York's Founding Librarian Made H[er]story: Remembering Gladys Jarrett

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REMEMBERING GLADYS JARRETT

By JOHN DROBNICKI, Professor/Head of Acquisitions & Collection Development

Gladys Jarrett was the first Library faculty member hired at York College, and was one of the original three librarians when the college opened, along with Judith Bartlett and Ben DiRusso. Her career at York spanned 1967-1985, during which time she served as Head of Cataloging, Head of Public Services, Acting Chief Librarian, and Chief Librarian.

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M.A. in Spanish (1937). After earning her Master’s, she began teaching Spanish and English at Langston University in Oklahoma. On August 20, 1939, she married Hobart Sidney Jarrett, a Shakespeare scholar who was also teaching at Langston. Hobart Jarrett was a survivor of the notorious 1921 Tulsa race riot, and was also a member of the Wiley College debate team that was portrayed in the 2007 motion picture, The Great Debaters.

Although her husband remained at Langston until 1949, Gladys Jarrett began working for the New York Public Library as a Technical Services assistant in 1948. While Hobart began work on a Ph.D. at Syracuse University and worked as Professor and Chair of Humanities at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina (1949-1961), Gladys worked as a Public Services clerk in the Syracuse University Library (1953-1954), before becoming Head Cataloger at the F. D. Bluford Library at the North Carolina Agricultural &Technical College in Greensboro (1957-1961), without a Library Science degree, although she took classes at the University of North Carolina during the Summer of 1960.

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York Nursing Professor Goes Global

During the January break, Professor Margarett Alexandre had the opportunity to travel to Haiti to provide educational support as a Visiting Professor to the Faculte de Sciences Infirmieres Nursing School at the Universite Publique de L’Aribonite aux Gonaives (UPAG), Haiti. The trip was supported by York College and a grant obtained from the Office of Academic Affairs/Office of the University Dean of Health and Human Services.

A different version of this article was published earlier by Women of Library History and can be found at http://womenoflibraryhistory.tumblr.com/post/113784963201/gladys-w-jarrett.