

CNR ALBUMS & SCRAPBOOKS

Among the many treasures in the College Archives are a variety of photograph albums and scrapbooks. Some were made by students to record their college memories, some by various clubs, and some by the Ursulines and College Advancement.

The oldest photograph album is that of a member of the Class of 1911 and it has photos of the first Commencement in 1908. In 1913, Mary Clary of Seneca Falls, NY enrolled at CNR and began keeping a photo album and a scrapbook of her College years. Subsequently, four more Clarys came to CNR; several donated their photo albums. Students through the 1940's and 1950's collected souvenirs from their College experience and made scrapbooks often combining photographs, commentaries, and printed items. These give a fascinating peek into what CNR was like in 1912, 1917, 1920's, and 1940's. Mary Coughlin'42 made a scrapbook for each of her four years as well as one for *Annales* of which she was editor. By then the Bookstore was selling a special album for CNR students.

Each of the Language Clubs—French, German, and Spanish—had scrapbooks compiled by their faculty advisors. Other clubs also kept scrapbooks with announcements, programs, reports, and photos.

Scrap booking—A New Hobby?

The album (Latin for “white”) has been around since the time of the Greeks who used to record writings on white parchment. As printing became common, individuals began to keep clippings of printed material together in books. Thomas Jefferson kept a scrapbook and Mark Twain advocated collecting writings and images and made his own scrapbooks. In 1900, Kodak invented the cheap “Brownie” camera, bringing it into the hands of college students. Rather than relying just on professional studio photographers, CNR can thank its students for their candid visual record of fun and friendships. Student scrapbooks give further insight into the life and thoughts of students long before blogs.

As can be seen in the items displayed here, preservation of the original item and the album is cause for concern. Most older albums & scrapbooks have very brittle, acid paper which is disintegrating. The more “modern” adhesives (scotch tape, rubber cement) have done more damage than old-fashioned glue. Newspaper begins to age, yellow and disintegrate a few weeks after it is new.

Scrap booking as a hobby is enjoying a renaissance, and new technologies like digital images and photocopies have replaced old black & white photos and news clippings. Time will tell how “permanent” these images—and technologies will be.

German Club scrapbook, 1944-1962

The German Club enjoyed a long history. Dr. Otto Schmitz's wife made tasty pastries for the club meetings which led many students to join. Dr. Dorothy Huffman compiled this scrapbook during her long career as Professor of German (1944-1978).

Mary Clary's (1913-1917) photograph album

Spring celebrations—May Day, Daisy Chain, Commencement Week with the seniors dressed in their best. Hemlines are rising and the pompadour is disappearing.

Dora Clary's (1924-1929) photograph album

Just a few years later and the CNR cool look is short "bobbed" hair and short hemlines, a flapper look with raccoon coats. Brescia and the Science Building were new.

CNR ALBUM (c. 1900-1942)

Probably compiled by CNR's first Archivist, Mother Gertrude Farmer, this album displays photos of the various foundations of the Ursulines in New Rochelle: The College of New Rochelle and the Ursuline Seminary which became known as The Ursuline School.

***My Commencement* (1912)**

Nora Walsh, 1912. This scrapbook printed just for graduates contains many mementos of Nora's senior year. Dancing (with other students) was a popular pastime to celebrate holidays and many dance cards with their tiny pencils fill the scrapbook along with place cards, and invitations.

Scrapbook 1942

Mary Coughlin's senior year is the subject of this special CNR scrapbook. The "Hurricane Class" (1938 freshmen) experienced the outbreak of WWII. Mary had to give up her car because of gas rationing. She had emergency surgery that year but was soon up attending dances and editing the yearbook. Photos of the class mascot, Henrietta Hasdrublina (a skeleton) were banned from *Annales*.

Photograph album, 1943-1947

Miriam Cleary (who became an Ursuline and Dean of CNR) recorded her college days with photos and commentaries. Until the early 1970's, freshmen were formally "invested" in academic caps and gowns and wore them to many campus events.

Press Clipping Books, 1908-1928 and 2005

CNR has long subscribed to clipping services which forward articles mentioning the College to what is now the office of Media Relations. The photocopied compilations have replaced large clipping books, all kept in the College Archives—and a good source of information.