



**COLLEGE ARCHIVES**

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Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082-1498

**Gustavus Adolphus College Archives  
St. Peter, Minnesota**

**Johnson, Chester O. and Marian R. (Swanson). Papers of Chet and  
Marian Johnson, 1935-2010.**

**CAMC Collection 157**

**Johnson, Chester O. and Marian R. (Swanson). Papers of Chet and Marian Johnson, 1935-2010. CAMC Collection 157. 1 Records Center Carton.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Chester and Marian Johnson Papers collection contains correspondence, writings, recordings, talks, and photographs. Chet Johnson taught Geology and worked as the Lutheran Church Archivist at Gustavus Adolphus College from 1978-2001. Marian taught in the college's English Department and worked in the Library. Furthermore, she started and oversaw the library at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter, Minnesota.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Chester Otto Johnson was born 1 February 1913 in Moline, Illinois. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, he received a master's degree from the University of Chicago. Johnson taught Geology at Gustavus Adolphus College from 1940-78 and on a part-time basis from 1978-82. After retiring as a full-time professor he took over as the Lutheran Church Archivist, a position he held until 2001.

Marian Ruth Swanson was born 5 November 1920 in Dunnell, Minnesota. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1941 where she was the second woman to hold the position of editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper, *The Gustavian Weekly*. After marrying Chet on 4 November 1944, Marian worked in the English Department at Gustavus throughout the 1940s-50s, and during the 1960s-70s, she worked in the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. Marian enjoyed library work; she started libraries at both the elementary school and Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Peter. She was the first female member of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council as well as the first woman church council member in the Minnesota Synod. She published many articles and wrote two books concerning to church libraries.

In 1993, Chet and Marian donated an endowment for the Prairie Overlook and Boulder Garden in Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus. In 2001, Walter Youngquist established two endowments at Gustavus in honor of Chet, the Chester O. Johnson Geology Scholarship and the Chester O. Johnson and Walter L. Youngquist Geology Student Research/Field Studies Fund. The Johnsons also donated an endowment to the College and Lutheran Church Archives to be used to support research and publication related to the college and various synods of the Lutheran Church that established and have supported the college. In 2002 Chet received the Gustavus Association of Congregations Covenant Award, and Chet and Marian received the Greater Gustavus Award.

The Johnson's had two children, Christine (Feldman) and Martin. Chester Johnson died 8 December 2009 and Marian followed on 1 January 2010.

\*Information taken from materials within the collection.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

This collection is divided into three series: Chester Johnson, Marian Johnson, and Both Chet and Marian Johnson.

**Chester Johnson, 1935-2009** consists of correspondence, chapel talks, radio talks, and sermons by Chester Johnson. This series is arranged alphabetically.

**Marian Johnson, 1946-2010** holds correspondence, gradebooks, talks, writings, and published books by Marian Johnson. This series is arranged alphabetically.

**Both Chet and Marian Johnson, 1944-2004** has audio recordings, talks, correspondence, writings, and photographs about or by both Chet and Marian Johnson together. This series is arranged alphabetically.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There **are** some restrictions on the use of this collection due to student grades. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the College Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

Johnson, Chester O. and Marian R. (Swanson). Papers of Chet and Marian Johnson, 1935-2010. CAMC Collection 157. Gustavus Adolphus College Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

**ACQUISITION:**

Christine Johnson Feldman donated this collection during October 2015.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Adrianna Darden processed this collection and developed the finding aid during November 2016.

**RELATED COLLECTIONS IN THE ARCHIVES:**

Johnson, Marian Swanson. Collection of Marian Swanson Johnson, 1926-2006. GACA Collection 189.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Johnson, Chester Otto.

Johnson, Marian Ruth (Swanson).

Gustavus Adolphus College -- faculty.

Gustavus Adolphus College -- Alumni.

<b>CAMC Collection 157</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Chester Johnson, 1935-2009</b>		
Bergendoff Tape, Augustana College, 11 June 1985 (audio cassette)	1	30
Chapel Talks, 1941-96	1	1
Chapel Talk, Columbus Day, 8 October 1973 (audio cassette)	1	30
Chapel Talk, 15 May 1978 (audio cassette)	1	30
Correspondence to, from, and regarding Walter Youngquist, 1998-2003	1	2
Materials relating to Chester Johnson and Augustana College, 1935-2006 and undated	1	3
Memorial Program and Obituary, 2009	1	36
Radio Talks, 1940-42	1	4
Sermons, 1952-72	1	5
Talks, 1939-2002 and undated	1	6
<b>Marian Johnson, 1946-2010</b>		
Correspondence regarding publications, 1961-74	1	7
Gradebooks, 1946-47 and 1955-56 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	1	8
Gradebooks, 1956-57 and 1957-58 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	1	9
Gradebooks, 1958-59 and 1959-60 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	1	10
Gradebooks, 1960-61 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	1	11
Gustavus Library Associates, St. Lucia Brunch, 10 December 1991 (audio cassette)	1	31
Memorial Program, 2010	1	36
Papers written for Library School, 1969-70	1	12
<i>Planning and Furnishing the Church Library</i> by Marian Johnson, 1965-73, 1991, and undated	1	13
<i>Promoting Your Church Library</i> by Marian Johnson, 1968-83 and undated	1	14
Published articles about church libraries, 1960-83 and undated	1	15
Published articles on various subjects, 1960-89	1	16
“Remembering Our People” Narrative Script for Prairie Overlook Dedication, 1993 (audio cassette)	1	31
Talks, 1963-64	1	17
Talks, 1966	1	18
Talks, 1967-69	1	19
Talks, 1973-79	1	20
Talks, 1980, 1991, 2002, and undated	1	21
Typed manuscripts of articles on various subjects, 1959-91 and undated	1	22
<b>Both Chet and Marian Johnson, 1944-2004</b>		
45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, 4 November 1989 (audio cassette)	1	32
Alabaster Bible, undated	1	34
Celebrate Minnesota, 1990	1	23
Clippings, 1943-2002 and undated	1	24

Christmas Greetings from Tuve Lagerith and Swedish Christmas Songs, 1984 (audio cassette)	1	32
Correspondence, 1959-2006 and undated	1	25
Correspondence with Toshio and Toshiko Aoki, 1977-88	1	26
Handmade Stamps from Toshio Aoki, 1977	1	35
Photographs, 1961, 1962, 1967, 1978, and undated	1	27
Prairie Overlook and Boulder Circle, Linnaeus Arboretum, 1993-94	1	28
Valley View Reunion, Table Grace and Intro to Gloria Benson, 3 July 1995 (audio cassette)	1	33
Valley View Reunion, Basket, Kyle Birthday, Bill Robertz - Marian Johnson, 3 July 1995 (audio cassette)	1	33
Valley View Reunion, Bob Esbjornson, Conclusion, 3 July 1995 (audio cassette)	1	33
Wedding Invitation, 4 November 1994	1	36
Writings and Talks, 1991-92, 2002, and 2004	1	29