



Descriptive Summary:

Title: Francis J. Persun Collection

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

Creator: Paul A. Roales

Dates: 1911, n.d.

Extent: 1 linear foot

Administrative Information

Acquisitions Information: This collection was donated by Paul A. Roales.

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 Name], Francis J. Persun Collection, Beulah Williams Library Archives and Special Collections, Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD.

Biographical Note

Francis Jacob Ethebert Persun was born August 24, 1882. He worked as a high school instructor and eventually a professor across the northern plains.¹ In 1911, possibly during Francis's time as a student at Northern Normal and Industrial School, he traveled with Professor Fred Smith to the Badlands to search for fossils. This group set up camp near Sheep Table Mountain. They planned to bring back their findings for a museum at Normal.² These items were found in an attic in Towanda, Pennsylvania and purchased by Paul Roales.

Scope and Content

This small collection is arranged into two series, *Primary Records* and *Secondary Records*. The majority of items are in the first series, *Primary Records*, since most of the items are from 1911. This collection is left in its original order. The formats within this collection include a fossil, photographs (physical and digital), a diary (and the transcript), and a digital copy of a newspaper article. This collection is entirely in English.

Series Descriptions:

Series Title: Primary Records	Boxes: 1	Dates: 1911
Series Title: Secondary Records	Boxes: 1	Dates: n.d.

¹ *The Bismarck Tribune*, 15 September 1911, p. 3.

² Stuver, Linda. "Diary filed as 1911Diary." Received by Paul Roales.

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Series Title: Primary Records

Box # 1

- Item 1 Persun's Diary of Badlands Geologic Field Trip (1911)
- FF 1 Photograph taken on Geologic Field Trip (1911)
- FF 2 Photograph taken on Geologic Field Trip (1911)
- FF 3 Carnival Ribbon (1911)
- Item 2 Fossil, Mammal Jawbone and teeth (n.d.)
- Item 3 USB Drive
 - Transcript of Persun's Diary (1911)
 - Copy of a Newspaper article of the field trip (September 15, 1911)

2. Series Title: Secondary Records

Box #1

- Item 3 USB Drive
 - Background Information on Francis J. Persun compiled by the SD State Historical Society (n.d.)