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Microfilm collection on early feminist acquired  
by Wilfrid Laurier University library

A vast film collection of documents concerning Jane Addams, early social worker and advocate of women's rights, has been purchased by the library of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Erich Schultz, chief librarian, said the collection is a rich, primary resource for research in social work, women's studies, history, political science and sociology.

Jane Addams founded Hull-House in Chicago in 1889, the continent's first settlement house and, for a time, the residence of William Lyon Mackenzie King, later prime minister of Canada.

More than 120,000 pages of documents--including diaries, childhood jottings and even a phrenology chart--are in the collection, which comprises 90 reels and 35 mm microfilm. It was purchased at a cost of \$3,900 U.S.

When Hull-House opened in a former mansion, then in the centre of an impoverished immigrant area, it was far in advance of its time and became a model for much that was to follow in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

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It provided such novelties, for the time, as a lunchroom and nursery for the children of working women, a circulating library and children's clubs. Hull-House also offered instruction in a variety of practical and academic areas on a part-time basis.

Although always conscious of the needs of her neighborhood, Jane Addams was active on a national level in the interests of peace, recreation, industrial education and social work.

She worked to outlaw child labor and to improve social conditions, especially for young women, children and immigrants.

When war broke out in 1914, she turned her attentions to peace and, in 1915, became president of the Women's Peace Party. Her activities brought her into deep disfavour with many of her fellow citizens, a view that changed only when she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

She died four years later.