifts – C. Brenton. – [189-]**

Scope of content: Bound notebook containing graph paper, with gilt stamped name and title on the front cover and a label on the front pastedown: London Training School/Gifts/Clara Brenton/188 Bruce St./London. Book contains notes and diagrams relating to Froebel's gifts, taken in lectures at the school.

Box 1

#### **2.0 Occupations – C Brenton. – [189-]**

Scope of content: Bound notebook with similar labeling as the above, containing Miss Brenton's lectures notes on Froebel's occupations.

Box 1

#### **3.0 Program Book. – Sept 1894-June 1985**

Scope of content: Bound notebook, with 'Clara Brenton' gilt-stamped on the front cover. The first page of notes identifies it as her 'Program Book' and her Monday to Thursday lecture schedule is written on the verso of the front fly leaf. The lectures throughout the year are dated and summarized.

Box 1

### **4.0 Froebel's Gifts**

#### **4.1 Froebel's First Gift**

Two sets of First Gift Balls, in original still paper boxes, manufactured by Milton Bradley. One set is original, with 5 (of 6) misshapen balls covered in crocheted wool, with attached strings. The second set consists of 6 replacements: white plastic balls covered in variously coloured crocheted wool.

Box 2

#### 4.2 Froebel's Second Gift

Set consists of Milton Bradley's original wooden box with sliding top cover, containing a wooden cylinder, ball, cube and cone.

Box 3

#### 4.3 Froebel's Third Gift

Milton Bradley's original wooden cube box with sliding top, containing 8 wooden cubes.

Box 4

#### 4.4 Froebel's Fourth Gift

Original wooden box, as above, lacking Milton Bradley's label, containing 8 wooden rectangular blocks.

Box 4

#### 4.5 Froebel's Fifth Gift

2 original wooden boxes, with labels, containing wooden cubes and cylinders, some cut to create triangular and semi-circular shapes.

Box 5

#### 4.6 Froebel's Sixth Gift

Wooden box, lacking original label, containing rectangular blocks, some cut in half to create new shapes.

Box 5

#### 4.7 Froebel's Seventh Gift

This gift consists of 2 sets of 10 boxes, containing flat, wooden geometric shapes, one set in a dark wood, the other in a light wood. It also includes 5 envelopes containing similar shapes in variously coloured pieces of paper.

Box 6

#### 4.8 Froebel's (Eight or Tenth) Gift

Wooden box, with Milton Bradley label on the bottom identifying it as the 8<sup>th</sup> Gift, divided into 5 compartments, each containing wooden 'lines' or sticks of different lengths. The box has a typed label on the lid identifying it as: "Stick Laying, Froebel's 10<sup>th</sup> Gift". A small cardboard box containing one of these lengths is in Box 4. Froebel numbered his 'gifts' to 7 only. Subsequent theorists and manufacturers have produced variations on the number of other gifts.

Box 7

#### 4.9 Froebel's (Ninth or Eleventh) Gift

This gift consists of metal rings and partial rings for tracing or laying in patterns. The set contains 7 cardboard boxes with multiple copies of identical objects in each box. There are 3 sizes of circles, 3 sizes of semi-circles, and 1 box with shorter pieces of the circle.

Box 8

### 5.0 Froebel's Occupations

#### 5.1 Perforation

This occupation consists of a needle with wooden handle pushed into a fibre-board block, which has the dual function of housing the needle and providing a base for perforating paper. A note from the donor that accompanies this gift states that the needle is from an original set, while the block has been replaced. The original block, or pad, was made of  $\frac{3}{4}$  - to 1-inch felt with a firm bottom.

Box 9

#### 5.2 Sewing

Accordion-style book with front and back cover, no spine, stamped in gilt on the front: "Sewing. C. Brenton". Book consists of square cards perforated, then sewn with coloured silk threads to create patterns of increasing complexity. The final 3 cards contain sketches in pencil and coloured pencils.

Box 10

#### 5.3 Weaving

Similar book to the above, with partial spine. The cards that form the pages of the book contain examples of patterns created from coloured paper or wooden sticks, pasted in. This set also includes a partially completed example of paper weaving, with 'needle' attached, and an envelope containing extra needles.

Box 11

#### 5.4 Cutting

Book similar to the above but larger in format, containing sheets of red paper that have been folded and cut to form geometric patterns, and pasted onto each page.

Box 12

#### 5.5 Folding

Larger format book, similar to the above, with samples of folding pasted onto the card pages. This book also contains patterns drawn in coloured pencils.

Box 13

#### 5.6 Drawing

Graph paper book bound in half-calf, similar to the above, with similar titling in gilt. Patterns have been created with red and blue lines on each page using the graph paper.

Box 14

## **6.0 Kindergarten Work Book**

Dates of creation: [1911/12?]

Scope and Content: This stiff paper-backed notebook contains examples of many of the above occupations, created by a child and pasted into the book. Some of the work is labeled 'D. Read', and the donor's note speculates that the book might have been the property of Dorothea Read from the Talbot Kindergarten in London 1911-1912.

Box 15

## **7.0 Story Books**

Scope and content: 2 stiff paper-bound notebooks, the property of Miss Flora Carson, kindergarten teacher in London Ontario for 35 years (retired in 1945). The stories in these notebooks were copied from various sources and used for reading to students, to save buying copies of the book. A note from the donor accompanies these books.

Box 16

## **8.0 Emma L. Duff**

Dates of creation: 1933-1935

Scope and content: File of material relating to Miss Duff, kindergarten teacher, who joined the staff of the Toronto Public Schools in 1888 and spent her entire 35-year career at Queen Victoria School. File includes newspaper clippings about her, letters to Miss Clara Brenton and published Christmas poetry.

Box 17

## Series Two: Books

Books. – 1877-1928. – 1 metre of published material.

**Scope and content:** Series contains books of theory, stories and music published for the parents and teachers of young children. The authors contained in this collection are influential theorists and educators, including Friedrich Froebel, James L. Hughes, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Susan E. Blow and others. These books would have been familiar to teachers trained around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Inscriptions inside the books indicate that many of them were in the collections of Ontario kindergartens.

The books have been arranged alphabetically, by author.

1. Andrews, Jane. *The stories Mother Nature told her children*. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1896. Lorne Avenue Kindergarten copy.
2. Blow, Susan E. *Educational issues in the kindergarten*. New York: D. Appleton, 1908. International Education Series.
3. Blow, Susan E. *Letters to a mother on the philosophy of Froebel*. New York: D. Appleton, 1899. International Education Series.
4. Blow, Susan E. *The songs and music of Friedrich Froebel's mother play*. New York: D. Appleton, 1895. International Education Series.
5. Blow, Susan E. and Henrietta R. Eliot. *The mottoes and commentaries of Friedrich Froebel's mother play*. New York: D. Appleton, 1895. International Education Series.
6. Bryant, Sara Cone. *How to tell stories to children*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1905.
7. Bryant, Sara Cone. *Stories to tell the littlest ones*. London: George G. Harrap, 1923.
8. Crowninshield, Ethel. *More Mother Goose songs*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1907.
9. Duff, Emily Lorne. *A cargo of stories for children*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1929. Clara Brenton's copy, with newspaper clippings about the author tipped onto the front endpapers.
10. Elliott, J.W. *Mother Goose's nursery thymes and nursery songs set to music*. New York: McLoughlin Bros., n.d.
11. Froebel, Friedrich. *Mother's songs, games and stories*. Translated by Frances and Emily Lord. London: William Rice, 1892.
12. Froebel, Friedrich. *Mother-play and nursery songs. Poetry, music and pictures for the noble culture of child life with notes to mothers*. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1895.
13. Froebel, Friedrich. *The Education of man*. New York: D. Appleton, 1888. International Education Series.

14. Gregory, Jeannette R. *Practical suggestions for kindergartners, primary teachers and mothers. A program with suitable talks, stories and illustrations.* St. Louis: C.B. Woodward Co., 1895.
15. Hailmann, Eudora Lucas. *Songs, games and rhymes for the nursery, kindergarten and primary school.* Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1887.
16. Heerwart, Eleanore. *Music for the kinder-garten.* London: Boosey & Co., [1877].
17. Hill, Mildred J. and Patty S. *Song stories.* Chicago: Clayton F. Summy Co., 1896.
18. Hubbard, Clara Beeson. *Merry songs and games for the use of the kindergarten.* Saint Louis: Balmer & Weber Music House Co., 1887.
19. Hughes, James L. *Froebel's educational laws for all teachers.* New York: D. Appleton, 1897. International Education Series.
20. Hughes, Miss E. *May-pole exercises.* London: J. Curwen & Sons, n.d.
21. Hughes, Mrs. James L. (introduction by). *Bouquet of kindergarten and primary songs, with notes and gestures.* Toronto: Selby & Co., 1897. With a typed note on front pastedown indicating that Mrs. James L. Hughes (nee Ada Marean) was the teacher of the first kindergarten in Canada.
22. Hurd, Ethel Henderson. *Play time songs.* Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1906.
23. Jenks, Harriet S. and Mabel Rust. *Song echoes from child land for the home, the school, and the kindergarten.* Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., 1896.
24. *Kindergarten Review.* Vol. 25, No. 10, June 1915.
25. Knowlton, Fanny Snow. *Nature songs for children.* Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1902.
26. *The Lilly Library.* 8 issues:
  - No. 10 – “Wops the waif” by Sydney Watson.
  - No. 16 – “Wops afloat” by Sydney Watson.
  - No. 24 – “Uncle Tom’s tales” collected by Hy P.
  - No. 38 – “Exploits of John Jones” by Shepherds Bush
  - No. 55 – “Real heroes in humble life” by Hy. Pickering
  - No. 64 – “Dr. Schofield’s stories” by Alfred T. Schofield.
  - No.100 – “Andy Man the London Arab” by Amy le Feuvre.



No.101 – “Andy Man the village hero” by Amy le Feuvre.

27. Lindsay, Maud. *Mother stories*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1905. Inscribed ‘To Miss Davidson with the children’s love. Wortley Rd. Kindergarten, October 1906.’
28. Marenholtz-Bulow, Baroness. *The child and child-nature*. London: Swan Sonnenschein, 1896.
29. Montz, Catharine. *A series of instrumental musical sketches for kindergartners*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1894.
30. Neidlinger, W.H. *Small songs for small singers*. New York: G. Schirmer, 1896. London Froebel Society copy.
31. Neidlinger, W.H. *The discontented gold-fish and other children’s songs*. New York: The William Maxwell Music Co., 1905.
32. Paterson, Maude Elizabeth. *A child’s garden of stories*. Toronto: Macmillan, 1926. Clara Brenton’s copy.
33. Peabody, Elizabeth P. *Lectures in the training schools for kindergartners*. Boston: D.C. Heath & Co., 1897.
34. Poulsson, Emilie. *Finger plays for nursery and kindergarten*. Boston: Lothrop Publishing, 1893. With a photocopied letter laid in from the author to Clara Brenton, dated 1928.
35. Poulsson, Emilie. *Holiday songs and every day songs and games*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1903.
36. Poulsson, Emilie. *In the child’s world. Morning talks and stories for kindergartens, primary schools and homes*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley, 1902.
37. Poulsson, Emilie. *Love and law in child training. A book for mothers*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1900.
38. Poulsson, Emilie and Eleanor Smith. *Songs of a little child’s day*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1910.
39. Riley, Alice C.D., Helen A. Lloyd and Jessie L. Gaynor. *Songs of the child-world*. Cincinnati: John Church Co., 1897.
40. Smith, Eleanor. *Songs for little children, Part I*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1887.
41. Tomlins, William L., arr. *The child’s garden of song*. Chicago: A.C. McClurg, 1895. London Froebel Society copy.
42. Verhoeff, Carolyn. *All about Johnnie Jones*. Springfield Mass: Milton Bradley Co., 1907.

43. Walker, Gertrude and Harriet S. Jenks. *Songs and games for little ones*. Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., 1887.
44. ---. 5<sup>th</sup> edition.
45. Wiggins, Kate Douglas and Nora A. Smith. *The story hour, a book for the home and the kindergarten*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1892. Copy from the Wortley Road Kindergarten.
46. Wiggins, Kate Douglas. *Children's rights, a book of nursery logic*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1892.
47. Wiggins, Kate Douglas. *Kindergarten chimes, a collection of songs and games composed and arranged for kindergartens and primary schools*. Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., 1887.
48. Wiltse, Sara E. *Kindergarten stories and morning talks*. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1901.