

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the

“Woman” Magazine

Collection # 036

April 2008 version

Abstract

“Woman...”, published by the Woman Publishing Company, was an early woman's magazine, founded in 1908, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by a group of local newspaper women. Its focus was previously said to be suffrage, equal wages, and social equality, but it was really about women and women's interests, including regular sections on Theater, Women's Clubs, Society & Personals, and a variety of other national and local short or long articles of interest to women. One issue has an article about the “First Grand Rapids Cat Show”, for example, while another has an article about “A New Era in Insurance”. There is also a section called “Merely Men”, with information about leading Grand Rapids men, though men are also seen in the other sections, as appropriate. Photos, drawings and advertising, provide visual information. Articles about women leaders or women doing unique things are included, for the interest of the readers. “Women : a weekly newspaper, of the women, for the women, by the women” published only 10 issues from late November 1908 to late January 1909. The publishers sought to achieve their goals through educating their readers on diverse topics. The cover illustration of a seated woman, used through issue #8, Jan. 1909, was done by artist Reubey S. Ferris.

No indexing currently available.

Collection #: 036

Accession #: 00.000

Donor: anonymous

Span dates: 1908-1909

Processor: William C. Black, March, 1987; finding aid editing by Richard H. Harms, November 1996. Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 23,2000 ; Finding aid revisions 2000-present, R. Mayne.

Size: 0.3 cu.ft.

Related Collections

Several of the people, organizations and topics mentioned in the issues of "Woman" include many of the same people, organizations and topics included in many of the other existing Grand Rapids Public Library archival collections. Coll. 012, the Reubey S.T. Ferris Recollections of William Haldane, for example, may document the "Woman" cover artist, or her earlier ancestor.

Ask staff for assistance in finding departmental materials related to particular people or organizations mention in the Woman magazine.

See also the online index to the photocopied clippings, of articles on women, found by Carl Bajema in the mainsteam Grand Rapids newspapers, to about the mid-1920's

<http://www.grpl.org/cgi-bin/women/womensearch.cgi>

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
1 259-EX1	Woman Magazine v. 1, no. 1, removed from Coll. 036 to use in the 1998/99 Newspaper Exhibit, and still housed with those materials 4/29/2008	Slim legal

NOTE: boxed in same box as Collection #35

Scope and Content

Spanning November 21, 1908 to January 23, 1909, the ten issues through the regular columns reveal turn of the century views on suffrage, wage equity for women, home-furnishing and decoration, national and international news, music, theatre, motherhood, and more. The stated editorial view that "...women can do everything as well as any man, and most things better," is reflected in news and articles.

History

Woman, a weekly newspaper "Of the Women, For the Women, By the Women" was founded in Grand Rapids in 1908 by a group of Grand Rapids newspaper women. Cora Parks Blodgett, an advertising writer, was named business manager. Helen Aston Williams, later reporter for the Grand Rapids Herald, was named managing editor. Williams was given support and advice by two associate editors, both nationally recognized women journalists; Addie Farrar Andre, woman's editor for the Chicago Daily News, and Mary D. McFadden, editorial writer for the Duluth News-Tribune. From office 301 in the Shepard Block, the editors of *Woman* printed ten issues. The lack of financial support forced the closing of the weekly in 1909.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	Vol. 1; #1, November 21, 1908. Note: This first issue was used in the 1998/99 Newspaper Exhibit, and is currently still housed at 259-00EX1. 4/29/2008
1	11	Vol. 1; #2, November 28, 1908. (2 copies)
1	12	Vol. 1; #3, December 5, 1908.
1	13	Vol. 1; #4, December 12, 1908.
1	14	Vol. 1; #5, December 19, 1908.
1	15	Vol. 1; #6, December 26, 1908.
1	16	Vol. 1; #7, January 2, 1909.
1	17	Vol. 1; #8, January 9, 1909.
1	18	Vol. 1; #9, January 16, 1909.
1	19	Vol. 1; #10, January 23, 1909.