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ALLEN, Maryrose Reeves

MSRC Staff

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Maryrose Reeves Allen Papers  
Collection 160-1 to 160-21

Prepared by  
Robin Van Fleet  
June 1993

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

### **Scope Note**

The papers of Maryrose Reeves Allen (1899-1992), educator and administrator, reflect her personal life, education and the teaching positions she held during her lifetime. These papers date from circa 1914, when Mrs. Allen was attending grammar and highschool, until her retirement in 1967. The collection is comprised of 12 linear feet. These papers were acquired in 1992 by Moorland-Spingarn via Mrs. Allen's estate.

Mrs. Allen attended the Sargent School of Physical Education for Women at Boston University from approximately 1920 until 1939. While at the Sargent School, Mrs. Allen completed normal school, undergraduate, graduate school and had begun her doctoral studies. Included in this collection are writings and course work which document Mrs. Allen's progression from student to educator.

From 1925 until 1967, Mrs. Allen served as the head of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Howard University. Before segregation was declared unconstitutional in 1953, eighty percent of the women who taught physical education in schools for black students graduated from Howard University. Mrs. Allen was unique in her leadership and teaching of young women. She tried to instill in these women that beauty and health were synonymous, and that inner beauty would become outer beauty. These theories about beauty are evident in Mrs. Allen's writings and course work for the Sargent School, as well as in her teaching materials for Howard University and the Hampton Institute. Mrs. Allen's curriculum not only focused on sports, but also encompassed anatomy, beauty, body aesthetics, charm, dance and hygiene.

**Scope Note** continued

Other student activities in which Mrs. Allen was involved at Howard University included the annual Beauty Bazaar, Christmas Program, Folk Fiesta, May Festival, Water Show and Sports Day. These activities are documented through programs and photographs.

Mrs. Allen's early personal life is also represented extensively by the vast number of snapshots and photographs of various friends, family, classmates and students. Included are also snapshots of Howard University women participating in sporting events, such as basketball, archery, volleyball and dance.

## Biographical Sketch

Maryrose Reeves Allen

- 1899 March 5 Born in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1914 June 10 Graduated from Indianapolis Public School (Grammar School)
- 1922-42 Taught physical education during summers at Hampton Institute- Hampton, VA.
- 1923 Received diploma from Sargent School of Physical Education for Women at Boston University (Normal School)
- 1923-24 Taught physical training in Trenton Public Schools, Trenton, New Jersey.
- 1925-67 Served as head of the women's physical education department at Howard University.
- 1933 Received B.S. degree from Sargent School of Physical Education for Women, Boston University.
- 1938 Received M.A. degree from Sargent School of Physical Education for Women, Boston University. After graduation, Allen pursued doctoral studies at the Sargent School.
- 1943 Divorced from Dr. E. Henry Allen.
- 1949 July 12 Awarded the Certificate for Meritorious Service- District of Columbia Recreation Board.
- 1963 Jan. 21 Received the Howard University Service Award - for 35 years of service.
- 1965 Oct. 25 Awarded the Howard University Service Award - for 40 years of service.

### Biographical Sketch continued

- 1967 Retired from Howard University.
- 1969 Dec. 5 Received the Charter Centennial Citation for Outstanding Service - Sargent College of Allied Health Professions and The Sargent College Alumni Association - Boston University.
- 1992 Jan. 14 Died after a long illness in Washington, D.C. Buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery - Suitland, Maryland.

#### Sources:

A Celebration of the Life of Professor Maryrose R. Allen March 5, 1899 - January 14, 1992 - Funeral program. "In Memoriam - Maryrose Reeves Allen," *The Capstone*, Vol. 13, No. 3, January 28, 1992, p. 4.

"Physical Education Pioneer Maryrose Reeves Allen Dies," *Washington Post* January 17, 1992.

Professor Maryrose R. Allen. (typescript - biosketch). Maryrose Reeves Allen Papers Box 160-1 Folder 3 "Biographical Information - Maryrose Allen" Mrs. Mary Marshall - friend of Mrs. Allen.

## Series Description

### Series A

Box 160-1  
to Box 160-2

#### Personal Papers

Biographical information, family materials, certificates, awards, printed matter and items relating to Mrs. Allen's role at Howard University. Included is a manuscript titled: Lamentation (Giving Content to the Concept Deity) by [T.L. O'Toole?]. Funeral material for Allen's mother and stepfather are also included.

### Series B

Box 160-3  
  
to Box 160-7

#### Education

Grammar school, normal course, bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctoral studies are included. The material is comprised of exercises, experiments, papers, diplomas, report cards and yearbooks. Allen's membership in honor societies is also represented.

### Series C

Box 160-7  
to 160-10

#### Teaching Materials

Included are materials representing Allen's short term with the Trenton, New Jersey public schools. Howard University materials include course plans and outlines; special events, such as, beauty bazaar, folk fiesta, may festivals, water shows & sports day. Service awards, yearbooks, and other general materials from Howard University are included as well. Course outlines from Hampton Institute are also a part of this series. Most of these materials were compiled in notebooks and were disassembled for preservation purposes. Items are listed as they appeared in each notebook.

### Series D

Box 160-11  
to Box 160-16

#### Photographs

This series contains snapshots and photographs of Maryrose Allen and her friends and colleagues, including Pearl Bailey, Louia Vaughn Jones, Joe Louis and Pearl Primus. It also contains snapshots and photographs of Howard University activities, including women's sports and classes in dance, archery, gymnastics and basketball. The snapshots also document Allen's trip to Hawaii in 1974 and her frequent trips to Bermuda. Four painted miniatures have been unframed and added to this series. The artist appears to have been Sylvia Sani. Additional snapshots and photographs are also located in Sargent School Scrapbook, Series E.

### Series Description continued

**Series E      Sargent School Scrapbook**

Box 160-17    Includes publicity magazine photographs from the Sargent School camp; limited correspondence; cards, programs, news clippings, invitations, and memorabilia.

**Series F      Oversize**

Box 160-18    Posters, photographs, paintings, plaques, scrapbooks, yearbooks and frames.  
to Box 160-19

**Series G      Restricted**

Box 160-20    Fragile copy of manuscript entitled Lamentation (Giving Content to the Concept  
to Box 160-21 Deity). Use photocopy located in Personal Papers, Box 160-1. Also included is a fragile copy of the autographed pages of Allen's Sargent School Scrapbook. Use photocopy located in Sargent School Scrapbook, Box 160-17. Frames separated from photographs located in Series E are also in this series.



## Container List

### Series A

Box

160-1

### Personal Papers

Folder

#### Biographical Materials

1 Biographical Information - Maryrose Allen

2 Funeral program and obituary

#### Family Materials

3 Walden, Frank S. - Funeral Program - 1943 [Allen's stepfather]

4 Walden, Mary Willis S. - Financial Church Record - 12/31/57 [Allen's mother]

5 Walden, Mary Willis S. - Funeral Program - 1964

#### Certificates and Awards

6 Award - District of Columbia Recreation Board - July 12, 1949

7 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority - Lambda Omega Chapter, n.d.,  
Membership Certificate.

8 Pi Lambda Theta - Alpha Gamma Chapter 1935- 1939, Membership  
Certificate (see photographs for photo)

9 License - Trenton Public Schools - Limited Special Certificate by  
Endorsement. License to teach and to supervise physical training

in

New Jersey - July 1, 1923

#### Howard University

10 Personnel Directory - 1962-63

11 Retirement - 1967

12 Service Award - 35 years - January 21, 1963

13 Service Award - 40 years - October 25, 1965

14 Bison Yearbook, 1928

15 Bison Yearbook, 1943

#### Printed Matter

16 The Development of a Check List Instrument For

Analyzing the Sex

Education Content of College Health Education Text Books, by  
Blanche T. Vessels, 1971, doctoral dissertation dedicated to  
Maryrose Allen

160-2

Lamentation (Giving Content to the Concept Deity) - by [T.L.  
O'Toole?] - 1935 Photocopy only. Fragile original. (Restricted,  
Series G, Box 160-21)

## Container List

### Series A

Box

160-2

### Personal Papers continued

Folder

- 1 Dedication, Preface and Introduction - pp. 1- 34
- 2 Book I - The Creation - pp. 35-66
- 3 Book II - Admiration - pp. 67-91
- 4 Book III - The Human - pp. 92-120
- 5 Book IV - The Patriot - pp. 121-148
- 6 Book V - Friendship and Love - pp. 149 -176
- 7 Book VI - Friendship and Love (continued) - pp. 177-205
- 8 Book VII - Woman - pp. 206-235
- 9 Book VIII - War - pp. 236-266
  - 10 Book IX - Anger - pp. 267-297
  - 11 Book X - Union and Strength - pp. 298-327
  - 12 Book XI - The Judgment - pp. 328-371
  - 13 Book XII - Visitation - pp. 372-395
  - 14 Book XIII - Freedom - pp. 396-425
  - 15 Book XIV - Faith - pp. 426-453
  - 16 Book XV - Fate - pp. 454-483
  - 17 Book XVI - Destiny - pp. 484-508 (The End)
  - 18 Olympics - 1960 Program - Rome
  - 19 Address Book
  - 20 1968 - Notes
  - 21 Eastern Society of Directors of Physical Education for  
College Women, April 11 & 12, 1938 - program
- 22 Mother's Day Cards - 1973
- 23 Sargent, Dr. Dudley A. - obituary - July 21, n.d.
- 24 Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs -

College

1938

### Series B

160-3

### Education

- 1 Indianapolis Public Schools - Grammar School Diploma - June 10, 1914
  - Sargent School of Physical Education - Boston University - Normal Course (completed 1923)
- 2 Diploma (Photocopy only. Original in Oversize, Series G, Box 160-18)
- 3 Handbook of Sargent School - 1921-1922
- 4 Report Card - 1920-1921
- 5 Senior Week Program - Class of 1923
- 6 Commencement Exercises and Baccalaureate Services - 1923
- 7 Yearbook - 1922 - Photocopy only. Fragile original. (Restricted,

Series

G, Box 160-21)  
8 Yearbook - 1923

Container List

**Series B**

Box  
160-3

**Education** continued

Folder

- 9 49th Reunion - 1972  
10 50th Reunion - 1973  
11 Charter - Centennial Citation for Outstanding Service -  
1969

December 5,

Sargent School of Physical Education - Boston University - Bachelor of  
Science (completed 1933)

- 12 Diploma - 1933  
13 Transcripts (2) - 1932 and 1933

Writings

- 14 "Tuberculosis of the Joints"

Coursework

- 15 "Biology Drawings"  
16 "Electrotherapy Outline for Physical Therapy Course"

160-4

Sargent School of Physical Education - Boston University - Master  
of Education (1938)

- 1 Commencement Exercises Program - June 13, 1938  
2 Diploma - 1938

Writings

- 3 An outline: "A Review of the Problem"  
4 An outline: "The Development of Beauty in College Women Through  
Health and Physical Education" - 1938

Coursework

- 5 Aesthetics - 1937-38  
6 Health Education - Notes - 1937  
7 Methods in Educational Research, n.d.  
8 Philosophy of Education: "Beauty"  
9 Philosophy of Education: Lecture Notes

- 10 Yearbook - Sargenta - 1937  
11 Yearbook - The Hub - 1938



Container List

**Series B**

Box

160-5

**Education**

Folder

Sargent School of Physical Education - Boston University -  
Doctoral Studies

Writings

1 "An Independent Study Course on the Problem of the Development of  
Beauty in College Women through Health and Physical Education"  
-1939 -

Book Reviews & Comments

2 "Judgments of Physical Beauty in the Faces of Women" - text

3 "Judgments of Physical Beauty in the Faces of a Women" - 1937-39

Judgments of Physical Beauty in the Faces of Women - text

4 Project notes

5 Project photographs

6 Project photographs

7 Project photographs

8 Project photographs

9 Project photographs

10 Project photographs

160-6

1 Project photographs

2 Project photographs

3 Project photographs

4 "The Measurement & Relationship Between Beauty, Physical,

& Character" Traits - 1938-39

5 "Methods of Teaching Physical Development and Body Control  
Through Rhythmic Activities" -1939

6 Outline of Six Lectures and Reports - Rhythmic Activities -  
1939

Mental

Coursework

7 Aesthetics - 1939 (includes a notebook of notes)

8 Educational Statistics - 1939

9 History of Painting - Notes - 1938

10 Measurement of Intelligence - 1938

11 "A Review of the Studies in P.E."

12 Sculpture - Notes - [1939]

13 "A Survey of Cor. Proc. in P.E." - 1938

Container List

**Series B**

Box

160-7

**Education** continued

Folder

- Experimental Psychology
- 1 Case Studies
- 2 Exercises
- 3 Experiments
- 4 Experiments
- 5 Experiments
- 6 Personality Tests, n.d.
- 7 Final Exams
- 8 Readings

**Series C**

160-7

**Teaching Materials**

- 9 Beauty - News clippings
- 10 Beauty - Near print articles
- 11 Beauty - Notes
- 12 Charm
- 13 Howard University - Department of Physical Education description & activities
- 14 Hygiene
- 15 Sports & fitness

160-8

Teaching Materials - Book 1 Howard University  
Course Plans & Outlines:

- 1 Anatomy Lectures
- 2 "The Anatomy of Integrity"
- 3 Beauty
- 4 Beauty - n.d.
- 5 Beauty Clinic
- 6 Body Aesthetics
- 7 Body Aesthetics
- 8 Charm
- 9 Committee Appointed on Athletic Situation -1939
- 10 Course Description

Dance

- 11 Dance Club Plans 1952-53
- 12 Excerpts from reviews of Modern Dance Group

Container List

**Series C**

Box

160-8

**Teaching Materials** continued

Folder

- 13 "The History of the Howard University Modern Dance Group" - 25  
years
- 14 "The History of the Howard University Modern Dance  
Group" - 30  
years
- 15 "The History of the Howard University Modern Dance  
Group" - 35  
years
- 16 "The Deeper Meaning of the Department of Physical  
Education for  
Women"
- 17 "The Deeper Meaning of the Department of Physical  
Education for  
Women"
- 18 "The Deeper Meaning of the Department of Physical  
Education for  
Women"
- 19 [Department of Physical Education - incomplete] - ca. 1954
- 20 "The Department of Physical Education for Women - Delores Y.  
Pinkston"
- 21 "The Department of Physical Education for Women - Judith Jaffe" -  
Dance
- 22 "The Department of Physical Education for Women - Kay  
F.  
Browne" - Swimming
- 23 "Focus: On the Beauty of Humanity"
- Foundations of the Individual
- 24 Bones
- 25 Cancer - Dr. Lombard
- 26 The Foot
- 27 Individual Action of Abdominal Muscles
- 28 Muscles
- 29 Special Reports - Athletic Injuries
- 30 Special Reports - Physical Fitness Index - Mr. Hines
- 31 Sex Hygiene (Dr. Dearborn)
- 32 Three Lectures on the Feet

160-9

Teaching Materials - Book 2 Howard University  
Course Plans & Outlines

1 [Goals of Department]

2 Health and Civil Defense - Physical Education I - 1964-65

Container List

**Series C**  
Box  
160-  
materials

**Teaching Materials** continued

Folder

3 Health Examination Material Used at Howard University [other

included] by Health Service - Department of Physical Education  
for Women

4 Human Anatomy

5 Letter from Allen to Mr. Goodman - February 5 & 6, 1957 - Re:  
Background on Physical Education Department for Women

6 "Objectives of Physical Education for Women"

7 "Philosophy for Howard University & Department of Physical

Education

for Women"

8 [Quotes & Comments Relating to Physical Fitness and Education]

9 "Selections from Great Educators Throughout the Ages on the  
Importance of Physical Education - by Frederick Rand Rogers"

10 Special Studies - 1939-41

11 "Step 2 of the Self-Study Project - Implementation of

Purposes &

Objectives"

Hampton Institute - Health Workshop:

12 Health Problems of the Teacher and the Child -1945-46

13 "A Study of the Health Problems of the Teacher and the Child" - 1944

14 "Student Committee Reports"

15 "A Study of the Health Problems of the Teacher and the

Child" -

1944 (2 copies)

16 ["A Study of the Health Problems of the Teacher and the Child"

-

incomplete]

160-10

Printed Material

1 "An Editorial: Focus: On the Beauty of Humanity"

2 Healthy Happy Womanhood, 1920 (2 copies)

3 The Newer Knowledge of Feminine Hygiene, 1943

4 Picture Story of Woman's Sexual Life, 1934

5 The Question of Petting, by Max J. Exner, 1931

6 "The Woman Within," by Stephen Baker



- Special Events  
 7 Beauty Bazaar - 1967  
 8 Folk Fiesta - 1967

Container List

**Series C**

Box

160-10

**Teaching Materials** continued

Folder

Special Events - May Festivals

9 List of May Queens 1940-1966

10 [Costumes, n.d.]

11 Programs, n.d.

12 14th Annual - 1940

13 15th Annual - 1941

14 16th Annual - 1942

15 17th Annual - 1943

16 18th Annual - 1944

17 19th Annual - 1945

18 20th Annual - 1946

19 21st Annual - 1947

20 22nd Annual - 1948

21 23rd Annual - 1949

22 29th Annual - 1961

23 33rd Annual - 1965

24 34th Annual - 1966

25 35th Annual - 1967

26 Water Shows - 1959; 1968

27 Women's Athletic Association Sports Day [includes

Constitution]

[1949-1956; 1965]

Writings

- 28 "Women's Physical Education Stresses Body Sculpture Through Movement," Howard University Bulletin, March 15, 1957, pp. 5-7, by Maryrose Allen

**Series D**

**Photographs**

Maryrose Allen

160-11

1 As a young girl alone

2 As a young girl with unidentified others

3 As a young woman alone

4 As a young woman with unidentified others

- 5 As a middle-aged woman alone
- 6 As a middle-aged woman with unidentified others

Container List

<b>Series D</b>	<b>Photographs</b> continued
Box	Folder
160-11	7 As an older woman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 In Bermuda</li> <li>9 At Hampton Institute           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 At Howard University</li> <li>11 At the Sargent School - Boston University</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
160-12	Identified People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 A-B</li> <li>2 Allen, Henry</li> <li>3 Bailey, Pearl</li> <li>4 Bubbles - 1932 - Ziegfield Follies - autographed - Photographer: Stigers           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Buck and Bubbles - 1932 - autographed (2 photographs) - Photographer: Strand - New York</li> <li>6 Buck, Bubbles &amp; Sugar Babe - The Three Ink Spots - n.d. Signed photograph</li> <li>7 C-D</li> <li>8 E-H</li> <li>9 I-L               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Jones, Louia Vaughn - 1930</li> <li>11 Kappa Alpha Psi - [Indiana University] - 1918</li> <li>12 Louis, Joe - n.d. autographed photograph</li> </ul> </li> <li>13 M-P</li> <li>14 Pioneer Theatre - photograph of the company</li> <li>15 Primus, Pearl (see also Oversize, Box 160-18)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 Q-S</li> <li>17 T-Z</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
160-13	Howard University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Folk Fiesta - 1958-1959 Color photographs</li> <li>2 Folk Fiesta - 1965 Color photographs</li> <li>3 Folk Fiesta - n.d. Color photographs</li> <li>4 May Festival - 1958 Color photographs</li> </ul>

- 5 May Festival - 1959 Color photographs
- 6 May Festival - n.d.: Color photograph (see also oversized Box 18)
- 7 Water Show - 1965 Color photographs

Container List

**Series D**

Box

160-13

8

**Photographs** continued

Folder

Water Show - n.d. Color photographs

9 Photographs - Howard University - Unidentified dancers

160-14

1

Howard University - buildings

2 Howard University - unidentified events

3 Howard University - student activities

4 Howard University - student activities

5 Howard University - student activities

Bermuda

6 Bermuda - people and scenes

7 Bermuda - May Festival - n.d. - Unidentified photographs

8 Bermuda - May Festival - n.d. - Unidentified photographs

9 Bermuda - Sports Day - n.d. [Bermuda] - Ailess Francis; Ursula Young; Leon Nearon

Hampton Institute

10 Hampton Institute: Unidentified women (2) getting their

hair curled -

n.d. - Photographer: Cheyne's Studio- Hampton, VA

Hawaii

11 Hawaii - April 1974: Color photographs

160-15

Unidentified Photographs

1 Babies

2 Young girls

3 Young girls

4 Young women

5 Young women

6 Young women

7 Young women

8 Young women

9 Young women

10 Young women

11 Women

- 12 Women
- 13 Older women

Container List

**Series D**

Box

160-16

1

**Photographs** continued

Folder

Groups of women

2 Groups of women

3 Groups of women

4 Young boys

5 Young men

6 Young men

7 Men

8 Men

9 Groups of men

10 Groups-mixed (men & women)

11 Groups-mixed (men & women)

12 Groups-mixed (men & women)

13 Groups-mixed (men & women)

14 Places, landscapes, animals, houses and interiors

**Series E**

160-17

1 Publicity magazine photographs & captions for Sargent School Summer  
Camp

2 Publicity magazine photographs & captions for Sargent School Summer  
Camp

3 Correspondence

4 Greeting cards

5 Programs & news clippings

6 Invitations

Photographs - People

7 A-Z

Photographs

8 Maryrose Allen

9 Maryrose Allen

10 Scrapbook pages - signed by friends - photocopies - ca. 1922

For

original pages - see Oversize, Box 18

Container List

<b>Series E</b>	<b>Sargent School Scrapbook</b> continued
Box	Folder
	Memorabilia
160-17	11 Beanie - signed with different fraternity names - n.d.
	12 Number "6" - probably worn in sporting events - n.d.
	13 Mortar Board
<b>Series F</b>	<b>Oversize</b>
160-18	- Sargent School Scrapbook - original pages signed by friends - (use photocopy seen in "Sargent School Scrapbook," Series E, Box 160-17)
	-Diploma for Maryrose Reeves - Sargent School - Normal Course -
1923	-Musical score, "My Dreams of You" - Fox Trot - Ballad - original manuscript - Words & Music by Harry G. Fleming - May 4, 1925
	-Musical score, "Passion Flower" - Waltz Song - original manuscript by Harry G. Fleming - n.d. - no words written
Department	-Matted poster: "Body Sculpture through Movement - The of Physical Education for Women"
	-Female dancer at Howard University May Day Festival - n.d. Photographer: Scurlock
	-Pearl Primus - wearing a grass skirt - n.d. - Photographer: Scurlock
	-Unidentified portrait of an older woman - n.d. - Photographer: Scurlock
Scurlock	-Unidentified portrait of a young woman - n.d. - Photographer: Scurlock
	-Unidentified photograph of a female dancer on stage -n.d. - Photographer: Scurlock
	-Unidentified photograph a male dancer - n.d.
	-Unidentified closeup photograph [photostat] of a female dancer - n.d.
	-Painting of hands praying with a cross - by Percy Ellis - n.d.
160-19	-Oil painting of Maryrose Allen by Mary Cav[er] - n.d.
	-Plaque awarded to Maryrose Allen by the Parents Club of the Northeast Academy of Dance - May 14, 1966 - "For promoting cultural standards as Head of the Physical Education Department at Howard University"

Container List

<b>Series G</b>	<b>Restricted</b>
Box	Folder
160-20	1 Original manuscript for Lamentation (Giving Content to the Concept Deity - [by T.L.O'Toole?] - 1935 - use Photocopy in Personal Papers, Series A, Box 160-1
	2 Sargent School Yearbook - 1922 - use Photocopy in Education, Series B, Box 160-3a:
160-21	Six picture frames, including photocopies of photographs. See Photographs, Series D, for original photographs.