



## MG 499 - Irene Poelzer fonds

**Dates:** ca.1939-2005

**Extent:** 1.2 m of textual records, 407 photographs, 56 audio cassettes.

**Biographical note:** Irene Anna Poelzer was born on 21 April 1926 in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. She took vows as a Catholic nun, entering the convent in 1950 and becoming Sister Mary Ruth. She earned her BA (1950), B.Ed (1964) and M.Ed (1968) from the University of Saskatchewan, an MA (1969) from Seattle University, and PhD (1972) from the University of Oregon. Irene taught at the Loretto Abbey Girls' School in Toronto, in Fort Erie, and was principal of Sedley High School prior to joining the University of Saskatchewan as an assistant professor of Educational Foundations in 1970. Other than one year at Dalhousie (1975-1976), she remained at the University of Saskatchewan for the rest of her career. In 1985 she earned the rank of full professor.

She authored or co-authored three books, *Saskatchewan Women Teachers, 1905-1920: Their Contributions* (1990), *Metis Women's Perception of Social Reality in Seven Northern Saskatchewan Communities* (1983) and *In Our Own Words: Northern Saskatchewan Metis Women Speak Out* (1986); published a book of poetry, *Women of Exodus II*, wrote several articles and chapters in books, and was regularly invited to speak at conferences. She was a founding member of the Women's Studies Research Unit, and had helped to develop a course on women and education (in 1973) that ushered in feminist scholarship at the University (and was the first continuing undergraduate course of its kind in Canada). Upon her retirement from the University in 1993, Irene was named Professor Emerita. She passed away January 12, 2018.

**Scope and content:** This fonds contains materials relating to Poelzer's life, her religious vocation, and her career as a professor in Educational Foundations at the University of Saskatchewan. It includes materials relating to research, particularly on women in society; feminist Christianity; Metis and First Nations women in northern Saskatchewan, the impact of development and the retention of native culture.

**Arrangement:** Organized in 4 series:

1. Academic
2. Personal (Subject Nominal)
3. Writing & Addresses
  - Addresses
  - Articles
  - Book Review
  - Books

- Creative Writing
- Poetry
- Reports
- 4. Audio Cassettes
  - Addresses – Others
  - Addresses – Poelzer
  - Discussions / Groups
  - Interviews with Saskatchewan Women
  - Other
  - Women and Education

**Restrictions:** There are some restrictions. Please consult with an archivist.

Donated to the University Archives & Special Collections by the Poelzer family in 2014.

*Finding aid edited for formatting by Amy Putnam, 2018.*

## Box 1

### Series 1: Academic

This series contains materials relating to Poelzer's education, from Grade XIII onward; including early report cards, essays written at school and university; material relating to her graduate education, and materials relating to her professorial career.

Education. – 1940-1982. - **RESTRICTED.**

Various documents relating to K-12, post-secondary, and extracurricular education.

Education – Certificates and Diplomas. – 2 folders. – see also oversize.

Degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, Seattle Universtiy, and the University of Oregon; professional teaching certificate; etc.

Education – Essays. – 1947-1970. - 6 folders.

Various essays written by Poelzer.

Education – MA. – 1968-1969. - **RESTRICTED.**

Education – MA Thesis. – 1968.

“Henry Carr, CSB, 1880-1963: Canadian Educator.” With minor annotations.

Education – MA Thesis - Bound. – 1968.

Education – M.Ed. – 1967.

Copy of “Federation in the University of Saskatchewan: St. Thomas More College.”

Education – Notes – English Methods. – [ca. 1955-1956].

Education – Notes –English 21M [Shakespeare]. – 1948.

## Box 2

Education – Notes – [Shakespeare].

Education – Notes – Victorian.

Education – PhD. – 1969-1971. – **RESTRICTED.**

Includes copy of the comprehensive exam and thesis proposal, “Gabriel Marcel’s Views on Technological Society and their Significance for Education.”

Education – PhD – [Original Typescript].

Includes correspondence.

University of Saskatchewan – Academic / Campus Related. – 1950, 1973-2005. – textual records, 1 photograph. - **RESTRICTED**.

Includes “Equal Justice Reserve Note,” issued during struggle for women’s rights within the Church during the 1970s; graduation photograph; cv; clippings regarding appointment and term as department head; etc.

University of Saskatchewan – Courses – Women and Education (EdFdt 416). – 1973-1975.

Proposal for new course, class syllabus, etc.

University of Saskatchewan – Dyck, Anne. – 1978-1980. – RESTRICTED.

Correspondence, notes [on presentation?], essay.

University of Saskatchewan – Irene Poelzer Scholarship. – 1993-2003. – textual records, 1 photograph. - **RESTRICTED**.

Material regarding establishment and criteria; letters from recipients; etc.

University of Saskatchewan – Memorabilia – Graduate Studies. – 1993.

Plaque and lapel pin.

University of Saskatchewan – Promotion Materials.

Compiled prior to promotion to full professor.

University of Saskatchewan – Retirement. – textual records, memorabilia, 5 photographs. - 2 folders.

From box of materials presented to Irene from the College of Education.

University of Saskatchewan – Women’s Studies. – 1974-1994.

Clippings, etc, relating to research on women in education; “Women and History;” and correspondence concerning the possible deletion of the “women in education” teaching position.

### **Series 2: Personal (Subject Nominal)**

This series contains correspondence with family; material documenting Irene’s childhood and early adulthood; writing and “reflections” on various topics; etc.

Address Books. – textual records, 1 photograph.

Christian Feminism. – 1992-2008.

Clippings, articles, and correspondence.

[Convent – Book of Mysteries]. – [ca. 1952-1953].

Notes; illustrated list of mysteries.

Correspondence – Agnes. – 1952-1977.

Correspondence – Corman, June (Brock University). – 1995-2003.

Includes articles; copy of “The Trajectories of Rural Life: New Perspectives on Rural Canada.”

Correspondence – Hallman, Dianne (University of Saskatchewan). – 2000-2005.

Includes materials relating to research projects; and a copy of “Sustaining the Fire of ‘Scholarly Passion’: Mary G. Hamilton (1883-1972) and Irene Poelzer (1926-).”

Correspondence – Ingham, Anna. – 1989-2004.

Includes materials related to “Blended Sound Sight” method of learning.

Correspondence – Parent. – nd, 1958-1976.

Correspondence – Photo Album 1970-1971. – nd, 1968. - textual records, 1 photograph, memorabilia.

Items removed from album.

Correspondence – Various. –1989-1995. - textual records, 3 photographs.

Lindenblatt & Hamonic Publishing.

Letterhead, original logo.

Mary.

Essay on Mary and compassion.

Miscellaneous.

Notes; clippings on Kathy Storrie and Irene; text on aging; etc.

Photographs – Atlantic Canada. – 12 photographs.

Landscapes; coastline. Likely taken during Irene’s year teaching at Dalhousie.

Photographs – “Bio in Photos.” – textual records, 247 photographs.

Album of photographs and textual records documenting Irene’s life. It includes a series of photographs taken of the University campus when Irene began her career.

Photographs – 1970-1971 Album – Lake Michigan Holiday. – 1968-1972. – 68 photographs, negatives.

See also above, Correspondence.

Photographs – 1970-1971 Album – Postcards.

11 cards of Chicago, in a booklet.

Photographs – (Metis Women Research). – 63 photographs, negatives.

Northern Saskatchewan.

Photographs – Miscellaneous. – 1 photograph, 3 slides.

Photographs – Personal. – 1953. - 3 photographs.

Multiple copies of Irene, having taken vows as a nun.

Ration Book. – [ca. 1939-1945].

Remembrance of First Holy Communion. – 1933. – see oversize.

Separate Schools. – 1951, 1967.

Report, notes, materials for panel discussion, etc.

Travel – England and Spain. – 1977. – textual records, 1 photograph.

Notes during trip (for conference in England).

Various Reflections: Written and Received. – nd, 1950-2003.

#### **Box 4**

#### **Series 3: Writing & Addresses**

This series contains (peer-reviewed) academic writing and presentations, as well as creative writing and poetry.

Addresses – see also below, Audio Cassettes.

Addresses – Newman National Conference. – 1979.

Includes “Women & Language;” “Jesus & 2001;” notes; programme; etc.

Addresses – Northern Saskatchewan Development and the World of Women’s Work. – 1982.  
See also below, Metis Women’s Perceptions of the Social Reality of Life in Northern Saskatchewan.”

Articles – The Catholic Norman School Issue, 1884-1900. – 1975.  
Given as presentation to the Canadian Catholic Historic Association, prior to publication.

Articles – Mediated Instruction and Depersonalization of Teachers and Students. – 1974.  
Together with correspondence.

Articles – School Buildings and How they Shape Students. – 1974.  
Together with correspondence.

Articles – Women in Administration in Saskatchewan Education. – 1975.

Articles – Women in the Education System. [ca. 1976].

Articles – Women, the Church, the UN, and Society. – 1975.  
Together with annotated essay by Elizabeth Hudson.

Book Review – Morality and the Law in Canadian Politics.  
Handwritten notes.

Books – Dynamics of Economic Development and Metis Women’s Lives – Correspondence. – 1988-1995.  
Evaluations, correspondence with publishers, etc.

Books – Dynamics of Economic Development and Metis Women’s Lives – Draft. – 2 folders.

Books – Dynamics of Economic Development and Metis Women’s Lives – Draft [1987]. – 2 folders.

Books – Dynamics of Economic Development and Metis Women’s Lives – Draft [1995]. – 2 folders.  
Retitled Metis Women’s Lives and the Dynamics of Northern Economic Development.

Books – In Her Own Words. – 1986.

Books – In Her Own Words – Reviews.

**Box 5**

Books – Saskatchewan Women Teachers 1905-1920: Their Contributions. – 1990.

Books – Saskatchewan Women Teachers – Camera-Ready Copy.

Books – Saskatchewan Women Teachers – Camera-Ready Cover.

Books – Saskatchewan Women Teachers – Miscellaneous.  
Correspondence, reviews, etc.

Creative Writing – Garden of Olives.

Creative Writing – Odds and Ends of Writing Attempts.

Creative Writing – Playlets.

Creative Writing – The Poelzeronian. – 1963.

Creative Writing – Saskatchewan History.  
Outline for novel.

Poetry.

Poetry – Published. – 1975.

Poetry – Women of Exodus II. – 1975.

Poetry – Women of Exodus II – Examination Copy. – 1975.

Poetry – Women of Exodus II – Illustrations. – 1975.

Poetry – Women of Exodus II – Humboldt Journal. – 1975.

Poetry – Women of Exodus II - Proofs. – 1975.

**Box 6**

Report – Resident Metis Women’s Perception of Local Social Reality in Seven Northern Saskatchewan Communities. – 1983.

Report – Resident Metis Women’s Perception – Camera-Ready Copy. – 1982.



Report – Resident Metis Women’s Perception – Cover (Original Design). – [ca. 1982].

**Series 4:Audio Cassettes** -

**NOTE: see AV Boxes 1 and 2**

These cassettes have been brought together for ease of storage; many of them reflect topics within earlier series (specifically, addresses; research on Saskatchewan women; research on women and education).

Addresses (Others). – 13 cassettes. – AV Box 2

Brandhold, Rod – Professionalism/Social Control/Ethics of Drug Taking. – 1973.

DeVannis, Burris – Women’s Class (Halifax). – 1976.

Fox – Creation-Centred Parish

Jackson, Pat – Women and Sport. – 1975.

Lessing, Doris – Between Men.

Levine & Galambos – Chemical Sensitivity; Senility. – 1983.

McGillis – The Faith of the Earth.

McKenna, Briege – The Healing Touch of Jesus.

Novak, J. – Focus on Women. – 1975.

Rostad and Davenport – Changing Support for Women.

Shack, Sybil – Women and Administration in Education (Quance Lecture). – 1975.

von Baeyer - On Pain.

Wilson, Lois – Building Bridges (Women and Peace). – 1985.

Addresses (Poelzer). – 5 cassettes. – AV Box 2

Humboldt Teacher’s Convention. – 1974.

Newman Conference. – 1979.

STM – Lent. – 1979.

Women and the Church.

Women and Leadership.

Discussions / Groups. – 4 cassettes. – AV Box 2

Don [Dawn] and Irene. – 1986.

[Irene] and Joanne.

Irene and Young Women.

Myths of Sex Role and Identity – Blum, Storrie, Poelzer.

Saskatoon Women’s Group: on Canada, present & future. – 1974,

Interviews with Saskatchewan Women. – 16 cassettes. - AV Box 1

Includes individual tapes for: Miriam Caplan; Mrs. Dunlop; Evelyn Edwards; Mina Forsyth; Janice Glover; Jean Greyeyes; Pat Jackson; Laura Jones; Margot King; Sandra Semchuk; schoolteacher; Mabel Timlin; women from Whitefox. Combined on tapes:

Fran Ness / Pat Dickson; Colleen Hollingshead/Anne Baszucki; Florette Osborne / Cathy Ulmer / Leila Erwing / Leslie Buckle

Other. – 5 cassettes. – AV Box 2

Apparitions

Bruce [Probert] in conversation with First Nations people in northern Saskatchewan.

Interview on Values / Music Protecting Values.

Telephone interview (faint)

Rosary.

Women and Education – EdFdatons 416. – 13 cassettes. – AV Box 1

Lectures by Irene Poelzer.