Drama on a Women’s Campus

The Ardeleons

Part 1

1915

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
Note that there are two Borgerdings in the photo.

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
Many of the student organizations date back to the early days of the college. The Ardeleons, a dramatic club, carries on the work begun by Sister Dominica Borgerding and Sister Marcine Schirber.
St. Ben’s Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
Were there males in the cast, too? Hard to tell...

1936

Cymbeline, a, Shakesperian Play 1936

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
...until you see this photo, with names attached.

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
1939 Facula, p.20
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/9323/rec/2
All women here.
They spent a lot of time on makeup.
1940

The original Johnnie-Bennie Campus News crew?

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/7045/rec/3
1940 Facula, p. 34
Males are back on the cast. Maybe having women as clergy was just out of the question. (Then, as now?)
More males than females on the cast:

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
The sisters’ mission work in China led to several Chinese students coming to CSB in the 1930s. The Ardeleons put on quite a few plays of Chinese origin over the years.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/7198/rec/12
1942 Facula, p. 30
1943 Back to all-women casts

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
1946

St. Ben's Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT

presents

ABDELEONS

in

THE SONG OF BERNADETTE

dramatized from Waife's novel

by

JEAN and WALTER KERR

ST. JOSEPH AUDITORIUM
ST. JOSEPH, MINNESOTA
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1946
8:00 P.M.

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

1946

CHARACTERS

Violette Marie Therese Victorine

Joanne Ahadie, school girl friend of Bernadette

Bernadette Soubirous

Marie Soubirous, Bernadette’s sister

St. Peter’s Church

St. Philippine

Jeanne Calixte

Aunt Annie

Jas. M. Lee

Maria Curie

Dr. Curie

Caitlin

St. Joseph's Hospital

Colonel, Dean Puydauphine’s housekeeper

St. Philippine, steward of the Tolous asylum

Mother Josephine, superior of the Jesus Congregation

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
Clubs

Further opportunity for recreation, social life, and cultural pursuits is offered by the various clubs. In joining clubs a student who maintains an average of A may select 18 points, one who maintains an average of B, 15 points, and one who maintains an average of C, 9 points. The point-rating of the various clubs follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP I</th>
<th>GROUP II</th>
<th>GROUP III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Points</td>
<td>6 Points</td>
<td>3 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchestra</td>
<td>I. R. C.</td>
<td>Lukonians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choral Ensemble</td>
<td>Ardeleons</td>
<td>Readers' Guild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facula</td>
<td>W. A. A. Cabinet</td>
<td>Sigma Kappa Phi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benet</td>
<td>Scribes and Critics</td>
<td>Sodality Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly and Scribes and Critics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A student having a service contract, which carries 6 points, may select a club from any one of the three groups.
St. Ben’s Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
Reasons why ARDELEONS is known as one of the most active clubs on campus are evident in their presentation of *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*, *Twelfth Night*, and *A Good Vintage*. The club, open to any student interested in dramatics, is divided into two groups, the junior and senior.
1950 All-female cast

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
When Shakespeare’s Ladies Meet Ardeleons costumed Theater and Drama 1930-1970s 51 2
1950 All-female cast

All-male cast

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
An all-female cast and an all-male cast doing similar productions. Did this mark the beginning of something new?

1950

A unique presentation by the Ardeleons this year was “When Shakespeare’s Ladies Meet,” directed by Doris Bogut. Co-operating with the Johnny Players who produced “When Shakespeare’s Gentlemen Get Together,” the two one-act plays were presented at both St. Benedict’s and St. John’s. Pictured below are Shakespeare’s ladies and gentlemen who were brought together: Mark Antony and Cleopatra, Petruchio and Katherine, Ophelia and Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Desdemona and Othello, and Shylock and Portia.
Back to an all-female cast...

COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT
presents
ARDELEONS
in
AS YOU LIKE IT
by
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

St. Joseph Auditorium
St. Joseph, Minnesota
April 22, 1951

CAST
(In Order Of Their Speaking)

Celia............................. Jeanne Havre
Rosalind............................. Dea Dunn
Touchstone...................... Marianne Mistry
Le Beau............................ Rosemary Hynes
Duke Frederick..................... Annella O'Meara
Orlando............................ Teri Bogert
Adam............................... Marianne Keiseg
Duke Senior........................ Delores Kohler
Ariel.............................. Florence Hordwig
First Lord........................ Sheila Harvey
Second Lord....................... Carolyn Trier
Jaques.......................... Mary Anne Hunt
Cris................................. Patricia Peter
Silvia............................ Ludmilla Pedrano
Flute................................ Betty Zimmerman
William......................... Jovita Bote
Audiary......................... Mary McElroy
Olive............................ Kathleen Schnaider
Lords and Ladies....... Phyliss Slockman, Jean Marie Guttier

Jeannine Grzukowski, Mary Lou Casey, Betty Lou Sweet

St. Ben's Monastery Archives RG 22-6B-2 f1, Programs
...but who was the Director?
**Answer:** St. John’s Fr. Dominic Keller, who gave the SJU Archives the programs from plays he directed.

**Added:** program from SJU Archives
Nonetheless, back to all female casts

ARDELEONS

Attending the king, Mary McElrane, in "The Knave of Hearts" are Dora Dionne, Rose Dunbar, Pat Potter, Marlene Cummings, Dolores Kohler, and Annella O'Meara.

1951

1951 Facula, p. 35
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/7566/rec/40
January 19, 1952

The January 19, 1952 meeting of the senior Ardeleons was called to order by the president, Mr. Smith, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting opened with the roll call and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

February 5, 1952

President Smith called the February 5, 1952 meeting of the senior Ardeleons at 4:45 p.m. The meeting opened with the roll call and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

March 4, 1952

The March 4, 1952 meeting of the senior Ardeleons opened at 4:45 p.m. with the roll call. The meeting adjourned until next week at the same time.

Reprints on our joint meeting with St. John's are very favorable.
Creativity & theatrics in the roll call of every meeting!
Creativity & theatrics in the roll call of every meeting!

February 9, 1952

The meeting was called to order at the usual time with a prayer by our president. Members answered roll call with an actor on notice of the legitimate stage.

March 4, 1952

The March 4, 1952 meeting of the senior Ardeleon opened at 4:45 pm with the new prayer. Roll call was answered with quotations from Shakespeare.

Reports on our joint meeting with St. John’s are very favorable.

1952

1951 - from CSB Archives, Theater Dept 1930s-1970s AC 07.41 Box 01
Ardeleon Minutes and Notebook, 1950 to 1955
The Ardeleons and the Johnnies get together for joint meetings:

1952

1952 - from CSB Archives, Theater Dept 1930s-1970s AC 07.41 Box 01
Ardeleon Minutes and Notebook, 1950 to 1955
Continues in Part 2

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St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder