

Anthropology and the Babcock Hall Centennial

- 103 years of Science, Research, and Education
- Home to the UND Anthropology Department and the Anthropology Research Division (Archaeology)
- Following UND Anthropology's split from Sociology in the 1970s, Anthropology moved into Babcock Hall



Babcock Hall, 1907-2010, the Early Years

Photos and Notes Courtesy of the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections, Chester Fritz Library, UND Department of Engineering, *Dimensions* & UND Department of Ceramics (University of North Dakota Pottery: The Cable Years 2nd ed., by Donald Miller

The School of Mines & Mining Engineering (later Babcock Hall) circa 1908

- Built to house the departments of mining engineering and chemistry in 1907.
- Dedicated in June 1908
- In the background are the railroad tracks of the Great Northern Railroad and the train.



UND in 1909

- Panoramic view of the University of North Dakota in 1909, from left to right.
- Carnegie Library (1909-), Budge Hall (1899-1981), Main (1884-1963), Davis Hall (1887-1965), Chandler Hall (1899-), Babcock Hall (1907-), President's House (1902-), Science Hall (1902-1999), Wesley College or Sayre Hall (1908-).
- Looking northwest, the Great Northern Railroad tracks in the foreground.



Front view of Babcock Hall (1909-1910)

- In 1909, two additions were constructed to the north and south ends of the building to accommodate Ceramics and the Mining Experiment Station.
- In 1910, there was a serious fire which destroyed the northern two-thirds of the roof of the building and there was extensive water damage to the north half of the building.
- The building was named after Dean Earle J. Babcock on September 3, 1925.



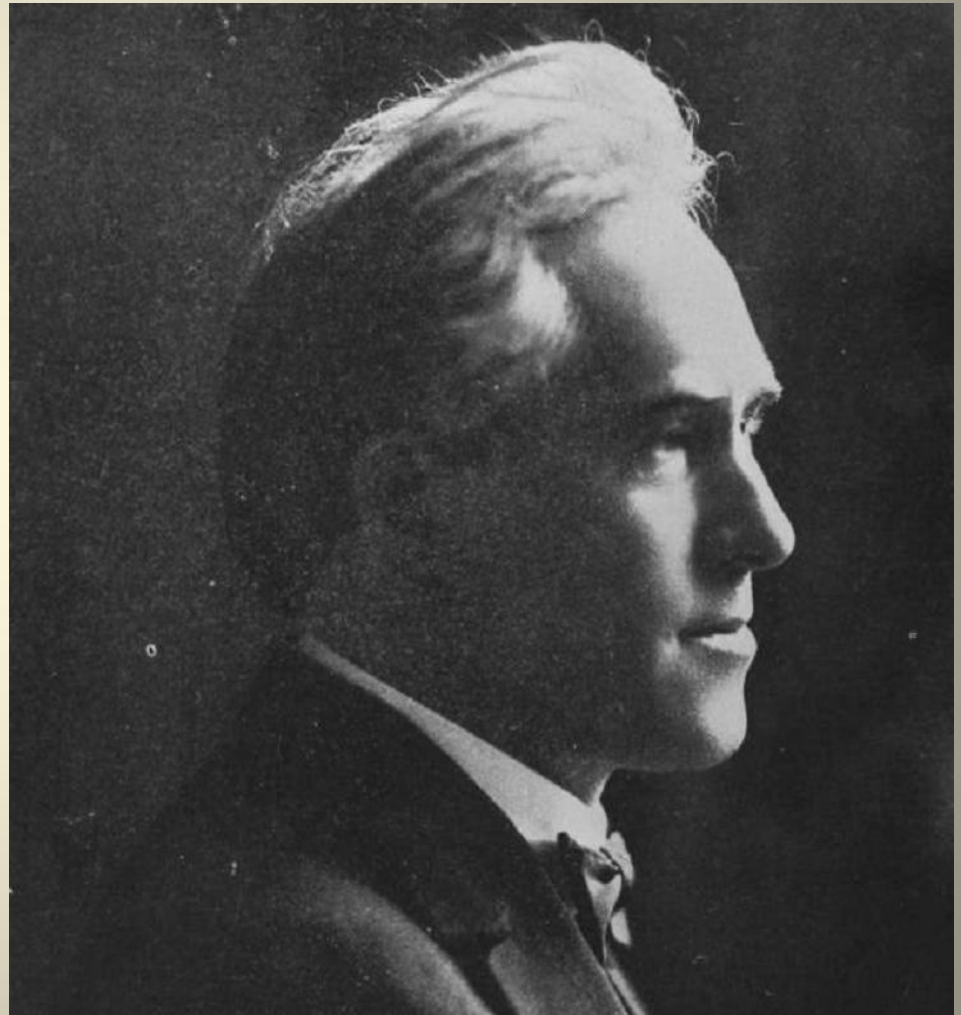
The University Museum in Babcock Hall, 1910

- University Museum display case filled with various taxidermy animals and small portions of other cases.
- The University Museum occupied the middle of the west side of the third floor of Science Hall from 1902 until 1910 when it relocated to the School of Mines in Babcock Hall.



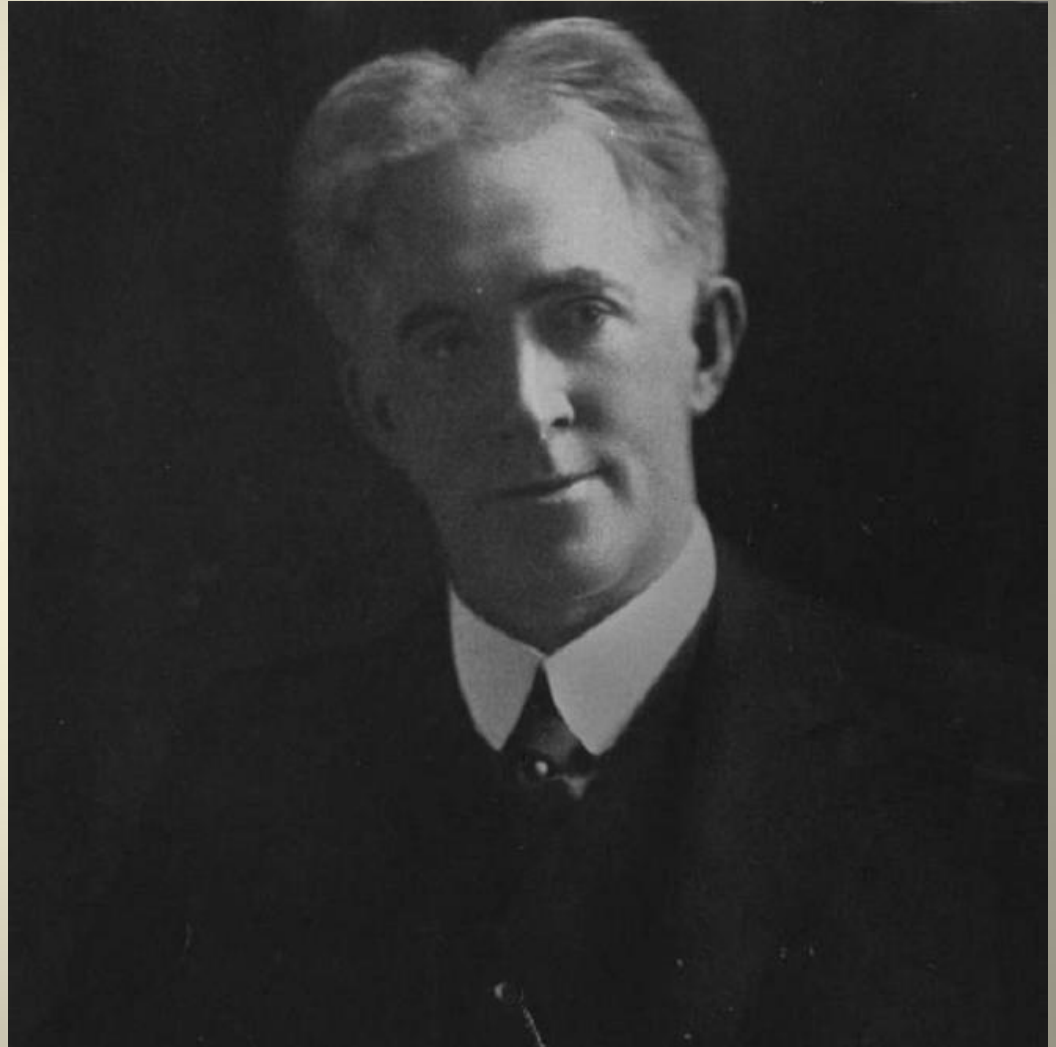
Earle J. Babcock (1865-1925)

- Earle J. Babcock was hired as an instructor in Chemistry and English (1889-1891).
- He was appointed State Geologist (1894-1902), Director of School of Mines (1898-1901), and was Dean of the College of Mining Engineering (1900-1916) and Dean of College of Engineering (1916-1925), Director of Mining Experiment Station (1910-1925).
- He also served as acting President of the University (1917-1918).



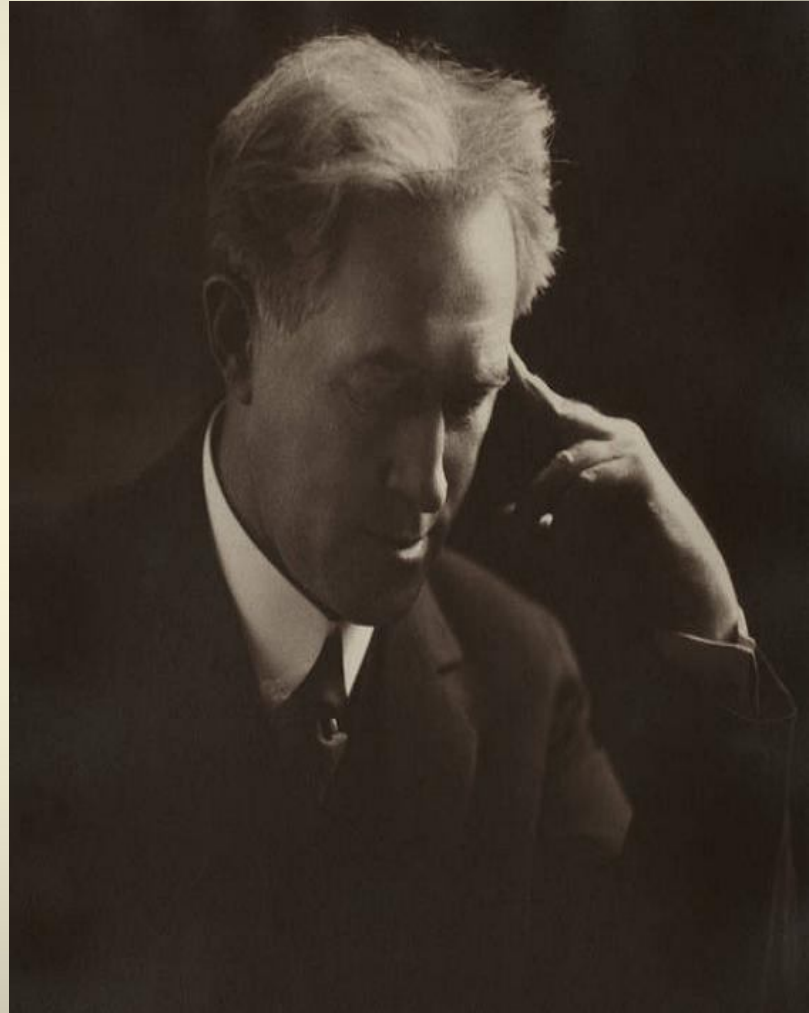
Earle J. Babcock (1865-1925)

- Earle J. Babcock;
Faculty; Professor;
Chemistry; Mining;
Metallurgy; Dean;
College of Mining
Engineering;
College of
Engineering;
Fashion-Clothing;
North Dakota State
Geologist; Acting
President



Earle J. Babcock (1865-1925)

- 1889: Earle J. Babcock, a chemistry graduate, was appointed the State Geologist.
- 1897: Babcock became the director of the School of Mines, which later became the College of Mining Engineering—School of Mines.
- He was instrumental in incorporating the state's energy resources into the School's activities, initiating work with lignite coal, sugar beets, clays and gasification



School of Mines

- Testing the Heat Value of Coal, School of Mines, Babcock Hall (1908), Mining Engineering Building



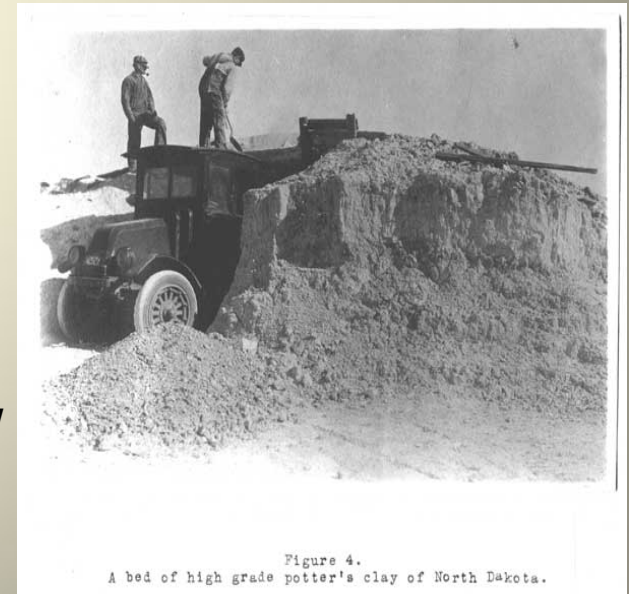
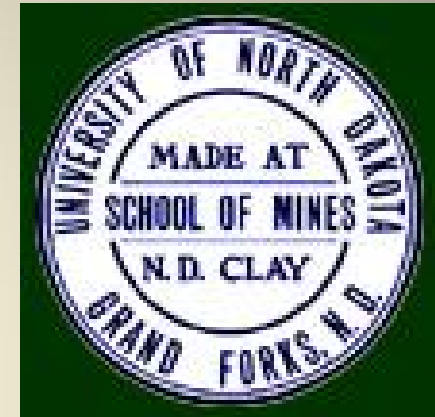
North Dakota School of Mines Clay Pottery

- 1910: The School of Mines Dean Earle Babcock hired Margaret Kelly Cable to begin a ceramics curriculum.
- Pottery made by Cable and her students was soon nationally known and has since become valued by collectors, especially that from the Art Deco era.



School of Mines/Ceramics Department

- Cable was responsible for the research of high quality clays from western North Dakota, putting them to such practical uses as drain tile, sewer tile, facing brick, porcelain insulators and pottery, and for teaching research methods and pottery making. She felt industry could play an important and meaningful role in development of the decorative arts. In fact, economic development using industrial processes was the premise that guided much of the early School of Mines/Ceramics Department research.
- A seal was developed by Cable that would identify the work produced at the University. The first known seal was hand lettered in cobalt blue on the bottom of a small flower vase in 1912. By 1913 all pieces of any significance—pottery, figurines, tiles, medallions and frequently commercial production samples—bore the University of North Dakota, School of Mines seal.
- The popularity of the Ceramics Department, School of Mines "art pottery" flourished under Cable's guidance and the Art Nouveau/Art Deco style of pottery was largely replaced by native flora and fauna motifs and regional themes.



1910-1949 Margaret Kelly Cable

- Cable was certainly a capable researcher, but teaching was her first love. The idea of change, of transformation, of clay as a metaphor for life was part of the humanistic approach that Cable used so effectively in her teaching. Even though Cable could be a strict taskmaster at times, her energetic and charismatic nature was infectious with students. A lengthy waiting list for the ceramics classes was the result of Cable's ability to weave historic information, personal observations, Bible passages, and poems into an engaging storyline. Cable's storytelling voice, which she used so effectively in her demonstrations and teaching, was a large part of why ceramics classes flourished at UND.



Figure 20.
Removing the finished wares from the oven.
Ceramic Department, School of Mines,
University of North Dakota.

North Dakota School of Mines Clay Pottery Home

- Margaret Kelly Cable is remembered as the heart and soul of UND Pottery. She was a nationally known clay artist, teacher, and researcher at the University of North Dakota from 1910 to 1949. Pottery made under her tutelage, and bearing the cobalt blue School of Mines seal, has become a valued symbol of her legacy.
- Cable was born in Crookston, Minnesota and when her father's health began to fail, the family moved to Minneapolis. It was with the Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis that she found a welcome and training that fit and challenged her. There she worked and learned with crafters who made things of beauty and utility "...simple folks, who loved beauty for beauty's sake, who wrought with their hands and hearts as well as their brain and who put into each creation a bit of themselves..."
- In 1909 Cable was contacted by Dean Earle J. Babcock, a young, energetic chemistry instructor at UND, who took great interest in the under developed resources of North Dakota. Babcock wrote Cable asking her to make and glaze fifteen to twenty pieces of pottery out of North Dakota clay for a national convention, which was just two weeks away. There was insufficient time for completing the process but this was the beginning of a dialogue with Babcock. In the fall of 1910, after completing a two year course of study at the Handicraft Guild, the now legendary Margaret Kelly Cable was hired by the University of North Dakota

(Source: Don Miller, <http://www.pottery.und.edu/index.htm>)

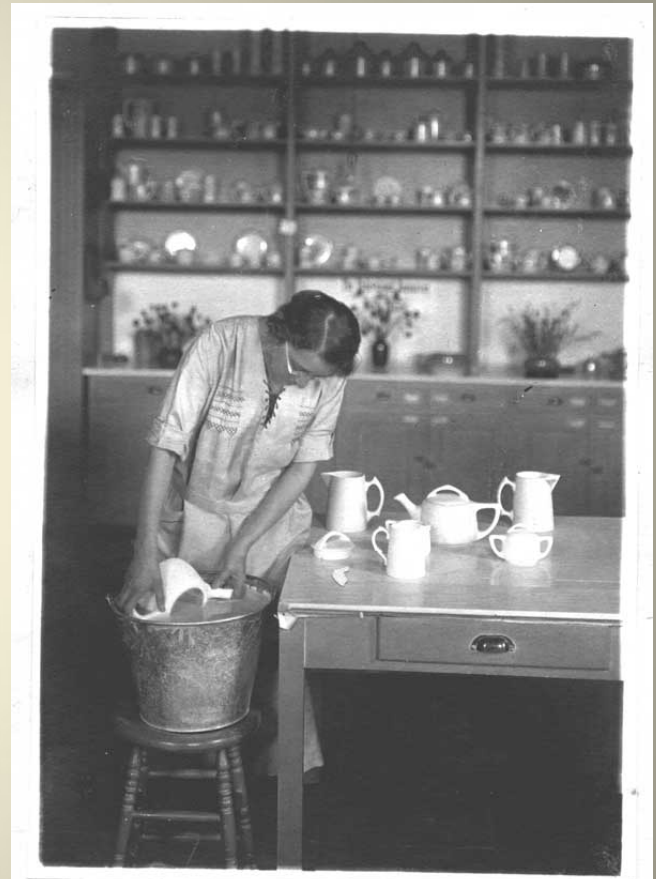


Figure 18.
Dipping the biscuit or once fired ware into
a bath of glaze.
Ceramic Department, School of Mines,
University of North Dakota.

- These photos are from a paper Margaret Cable wrote in 1924 titled "Industrial Possibilities of Pottery Making from North Dakota Clay"

