FINDING AID TO
THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CUSTOMS AND
TRADITIONS COLLECTION, 1877-1997

Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
(765) 494-2839

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Processed by: Mary A. Sego, May 27, 2014
### Descriptive Summary

| **Creator Information** | Francke, Dr. Gloria Niemeyer, 1922-2008  
| | Kolar, Andrew K, 1914-1991 |
| **Title** | Purdue University Customs and Traditions collection |
| **Collection Identifier** | MSP 151 |
| **Date Span** | 1877-1997, predominant dates, 1880-1940 |
| **Abstract** | This collection features artifacts and other memorabilia related to Purdue student customs and traditions. Included are Purdue student brochures, booklets written by Edward C. Elliott, various programs, a matriculation ticket signed by Winthrop E. Stone, a label from the first bottle of beer served to a Purdue student after the repeal of prohibition, early residence hall newsletters and other memorabilia. Also includes historical information and correspondence in regards to 3 key Purdue Athletic traditions; the Old Oaken Bucket, the “Cannon” trophy and the Boilermaker Special. |
| **Extent** | 1.60 Cubic feet (1 small flat grey box and 2 mss boxes) |
| **Finding Aid Author** | Mary A. Sego, 2014 |
| **Languages** | English |
| **Repository** | Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries |

### Administrative Information

| **Location Information:** | ASC |
| **Access Restrictions:** | Collection is open for research. |
| **Acquisition Information:** | Legacy items; donors various and unknown. |
| **Accession Number:** | Legacy materials; unknown |
| **Preferred Citation:** | MSP 151, Purdue University Customs and Traditions collection, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries |
Subjects and Genres

Persons
Francke, Dr. Gloria Niemeyer, 1922-2008
Kolar, Andrew K., 1914-1991

Organizations
Purdue University

Topics
Purdue University--Students--Social life and customs--20th century
Purdue University. Old Oaken Bucket
Purdue University. Boilermaker Special
Purdue University. Cannon Trophy
Purdue University--Students
Purdue University--Alumni and alumnae
Student activities--United States

Form and Genre Types
Artifacts
Booklets
Buttons
Clippings
Correspondence
Dance cards
Editorial
Hatpins
Invitations
Labels--1930-1940
Memorabilia
Newsletters
Programs

Occupations
Student
History of the Purdue Customs and Traditions collection, 1897-1997

This legacy collection has been created over the years by numerous named and unnamed donors. Andrew K. Kolar, Class of 1935, donated the label from the first bottle of beer served to a Purdue student after the repeal of prohibition. Kolar was from Chicago, Illinois, and graduated from Purdue in 1935 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. As a Purdue student, he was a member of Phi Kappa Tau, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Skull and Crescent, Kappa Phi Sigma and a member of the Cross Country team as a freshman.

Dr. Gloria Niemeyer Francke donated the dance cards and programs from the Military Ball and Women’s Residence Halls Spring Formal, 1941-1943. Francke was born in Dillsboro, IN, on April 28, 1922. She received her BS degree in pharmacy from Purdue University in 1942 and her PharmD from the University of Cincinnati in 1971. Francke was an internationally known pharmacist, educator, author, and publisher. During her many years in the profession, Francke worked in various high-level administrative and editorial capacities and received numerous honors. She passed August 3, 2008.

The collection has grown over the years, but there is no background information on the other contributors to this specific collection.

For further reading about Purdue customs and traditions, see: [http://collections.lib.purdue.edu/traditions/](http://collections.lib.purdue.edu/traditions/)

Source(s):


Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue University Customs and Traditions collection (1877-1997; 1.60 cubic feet) features, among other memorabilia, a tank scrap chain and padlock from 1913, a label from the first bottle of beer served to a Purdue student after the repeal of prohibition, numerous buttons and pins, including a hatpin with the Purdue seal from 1895 on it (third design), a Reamer’s Club “R” from the early 1990s, a Purdue Murad cigarette silk, a 1902-1903 matriculation ticket signed by Purdue President Winthrop E. Stone, along with Junior Promenade dance cards from 1916, 1918, 1922 and Purdue Panhellenic Council Formal, 1921.

Some of the pertinent historical information in the collection includes a description of the tank scrap tradition and an information card on the Heavilon Hall clock. Some of the booklets and brochures include; “Purdue University: this booklet contains answers to some questions you may have asked about,” by T.R. Johnston and J.C. Baker, drawings and etchings by Mrs. Betty Lark-Horovitz and Fredrick Polley, 1931. “Purdue’s Tradition: Scholastic Honesty” and “Honesty,” both written by Purdue President Edward C. Elliott in the early 1940s. “The Story of Purdue’s Traditions,” written by Mary Bowlby and Mary Gannon in 1944. Correspondence includes an account written by 1935 alum, Andrew K. Kolar, describing the circumstances behind the post-prohibition beer bottle label he donated.

Numerous programs from the early 1900s-1940s for Purdue events are included. There are programs/dance cards from the 1941 and 1943 Women’s Residence Halls Spring Formal and the 1941 and 1942 Military Ball, donated by Gloria Francke. She also donated a newsletter, The Promenader, 1939 - Special Edition and 1940 and program from the 1942 Junior Promenade. Another newsletter, The Clarion: the voice of Cary Club, 1947-1948 is found in the collection. Lastly, an undated editorial, “Fair Play,” which concerns the freshmen/senior mustache tradition rounds out the collection.

The last series contains historical information and correspondence in regards to three key Purdue athletic traditions; the Old Oaken Bucket, the “Cannon” trophy and the Boilermaker Special.

Types of materials include: artifacts, booklets, buttons, clippings, correspondence, and an editorial on the freshmen/senior mustache tradition, a hatpin with the 1895 Purdue seal on it, invitations, memorabilia, post-prohibition beer label, and residence hall newsletters.

The collection is organized into 4 series:
Arrangement

1. **Memorabilia, 1895-1933 (0.45 cubic feet).** This series contains a tank scrap chain and padlock from 1913, a label from the first bottle of beer served to a Purdue student after the repeal of prohibition, numerous button and pins, including a hatpin with the Purdue seal from 1895 on it (third design), a Reamer’s Club “R” from the early 1990s, a Purdue Murad cigarette silk, a 1902-1903 matriculation ticket signed by Purdue President Winthrop E. Stone, along with Junior Promenade dance cards from 1916, 1918, 1922 and Purdue Panhellenic Formal, 1921.

2. **Historical Information, 1903-1997 (0.45 cubic feet).** The historical information, in this series describes the tank scrap tradition, information on “silks” and an information card on the Heavilon Hall clock. Some of the booklets and brochures include; “Purdue University: this booklet contains answers to some questions you may have asked about,” by T.R. Johnston and J.C. Baker, drawings and etchings by Mrs. Betty Lark-Horovitz and Fredrick Polley, 1931. “Purdue’s Tradition: Scholastic Honesty” and “Honesty,” both written by Purdue President Edward C. Elliott in the early 1940s. “The Story of Purdue’s Traditions,” written by Mary Bowlby and Mary Gannon in 1944. Along with a photocopied, “Campus Encyclopedia,” from Purdue University *Alumni Record* and *Campus Encyclopedia*, volume 29, no. 12, June 1929. Correspondence includes an account written by 1935 alum, Andrew K. Kolar, describing the circumstances behind the post-prohibition beer bottle label he donated.


4. **Athletic, 1920s-1959 (0.2 cubic feet).** This series is comprised to historical information and correspondence related to the Old Oaken Bucket, Purdue vs. Indiana University rivalry; the “Cannon” trophy, Purdue vs. University of Illinois rivalry and information on Purdue’s Boilermaker Special mascot.
Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. Memorabilia (artifacts) have been separated and grouped into an individual series for preservation purposes. Most items have been placed in chronological order within each series.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I. Memorabilia, 1895-1933
(0.45 cubic feet)

Box 1 Tank Scrap Chain and Padlock, Reamer’s Club “R”, Matriculation Ticket, Purdue Murad Cigarette Silk, Prohibition Label, Pins, and Buttons, 1895-1933

Item
1. Hatpin, with Purdue seal; third design by Abby Phelps Lytle, Purdue Art Department - first to use griffin, 1895
2. Reamer’s Club “R,” 7 ¾” x 11”, “F.E. Gillis Honorary” and signatures on wooden R, circa early 1900s
3. Matriculation ticket, signed by President Winthrop E. Stone, 1902-1903
4. Pins, Purdue P and Pharmacy pin (belonged to Charles E. Reed), 1903
5. Pin, Purdue Memorial Union, undated
6. Purdue Murad cigarette silk, circa 1912 (see Box 2, folder 2 for description of silks)
7. Tank Scrap chain and padlock, 1913 (see bibliography and historical information, Box 2, folder 1)
9. Label - from first bottle of beer served to a student after the repeal of prohibition, 1933 (see description written by student in Box 2, folder 3)
10. Button, Peanuts - Charlie Brown and Snoopy, “Purdue - Good Grief, Another Cary Man!” undated
12. Button, “Prove it!” undated
16. Button, Purdue Pete, “Vote For Pete,” (3 buttons), undated
17. Patch, leather, embossed with Mechanics and Heavilon (Old) Halls, undated

Series II. Historical Information, 1903-1997
(0.45 cubic feet)

Box 2 Tank Scrap, Description of “Silks”, Letter in Regards to First Bottle of Beer Served After Repeal of Prohibition, Greenawalt - “Perdoo” Booklet and Other Purdue Tradition Booklets, 1903-1997

Folder
1. Tank Scrap bibliography and historical information, 1903-1993 (See Box 1,
2. Description of “Silks,” (see Box 1, item 3), undated
3. Letter from 1935 alum, Andrew K. Kolar, describing the circumstances in regards to first bottle of beer served to him after the repeal of prohibition, letter dated May 5, 1985 (See Box 1, item 5)
5. Booklet, “Campus Encyclopedia,” from Purdue University Alumni Record and Campus Encyclopedia, volume 29, no. 12, June 1929 (bound photocopy)
6. Booklet, “Purdue University: this booklet contains answers to some questions you may have asked about,” by T.R. Johnston and J.C. Baker, drawings and etchings by Mrs. Betty Lark-Horovitz and Fredrick Polley, Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University, 1931 (2 copies)
7. Booklets, “Purdue’s Tradition: Scholastic Honesty,” (2 copies); “Honesty;” Both written by Purdue President, Edward C. Elliott, circa 1942
8. “The Story of Purdue’s Traditions,” by Mary Bowlby and Mary Gannon, 1944 (2 original copies and 2 photocopies)

Series III. Programs, Invitations, Newsletters and Calendar, 1877-1951
(0.5 cubic feet)


Folder
1. Programs, “Junior Exhibition” and “Junior Entertainment,” includes some rough drafts of the programs; 1877, February and December - 1880 (2), 1883, 1884, 1886, ribbon from Class of 1887, 1889 (2) and 1890
2. Invitations, “Sophomore Picnic,” 1889, 1896, 1897
3. Programs, “Class Day Exercises,” (includes literary and athletic exercises) Class of 1887 (3), 1888 (rough draft), 1889, 1890, 1893, 1896 (2), 1897 (2), 1900, 1904 (2), 1905 (2)
4. Programs, “Mechanics Burning, Class of 1912, Indictment,” and “Sacred To The Memory of I.P.C. McAnnix, Last Sad Rites and Ceremonies,” 1912
5. Programs, Purdue Circus; “The First Purdue Circus and May Day, “ 1913 (2), Purdue Circus, 1915, 1916 and “Souvenir Program, The Purdue Circus “A Purdue Union Activity” Including Parade, May Day Pageant, Main Show and
Side Shows,” Thursday, May 19, 1921 (3)

6. Purdue Calendar, 1914 (includes photographs of buildings and events around campus)

7. Program, Alumni Association, “1915 Homecoming, October 16, Purdue vs. Wisconsin” (includes photocopied cover)

8. Programs, Purdue University Commencement, 1918, 1922, 1929


10. Dad’s Day Programs, Brochures and Newsletters, 1922-1937

Item
1. Tag, “Hello DAD!” 1922
2. “Program of the Sixth Annual Dad’s Day at Purdue,” October 29, 1927
3. Brochure, “Purdue University Aims and Accomplishments For State and Nation: prepared for the Annual Dad’s Day at Purdue University,” Lafayette, Indiana, October 29, 1927 (2 copies)
4. Brochure, “Purdue University: facts and notes about the university, prepared for those attending Dad’s Day,” Lafayette, Indiana, October 12, 1929 (3 copies)
5. Campus Beat, Dad’s Day, supplement, “two generations of “football dads,” 1964 (features the Holcomb family)

11. Program/Dance Card, Military Ball, 1941, 1942 (gift of Gloria Francke)


16. “Editorial…Fair Play,” in regards to freshmen/senior mustache tradition, undated

Series IV. Athletics, 1920s-1959
(0.2 cubic feet)

Box 4 Historical Information on Key Athletic Traditions, 1920s-1959

Folder
1. Bibliography and articles, Old Oaken Bucket - Purdue University vs. Indiana University rivalry, circa 1920s-1990s
2. Correspondence, form letter sent to 1905 football team by Executive Dean, F. C. Hockema and replies from team members in regards to the “Cannon” football trophy - Purdue University vs. University of Illinois, 1943 (background information from a 2014 online search has been added for historical purposes)

3. Correspondence and clipping in regards to the history of the Boilermaker Special, 1940-1950 and document; “The Second Boilermaker Special Development Program Orientation.” by Donald Rosene, Chariman of the Special Development Committee, April 20, 1959