



Descriptive Summary:

Title: Gerber Family Collection

Repository: Northern State University Archives and Special Collections, Beulah Williams Library

Creator: Henry, Bernard, and Philip L. Gerber, and Pauline Davies

Dates: 1903-1945, 1974-2015

Extent: 16 linear feet

Administrative Information

Acquisitions Information: This collection was donated in multiple accessions by Henry, Bernard, and Jean Gerber, as well as Pauline Davies.

Processing Information: This collection was processed by Sarah Jones.

Access Restrictions: N/A

Copyright Notice: Literary rights and copyrights, when applicable, have been assigned to Beulah Williams Library.

Preferred Citation: Item, Folder Name, Series, The Gerber Family Collection, University Archives & Special Collections, Beulah Williams Library, Northern State University.

Biographical Note

Henry P. Gerber was a teacher and then a professor of Industrial Arts at Northern Normal and Industrial School from the 1910s/20s until his retirement in 1956. In 1940, Henry Gerber became the Local Director of the Defense Training School, which the federal government established at Northern to train workers for the defense industry. After the U.S. entered World War II, Henry Gerber was recruited by UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) in 1944. Gerber spent his time with UNRRA in Italy at Santa Maria di Bagni, a refugee camp where he helped the refugees learn trades. One of Henry Gerber's son, Bernard Gerber, collected the letters Henry sent to his family during his time at Santa Maria di Bagni into a book entitled, Letters from Italy: Correspondence from Henry P. Gerber.

Bernard Charles Gerber was born in Aberdeen, SD on November 25, 1926. He began attending Northern State Teachers College during his senior year at Central High School from September 1943 until his induction into the U.S. Army in March 1945. Following honorable discharge from the service, he resumed his studies at Northern in teacher education and pre-medicine, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in chemistry and biology and a minor in history, eventually becoming a surgeon. Dr. Gerber was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Northern State College in 1978.

Scope and Content

This collection has been arranged into six series: Chinese Collection, Letters from Italy, Northern State University, Philip L. Gerber's "Bachelor Bess", Pauline Davies, and Miscellaneous. All of these series are arranged chronologically when possible. If not possible (for example, ephemera), the items were left in their original order. The formats within this collection include: books, letters, emails, photographs, artwork, contracts, plaques, scrapbooks, clothing, ephemera, and jewelry. This collection is mostly in English, with some items in Chinese and Italian. Books donated by Bernard Gerber have been separated and cataloged separately. Search "Bernard Gerber" in the Library Catalog to locate these items. Additionally, artwork has been donated by Bernard Gerber to the University. These pieces are located in the Student Center and in the Beulah Williams Library.

Series Descriptions:

Series 1: Chinese Collection Boxes: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, Dates: 1979-2005, n.d.
Oversized,
On Display

This series relates to Chinese items donated by Bernard Gerber to the Williams Library. Many of the items have been put on display. This series includes mostly clothing and jewelry. It is unarranged.

Series 2: Letters from Italy Boxes: 1, 8, oversized Dates: 1944-1945, 2015, n.d.

This includes correspondence written by Henry Gerber during World War II. It is arranged chronologically.

Series 3: Northern State University Boxes: 7, oversized Dates: 1911-1941, 1974, 1990, n.d.

This series includes items directly related to Henry Gerber's time at NSU. There are also four items made by Bernard Gerber. This series includes newspaper clippings, contracts, clothing, photographs, correspondence, architectural drawings, and plaques. It is arranged chronologically.

Series 4: Philip Gerber's "Bachelor Bess" Boxes: 2 Dates: 1973-1991, n.d.

This series includes documents relating to Professor Philip Gerber's book entitled "Bachelor Bess". This series includes correspondence, newspaper articles, and a book report by Pauline (Gerber) Davies. It is arranged chronologically.

Series 5: Pauline (Gerber) Davies Boxes: 10 Dates: 1903 – 2010

This series includes items given by Pauline (Gerber) Davies. It includes many items about Northern and H.P. Gerber. Books will eventually be cataloged and placed in the Archives Reading Room. This series includes programs, clothing, newspaper articles, and photographs. There are 9 color negatives of the 1961 Central Fire and Pauline (Gerber) Davies's Princess Pat outfit. It is arranged chronologically.

Series 6: Miscellaneous Boxes: 9, 11 oversized Dates: 1907-1958, n.d.

Items found within the first five series that did not relate were taken out and placed in this series. This series includes photographs, correspondence, and diplomas. It includes a handful of cards of condolence on H.P. Gerber's death. It is arranged chronologically.

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Series 1: Chinese Collection

Box #1:

- FF 1 Photographs (all are labeled) (n.d.)
- FF 2 Postcards (some related to [The National Minorities in Yunnan](#)) (n.d.)
- FF 3 School writing assignment (n.d.)

- Item 1 Book, Confucius: The Analects, Penguin Group (Pub.) (1979)
- Item 2 DVD, Beijing, 'Miao Lady' Showing Clothing (April 27, 1993)
- Item 3 Cassette Tape, Miao Series (26 - 27 April, 1993)
- Item 4 Cassette Tape, Miao Lady (4 - 9 May, 1993)
- Item 5 CD, Les Miao et les Dong du Guizhou (1996)
- Item 6 Cassette Tape, Miao - China (June 24, 1997)
- Item 7 Book, Buddhist Animal Wisdom Stories Part One and Part Two by Mark McGinnis (handmade) (2001)
- Item 8 Book, The Unknown Story: Mao, Jung Chang/Jon Halliday (2005)
- Item 9 Manuscript- long, brown, handmade, and rectangular - contains Dongba script with its Chinese and English translation (n.d.)
 - Back page says: Dongba Cultural Souvenirs
- Item 10 Manuscript - blue, handmade, and Chinese- contains mostly colorful drawings and some writings (n.d.)
- Item 12 Miao Flute made of bamboo (n.d.)

Box #3 (small, rectangular, turquoise bin):

5 Dolls:

- Item 1 Serbian Woman
- Item 2 Tyrolese Woman
- Item 3 Hungarian Gypsy Woman
- Item 4 Spanish Girl
- Item 5 Man in Serbian National Costume

Box #4:

- Item 1 Bright pink sash with detailed sequin and bead design
- Item 2 Embroidered hat with black ties and red tassels
- Item 3 Black chest cover/sash. Has colorful floral/animal embroidery as well as coin-like decorations on front that jingle
- Item 4 Accordion pleated skirt, striped with mostly red - has colorful embroidered ties
- Items 5 2 Rectangular embroidered cloths with no ties
- Item 6 Long accordion pleated skirt with a mostly red stripe pattern
- Items 7 2 pieces of blue rectangular fabric with batik designs in white and red
- Items 8 3 wallets with ornate embroidery on outside
- Item 9 Wallet/purse made of woven material (possibly bamboo)
- Item 10 Unidentifiable silver
- Items 11 5 colorful tassels (possibly detached from an item)

Box #5:

- Item 1 1 necklaces with a silver loop pattern
- Item 2 1 pair over-ear loop earrings
- Items 3 2 ornate silver hairpins with floral and bird designs
- Items 4 5 woven-pattern silver bracelets
- Item 5 Black and red striped leg wraps
- Item 6 Small umbrella
- Item 7 Long scrap of plaid fabric
 - Unsure if this was part of the collection, or used to help pad the materials in storage.
- Items 8 9 silver squares
- Items 9 4 silver rectangles with dangly silver
- Item 10 1 silver thing with 5 different-shaped dangly silver
- Item 11 Hand scale

Box #6 (Oversized):

- Item 1 Black accordion pleated skirt
- Item 2 Blue and black sash
- Item 3 Multicolored embroidered sash
- Items 4 2 black accordion pleated short skirts with white and red horizontal band on center
- Item 5 Blue and red embroidered head scarf
- Item 6 Black head scarf with blue details
- Item 7 Black head scarf with purple details
- Item 8 Black blood-shirt with blue details
- Item 9 Black wrap blood-shirt with red details
- Item 10 Bamboo undershirt
- Item 10 Blue shrug with bright pink details

Box #10 (Oversized):

- Item 1 Oversized, delicate scroll with man in ornate, purple robe painted on it. Placed in its own special box

Oversized:

Section 1 (10:03:21):

- Item 1 2 oversized Chinese books (potentially volume 1 and 2) in their own custom Box

Section 2 (10:10:03-10:10:04):

- Items 1 Oversized Artwork (9 pieces)

- *Note: All artwork is wrapped in plastic and on foam board.*
- *Note: There is also artwork in Beulah Williams Library and the Student Center*
- Item 2 Long, thin wooden strips painted red and gold on the sides. Foreign language is written on the strips (not Chinese)
- Item 3 Custom-made orange box. Used to hold the doll that is currently on display

Section 3 (MF4:C:DR5):

- FF 4 Colorful drawings in an envelope entitled “Rubblings from the Forest of Tablets: Shensi Provincial Museum, China” (n.d.)
- FF 5 Oversized, rolled-up paperback entitled Authentic Works of Landscape in the Ching Dynasty
 - Potentially a calendar

On Display:

- Item 1 Tunic, mostly black, with detailed embroidery on sleeves and lapels. Red fabric around bottom. Large embossed square silver decorations along bottom hem. Silver decorations on shoulders, lapels, and bottom of sleeves.
- Item 2 Accordion-pleated skirt with additional layer of embroidered multicolored bands. Multicolored tassels on each band.
- Item 3 Large ornamental silver chest plate on chain
- Item 4 Pink slippers with floral embroidery
- Item 5 1 necklaces with a silver loop pattern
- Item 6 Layered silver neck piece
- Item 7 Elaborate silver headdress with silver decoration including men on mules, floral and bird designs, and cone-shaped silver jingles
- Items 8 1 pair silver dangling earrings
- Item 9 Sash with elaborate embossed silver decorations and silver jingles
- Item 10 Elaborate dragon hairpin
- Items 11 4 narrow silver bracelets
- Items 12 2 woven-pattern silver bracelets
- Items 13 2 wider band bracelets with silver beaded/floral design
- Item 14 Straight heavy silver hairpin
- Item 15 Circular silver necklace with square embossed silver pendant
- Item 16 Blue satin embroidered tunic with red accents on front. Colorful decorative embroidery on sleeves and shoulders
- Item 17 Multicolored embroidered sash
- Item 18 Accordion-pleated striped skirt
- Item 19 Skirt with individual panels in purple and red, embroidered with flowers, dragons and fish
- Item 20 Blue satin embroidered tunic. Has floral embroidery on sleeves and shoulders.

Item 21	Multicolored striped sash
Item 22	Black embroidered satin pants
Items 23	2 silver rings
Items 24	5 silver squares
Item 25	1 doll
Item 26	Hair comb

Books are cataloged and organized separately.

2. Series 2: Letters from Italy

Box #1:

- Item 1 Armies of Peace: Canada and the UNRRA Years by Susan Armstrong-Reid and David Murray
- Item 2 Letters from Italy: Correspondence from Henry P. Gerber by Agnes and Henry Gerber (Copy 1)
- Includes a small book in the back entitled To Bari And Back (After Fifty Years) by Philip Gerber
 - Includes a letter to Jean Daniels (Henry Gerber's granddaughter) from Steve Hunegs
 - Has a sticker on the Table of Contents page that says: "I suggest that you read the small booklet "TO BARI AND BACK" by Philip Gerber first. It is in the back cover pouch. – Bernard G.
- Item 3 Letters from Italy: Correspondence from Henry P. Gerber by Agnes and Henry Gerber (Copy 2)
- Includes a small book in the back entitled To Bari And Back (After Fifty Years) by Philip Gerber
 - Includes a letter to Jean Daniels (Henry Gerber's granddaughter) from Steve Hunegs
- Item 4 Letters from Italy: Correspondence from Henry P. Gerber by Agnes and Henry Gerber (Copy 3)
- Includes a small book in the back entitled To Bari And Back (After Fifty Years) by Philip Gerber
 - Has a sticker on the Table of Contents page that says: "I suggest that you read the small booklet "TO BARI AND BACK" by Philip Gerber first. It is in the back cover pouch. – Bernard G.
 - Table of Contents page is signed by Bernard Gerber, Pauline Gerber Lloyd-Davies, and Jean Daniel
 - Includes an insert that says: "Letters from Italy, First Printing Errata August 19, 2015"

- 2 pictures placed in this copy

Box #8:

- FF 1 Henry Gerber Correspondence (October – December 1944)
- FF 2 Henry Gerber Correspondence (January 1945)
- FF 3 Henry Gerber Correspondence (February 1945)
- FF 4 Henry Gerber Correspondence (March 1945)
- FF 5 Henry Gerber Correspondence (April 1945)
- FF 6 Henry Gerber Correspondence (May 1945)
- FF 7 Henry Gerber Correspondence (June 1945)
- FF 8 Henry Gerber Correspondence (July 1945)
- FF 9 Henry Gerber Correspondence (August 1945)
- FF 10 Henry Gerber Correspondence (September 1945)
- FF 11 Henry Gerber Correspondence (October 1945)
- FF 12 Henry Gerber Correspondence (November 1945)
- FF 13 Henry Gerber Correspondence (n.d.)
- FF 14 UNRRA Documents and Correspondence (July 1944 – November 1945)
- FF 15 Newspaper Articles about Henry Gerber (1940 – 1946)
- FF 16 Publications about WWII (1944-2010)
- FF 17 Italian Language Correspondence (n.d.)
- FF 18 Bernard Gerber Correspondence (2007-2015)
- FF 19 Forward by Bernard Gerber from “Letters from Italy” - draft (n.d.)
- FF 20 Hitler’ Slave Labor Remnants by Henry Gerber – draft (n.d.)
- FF 21 Website Pages relating to Santa Maria Al Bagni (n.d.)
- FF 22 Photographs
 - Including the Henry Gerber Building Dedication Ceremony; Agnes’s Funeral; Sculptor Michelle Gaballo; a “Letters from Italy” event ; and UNRRA.
- FF 23 Maps of Santa Maria al Bagni (n.d.)
- FF 24 Flag/Banner (n.d.)
- FF 25 Miscellaneous (unrelated correspondence, blank postcards, clothing list, 1944 calendar, seemingly unrelated newspaper articles, copies of multiple Henry Gerber correspondence)
- Item 1 Our Leave in Switzerland: 200 Photos: A Souvenir of the Visit of American Soldiers to Switzerland in 1945/46

Oversized:

Section 3 (MF4:C:DR5):

- FF 1 Oversized, glossy map of Santa Maria al Bagni Nardo (1944-1947)

Section 4 (OS6:DR2):

Item 3 Scrapbook (Mostly photographs, entirely labeled, from Bernard Gerber)

3. Series 3: Northern State University

Box #7:

- FF 1 Newspaper clippings about Northern (1906-2005)
- FF 2 Architectural Drawings (n.d.)
- FF 3 Normal School Faculty Photo (1916-1917)
- FF 4 Junior-Senior Dinner Dance Program (May 31, 1924)
- FF 5 Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (September 1, 1923)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (September 1, 1924)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (May 1, 1925)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (May 6, 1926)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (May 21, 1927)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (March 27, 1928)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (March 26, 1929)
Contract, Northern Normal and Industrial School Contract, NNIS (March 31, 1930)
- FF 6 Paper, "Contract Continued" (n.d.)
- FF 7 Book and Photocopy, Northern Normal and Industrial School General Catalog, NNIS (1933-1934)
- FF 8 Book and Photocopy, Northern Normal and Industrial School General Catalog, NNIS (1935-1936)
- FF 9 *The Rural Educator* (September-October 1938)
- FF 10 News Clipping (photocopied), "Gerber Resumes Duties at College" (n.d.)
- FF 11 Items related to Arthur Seymour (emails, news clipping, programs) (1921-1937, 2007-2008)
- FF 12 Velvet folder with dates 1913/1938 on the front. Previously had documents in FF 10 inside it. (1938)
- FF 13 Henry Gerber's 25th Celebration at Northern (letters, a telegram, the guest book for the event, and a facsimile of a newspaper article) (1938)
- FF 14 Senior Faculty Banquet Program (1938)
- FF 15 Gypsy Day Pictures (1947)
- FF 16 Industrial School Photos, most labeled (n.d.)
- FF 17 Northern Normal and Industrial School – Department of Industrial Arts Letterhead (n.d.)
- FF 18 NSU's H.P. Gerber Memorial Endowment, Correspondence and Presentation

(December 2012, April 2013)

- Item 1 Book, South Dakota: A Republic of Friends, Willis E. Johnson (1911)
- Item 2 50th Anniversary Gypsy Day pin (1965)
- Item 3 Plaque with Bust of George Washington etched in metal. On back: Made by the Students of Industrial Arts Dept. Northern Normal & Ind. School Aberdeen, So. Dak. (n.d.)
- Item 4 Oversized replica of George Washington Bicentennial Coin (n.d.)
- Item 5 Spoon with inscription: "N. Normal Industrial School Aberdeen, SD" (n.d.)
- Item 6 Metal made at the Foundry by Bernard Gerber with inscription: "Bernard Gerber" (n.d.)
- Item 7 Metal made at the Foundry by Bernard Gerber with inscription: "N.S.T.C. Aberdeen South Dakota" (n.d.)
- Items 8,9 2 bookends with the N.S.T.C. Wolf made by Bernard Gerber
- Item 10 Freshman Beanie
- Item 11 Northern Alumni Pin

Oversized:

Section 1 (10:03:21):

- Item 2 Blueprints and Blueprint Storage Box (Made by Industrial Arts Students, 1939-1941)
 - o Donated by Dr. Bernard Gerber
 - o Includes 4 B&W photographs

Section 3 (MF4:C:DR5):

- FF 2 Blueprint/Instruction/Photo, Harness Rack, HPG (n.d.)
- FF 7 H.P. Gerber's Northern Normal Industrial Diploma (June 17, 1929)

Section 4 (OS6:DR2):

- Item 1 Framed Special Resolution
 - o States that the Industrial Technologies Building will be called the H.P. Gerber Industrial Technologies Building, Adopted on September 21, 1990
- Item 2 Plaque: Distinguished Alumni Award for Henry P. Gerber (September 13, 1974)

4. Series 4: Philip Gerber's "Bachelor Bess"

Box #2:

- FF 1 Letters to professor Gerber relating to his book, Bachelor Bess;
Various letters and correspondence relating to the book;
Letters to "Paulie" discussing the preparation of the book (1973-1996)

- FF 2 Shelby County Historical Society newsletter with an article about the book;
New York Times book review of the book;
Pamphlet, “new books of interest in western literature”, with information about ordering the book;
Photocopy of “Books at Iowa”;
Photocopies of photographs, newspaper articles, pictures, and letters;
Flyer from an “Antiques and Collectibles” Show in Walnut, Iowa;
Hand drawn map of Monroe Cemetery (n.d.)
- FF 3 Photocopy of “Corey-Brown Genealogy” by Gil Corey (1974)
- Item 1 “Prospectus” rough copy of the Homesteading Letters of Elizabeth Corey (1988)
- FF 4 Book report by Pauline Davies (1991)
- Item 2 Volume 1 – rough copy of the Homesteading Letters
- Item 3 Volume 2 – rough copy of the Homesteading Letters

5. Series 5: Pauline (Gerber) Davies

Box # 10

- FF 1 Newspaper Articles about NSU (1903-1991)
- FF 2 Photos of H.P. Gerber and family and friends (1924 – 1991)
- FF 3 Spafford Hall Dedication (1928) - copy
- FF 4 Gypsy Day Program (1936)
- FF 5 Princess Pat – Pauline Gerber (1939)
- Items 1-3 Pauline Davies’s Princess Pat outfit (1939)
- Dress
 - Shrug
 - Compact
- FF 6 Mary Elizabeth Kelly (1939-1994)
- FF 7 Negatives of the central fire (1961)
- FF 8 Gypsy Day Program (1990)
- FF 9 H.P. Gerber Building Dedication (1991)
- FF 10 *Northern Today* (Autumn 1992)
- FF 11 Gypsy Day Program (1993)
- FF 12 Gypsy Day (1994)
- Item 4 Will Cather: Revised Edition by Philip Gerber (Uncorrected Page Proofs: January 1995)
- FF 13 *Heart & Soul* (Spring 2009, Spring 2010) – 3 copies each
- FF 14 NSU Spring Commencement Program (May 8, 2010)
- FF 15 NSU Strategic Plan (2010)
- Item 5 H.P. Gerber Masquer’s Pin (n.d.)
- Item 6 Jacket with embroidered sayings belonging to Pauline (n.d.)
- Item 7 Shirt with embroidered names belonging to Pauline (n.d.)

- Item 8 1938 Pasque belonging to Marion Steenson (1938)
- Item 9 The First Christmas by Wilhelmina W. Garvin (1944) – with poem by the author
- Item 10 1949 Pasque (1949)
- Item 11 Adventures of an Exchange Teacher by Mary Elizabeth Kelly (1954)
- Item 12 Blizzards of South Dakota by Ethel L. Hellman (1975) – with receipt
- Item 13 The Governor's Scepter by J.V. Yaukey (1976)

Oversized:

Section 3 (MF4:C:DR5):

- FF 3 6 copies of Phi Alpha Theta Picture (1924)
- FF Scrapbook page with newspaper articles about H.P. Gerber

6. Series 6: Miscellaneous

Box #9:

- FF 1 Book, Stout Institute Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 3, Stout State College, Menomonie, WI (September 1, 1909)
- FF 2 Policy, Automobile Policy No O.L.906480 Maryland Casualty Company, Narregang-Hart Company (March 1, 1932)
- FF 3 Photocopy of Henry Gerber's Pencil Sketches (pre-1935)
- FF 4 H.P. Gerber's Iowa State Diploma (August 24, 1935)
- FF 5 Program, "Movie Queen", Aberdeen Lions Club (July 21, 1938)
- FF 6 Map, On to Tokyo Invasion Map of the Pacific and Far East; War in Europe, International Circulation Company, NY (1945)
- FF 7 Loose Photo, Kodachrome Print, Eastman Kodak Company (January 14, 1948)
- FF 8 Newsletter, Stout Alumni Newsletter, Stout State College, Menomonie, WI (March 1, 1958)
- FF 9 H.P. Gerber funeral card (1971)
- FF 10 Letter of Condolence on H.P. Gerber's death from Wesley L. Face (1971)
- FF 11 Letter of Condolence on H.P. Gerber's death from Chas Fleischman (1971)
- FF 12 Letter of Condolence on H.P. Gerber's death from Herman A. Gruhn (1971)
- FF 13 Letter of Condolence on H.P. Gerber's death from L. Wayne Winjum (n.d.)
- FF 14 Newspaper article from the WSJ entitled "This Was Maxwell Street" (July 31, 2008)
- FF 15 Instruction Manual, You Don't Need to Have Files in the House, International Harvester Company (n.d.)
- FF 16 Photo of a group of young men (Gerber is probably second from the left in the second row) (n.d.)
- FF 17 Framed photo of a group of young men and one woman (Gerber is probably son the far right of the second row) (n.d.)
- Item 1 Stout Pin (n.d.)

- Item 2 Book, English Serbo-Croatian and Serbo-Croatian English Dictionary, Palandech's
Publishing House Chicago (n.d.)
- Item 3 Unidentified rock (n.d.)

Box #11

- Item 1 Abacus

Oversized:

Section 3 (MF4:C:DR5):

- FF 6 H.P. Gerber Graduation Photo (n.d.)
- FF 8 H.P. Gerber's Menomonie Diploma (May 29, 1907)
- FF 9 H.P. Gerber's Stout Diploma (June 17, 1909)
- FF Letter of Condolence on H.P. Gerber's death from Robert Steinbring (1971) and
Cards of Condolence on H.P. Gerber's death from Earl and Laura Olson, Helen and
Cecil Todd, Dick and Evelyn Whirlwind Horse (?), Richard and Anne Russell,
Robert Steinbring (n.d.) pasted to white paper