

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



ELEANOR BACON SHERMAN FONDS

AFC 117

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – January, 2010

**WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 117
ELEANOR BACON SHERMAN FONDS**

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ELEANOR BACON SHERMAN FONDS
AFC 117
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1894, 1899-1902, 1940, predominant 1899-1901

Extent

20 cm of textual records
2 volumes of textual records
1 photograph

Biographical Sketch

Eleanor Bacon Sherman was born on July 1, 1855 to Perry and Martha (née Morrison) Sherman. Something of a child prodigy on the piano, at the age of 25 Sherman moved to Chicago to further her musical studies. Plagued by terrible headaches her entire life, Eleanor Sherman was never able to play the piano professionally. She, instead, taught and composed for the piano, wrote poetry, and devoted herself to study.

Sherman enjoyed studying a wide variety of topics - chiefly literature, philosophy and esoteric subjects. Most interested in Vedic knowledge, Sherman studied under guru F.K. Lalana. Sherman introduced Lalana to one of her correspondents, Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke, in 1899; Bucke saw Lalana as exemplifying "cosmic consciousness." Bucke corresponded with Sherman during his authorship of the well-known book *Cosmic Consciousness*, offering her a draft of one chapter and a printed example of a page for her review.

Eleanor Bacon Sherman died on September 30, 1940 at her nieces' home in Sugar Run, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Content

This fonds contains Eleanor Bacon Sherman's collected correspondence, texts, pamphlets, and other documents from and about Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Cosmic consciousness first editions
- Series 2: Dr. R.M. Bucke photograph
- Series 3: Correspondence
- Series 4: Pamphlets
- Series 5: Eleanor Sherman memorial booklet
- Series 6: Newspaper clipping
- Series 7: Cosmic consciousness chapter 8 draft

Finding Aids

File and item lists are available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Judy Fredrichs, Eleanor's great-great-niece, in April 2007.

Related Material

This fonds is closely related to Bucke collection, currently held at Western Archives. For more information, please consult the responsible archivist.

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

ELEANOR BACON SHERMAN FONDS
AFC 117
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 Cosmic consciousness first editions

Date

1901

Extent

2 volumes of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains two first edition copies of Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke's work Cosmic Consciousness. Of the initial 500 copies, these two represent copies 395 and 424. Both are signed by Dr. Bucke.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Cosmic consciousness: a study in the evolution of the human mind [2 copies]	1901	AFC 117-1

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 2 Dr. R.M. Bucke photograph

Dates

[ca. 1900]

Extent

1 photograph : b&w ; 23 x 18 cm

Scope and Content

This series contains a photograph of Dr. R.M. Bucke. A cut-out of his signature has been pasted to the cardboard backing.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Dr. R.M. Bucke photograph	[ca. 1900]	AFC 117-1

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Series 3 Correspondence

Dates

1899-1901

Extent

15 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence addressed to Eleanor Sherman. Letters from Dr. R.M. Bucke, from his office in London and his vacation property near Port Severn, Ontario predominate. One letter from E.W. Emerson (possibly Ralph Waldo Emerson's son Edward), is also included.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Letter from E.W. Emerson to Eleanor Sherman	1899	AFC 117-1-4
Letters from Dr. R.M. Bucke to Eleanor Sherman	1899	AFC 117-1-1
Letters from Dr. R.M. Bucke to Eleanor Sherman	1900	AFC 117-1-2
Letters from Dr. R.M. Bucke to Eleanor Sherman	1901	AFC 117-1-3

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Series 4 Pamphlets

Dates

1894, 1901

Extent

2 folders of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains two pamphlets authored by Dr. Bucke. An advertising circular promoting his and Walt Whitman's books, as well as an early version of Cosmic Consciousness as delivered to the American Medico-Psychological Association in 1894 are included.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Cosmic consciousness 1894 American Medico-Psychological Association paper	1894	AFC 117-1-6
Books by Dr. R.M. Bucke and Walt Whitman	1901	AFC 117-1-5

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Series 5 Eleanor Sherman memorial booklet

Dates

1940

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains a memorial booklet for the life of Eleanor Sherman, put together by relatives after her death.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Sketch in memory of a true artist – Eleanor Sherman memorial booklet	1940	AFC 117-1-7

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Series 6 Newspaper clippings

Dates

1902

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains a newspaper account of Dr. Bucke's death, most likely clipped from the London Free Press.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Newspaper account of Dr. R.M. Bucke's death	1902	AFC 117-1-8

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Series 7 **Cosmic consciousness chapter 8 draft**

Dates

1899

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains a typed draft of Dr. R.M. Bucke's Cosmic Consciousness, chapter 8.
Hand-written notations and pasted additions are present on some of the pages.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Cosmic consciousness chapter 8 draft	1899	AFC 117-1-9