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## Price, Sarah Frances "Sadie," 1849-1903 (MSS 212)

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Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 212      PRICE, Sarah Frances “Sadie,” 1849-1903**

1 box. 11 folders. 39 items. 1893-1963. Originals, photocopies, typescripts.

2010.27.76

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Sarah Frances “Sadie” Price was born in 1849 in Evansville, Indiana, the third child of Alexander and Maria (Morehouse) Price. The family moved to Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky when Sadie was an infant. During the Civil War the Prices, Union sympathizers, returned to Indiana where Sadie was educated at St. Agnes Hall in Terre Haute. The Prices re-settled in Bowling Green following the war, but the decade of the 1870s saw the death of Sadie’s parents and of her brother Edward. Sadie taught painting and her sister Mary did fancy embroidery to supplement their inheritance. In the late 1880s, despite ill-health, Sadie began her career as an amateur botanist by gathering, cataloging, and illustrating the region’s plants and birds. She organized and taught nature classes from her home. She wrote papers, gave lectures and discovered and named new species of aster, clematis, dogwood, sour grass, and violets. Her collection of plant specimens numbered almost 3,000. Her water color paintings of Warren County plants were awarded a first prize in the Herbarium Sketch Work Exhibit at the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893. Before her death she published three books: *Flora of Warren County, Kentucky* (1893), *Fern Collectors Handbook and Herbarium* (1896), and *The Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky* (1898). Sadie died suddenly on 3 July 1903 in Bowling Green and is buried in Fairview Cemetery. Today her extensive collection of specimens and paintings is housed at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. WKU’s Kentucky Library & Museum owns several of her paintings.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists of published and unpublished botanical works by Sarah Frances “Sadie” Price. The published works include the book *Flora of Warren County, Kentucky* and five journal articles. Among the unpublished materials are Price’s scrapbook, pen and ink and water color illustrations, and a botany card game, *The Phaenogamia*. Also includes photographs of Price and tributes to her after her death.

## ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>PRICE, Sarah Frances “Sadie”</b>	<b>1893-1963</b>	<b>39 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Botany scrapbook	n.d.	1 item
Folder 3	<i>Flora of Warren County, Kentucky</i>	1893	1 item
Folder 4	Five articles by Price published in journals and magazines	1898-1906	6 items
Folder 5	Ink drawing of <i>Apios priceana</i> ; verses transcribed by Price onto a maple leaf-shaped cutout; color sketches of <i>Viola priceana</i> ; [hand-drawn?] calling card of Sadie Price	n.d.	5 items
Folder 6	<i>The Phaenogamia</i> , a botanical game developed by Price for Stella Riggs Fitch; note from Fitch’s family giving game to Kentucky Library	n.d.	2 items
Folder 7	<i>The Water-Babies</i> by Charles Kingsley with cover painted by Price	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	Game of artists developed by Price; Christmas booklet containing plant specimens	1894; n.d.	2 items
Folder 9	Photographs of Price, her garden, and child Emory Smith in her garden	1894-1895	7 items
Folder 10	Comments about Price after her death and news clipping about her and her home	1903; 1963	4 items
Folder 11	Correspondence related to Price; bibliography of her articles about birds; Christmas poem by Frank M Thomas with cover painted by Price; calling cards of Sadie and sister Mary Price	1937	9 items

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS PRICE, Sarah Frances 1893-1963  
212 "Sadie," 1849-1903

Journal articles, scrapbook and botanical illustrations of Price, a Bowling Green, Kentucky naturalist and artist. Also includes a copy of her book *Flora of Warren County, Kentucky* and a botanical card game, *Phaenogamia*, that she developed.

1 box. 11 folders. 39 items. Originals, photocopies, typescripts.  
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## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Art and artists

Barnhart, John Hendley, 1871-1949 F11

Botanists

Botany F2-6

Games F6&8

*Flora of Warren County, Kentucky* F3

Helm, Margie May, 1894-1991 – Letters to, 1937 F11

McGee, Nora F11

Naturalists

Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 – Letter to, 1964 F11

Price, Sarah Frances "Sadie," 1849-1903 – Photos F9

Smith, Lionel Emory, 1891-1988 – Photos F9

Thomas, Frank Morehead, 1868-1921 F10-11

Warren County – Flora F2-3

*The Water-Babies* F7

Winchell, Constance Mabel, 1896-1983 F11

Lile/Jeffrey 06/05/2008