Collection #
M 1185
OM 0593

FORTNIGHTLY LITERARY CLUB RECORDS, 1885-2005

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	13 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized folder, 1 folder photographs, 1 folder color photographs, 1 bin slides
COLLECTION DATES:	1885-2005
PROVENANCE:	Fortnightly Literary Club, Indianapolis, IN, 1990; 2006; 2015
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2006.0309; 2015.0184
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Fortnightly Literary Club began in the home of Mrs. Charles Warren Fairbanks as the Nameless Literary Club in 1885. Fairbanks, the first president of the club, presided over meetings at her home on the corner of Park Avenue and what is now Sixteenth St. The idea for the club came from Mrs. Albert Baker. While visiting Crawfordsville, IN, Baker attended a women's literary club meeting and was inspired to create a similar organization in Indianapolis. The original purpose of the Indianapolis club was to present sketches of literary figures, read their works, and participate in discussion. However, as the club grew, this purpose expanded to include the reading of personal essays, fiction, and poetry written by the club members themselves as well as guest speakers and authors.

The Fortnightly Literary Club took as their motto a quote from Shakespeare: "Light Seeking Light, Doth Light of Light Beguile" and a lighted lamp with a book became their symbol. These features are visible on the club materials throughout its history.

Soon after the club's founding, in 1892, the club outgrew the space provided in Fairbanks' home. The club moved to the original Propylaeum where they would continue to meet for the next 31 years. Once that building was razed in 1923, the club moved to the new Propylaeum location.

The club continued to grow throughout its history. New members joined, including the daughters and granddaughters of original founders. When members passed away, they were honored with a memorial reading at the following club meeting.

Each year, the club produced a yearbook detailing upcoming readings and lectures. In addition, the club invited guest speakers and held luncheons, teas, and anniversary parties. In 1985, the club celebrated its 100th anniversary by members dressing in fashions popular throughout the club's 100 year history.

2015 marks the 130th anniversary of the Fortnightly Literary Club which continues to meet in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Information in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series One: Club History

This series contains a number of historical accounts written regarding the Club's history. Additionally, it includes the recollections of past club presidents written in 1948.

Series Two: Members

This series contains lists of members as well as more detailed information. The club kept member binders that contained a page for each Fortnightly member. This series contains the contents of two of those binders. Each member's page profiles their involvement with the Fortnightly Literary Club. This series also contains memorials for deceased members. When a club member passed away, a memorial was written and read at a club meeting.

Series Three: Correspondence

This series contains miscellaneous correspondence for the Fortnightly Literary Club.

Series Four: Minutes and Administrative

This series contains the minute books of the Fortnightly Literary Club from 1885 to 1998 as well as undated and loose minutes from committee meetings. Early minutes for the club (1885–1888) appear twice in two different bound versions of the Fortnightly Minutes. They were copied into a new minute book that continues until 1896. Also included in this series is the ballot box used for Fortnightly Club meetings.

Series Five: Financial Records

The Financial records for the club contain ledger books, budgets, annual reports, audits, and miscellaneous notes.

Series Six: Events

This series contains event planning documents, reservations, and dues, as well as ribbons related to a number of events planned by or attended by Fortnightly members.

Series Six: Clippings

This series contains a number of newspaper clippings from 1905–1997 that deal with the Club.

Series Seven: Writing and Essays

This series contains a number of essays read at Fortnightly Club meetings, magazine compilations of essays, and, a manual for writing.

Series Eight: Yearbooks, 1885-2005

This series contains the annual yearbooks for the Fortnightly Literary Club from 1885-2005. Throughout the history of the club, an annual yearbook program was printed to indicate the schedule of speakers, current and past members, and the Club's constitution and bylaws.

Series Nine: Photographs, 1950–1993

This series contains photographs from 1950 to 2009. The majority of the photographs are from anniversary events held by the members where current members would dress up in period clothing representative of the club's history.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Club Histories and Member Recollections

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
"Looking Backward from the 40th Anniversary," 1925	Box 1, Folder 1
Fortnightly Club History, 1926	Box 1, Folder 2
Fortnightly Club History, 1939	Box 1, Folder 3
Fortnightly Club History, 1944	Box 1, Folder 4
Fortnightly Club History, 1969	Box 1, Folder 5
Fortnightly Club History, 1970	Box 1, Folder 6
History of Club Founder, Mrs. C. Fairbanks, 1970	Box 1, Folder 7
A Brief History of the Fortnightly Literary Club, 1985	Box 1, Folder 8
Fortnightly Club History, 1996, and undated	Box 1, Folder 9
Historical Research File, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
Fortnightly Literary Club Presidents' Memories, 1948	Box 1, Folder 11

Series 2: Fortnightly Literary Club Members

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Member Directory: Privileged Members, A-Z	Box 1, Folder 13
Member Directory: Resigned Members, Non-Resident Members, Lost Members, A-Z	Box 1, Folder 14
Member Directory: In Memoriam, Deceased Members, A-F	Box 1, Folder 15
Member Directory: Deceased Members, G-O	Box 1, Folder 16
Member Directory: Deceased Members, P-Z	Box 1, Folder 17

Second Member Directory: List of Members' Daughters, Active Members A-Z	Box 1, Folder 18
Second Member Directory: Privileged Members, A-Z	Box 1, Folder 19
Second Member Directory: Non-Resident Members, A-Z	Box 1, Folder 20
Second Member Directory: Deceased Members, A-Z	Box 2, Folder 1
Second Member Directory: Membership Lists, Notes	Box 2, Folder 2
50 Year Members, Dec. 2005	Box 2, Folder 3
Miscellaneous Member Lists, n/d	Box 2, Folder 4
Memorials, 1900s	Box 2, Folder 5
Memorials, 1910s	Box , Folder 6
Memorials, 1920s	Box 2, Folder 7
Memorials, 1930s	Box 2, Folder 8
Memorials, 1940s	Box 2, Folder 9
Memorials, 1950s	Box 2, Folder 10
Memorials, 1960s (Folder 1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 11
Memorials, 1960s (Folder 2 of 2)	Box 2 , Folder 12
Memorials, 1970s	Box 2, Folder 13
Memorials, 1980s-2000s	Box 2, Folder 14
Memorial Books Donated to Library, 2002–2010	Box 2, Folder 15
Member Obituaries, 1970–2006	Box 2, Folder 16

Series 3: Correspondence

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Correspondence, 1960s–1990s	Box 2, Folder 18

Correspondence, 2000s	Box 2, Folder 19
Correspondence, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 20

Series 4: Club Meeting Minutes and Administrative

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Constitution and Bylaws, 1887 and n/d	Box 3, Folder 1
Officer and Committee Handbook, n/d	Box 3, Folder 2
Transcription of Dec. 22, 1885 Minutes	Box 3, Folder 3
Fortnightly Minutes, 1885–1896	Box 3, Folder 4
Fortnightly Minutes, 1885–1888	Box 3, Folder 5
Fortnightly Minutes, 1896–1904	Box 3, Folder 6
Fortnightly Minutes, 1904–1910	Box 3, Folder 7
Fortnightly Minutes, 1910–1919	Box 3, Folder 8
Fortnightly Minutes, 1919–1925	Box 4, Folder 1
Fortnightly Minutes, 1925–1932	Box 4, Folder 2
Fortnightly Minutes, 1932–1938	Box 4, Folder 3
Fortnightly Minutes, 1938–1943	Box 4, Folder 4
Fortnightly Minutes, 1943–1950	Box 4, Folder 5
Fortnightly Minutes, 1950–1958	Box 5, Folder 1
Fortnightly Minutes, 1958–1976	Box 5, Folder 2
Fortnightly Minutes, 1976–1998	Box 5, Folder 3
Fortnightly Minutes, 1998–2010	Box 6, Folder 1
Fortnightly Minutes, 2010–2014	Box 6, Folder 2
President's Monthly Agenda, 2013–2014	Box 6, Folder 3
Miscellaneous Minutes and Committee Minutes	Box 6, Folder 4

Ribbons	Artifact: 2006.0309
Ballot Box and Balls	Artifact: 2006.0309

Series 5: Financial Records

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Financial Ledger, 1972–1981	Box 7, Folder 2
Financial Ledger, 1968–1986	Box 7, Folder 3
Financial Ledgers, 1992–1997	Box 7, Folder 4
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Treasurer's Reports, 1977–1986	Box 7, Folder 6
Treasurer's Reports, 1988–1996	Box 7, Folder 7
Treasurer's Reports, 1997–2002	Box 7, Folder 8
Treasurer's Reports, 2003–2010	Box 7, Folder 9
Financial Registers and Account Reconciliation, 2002–2004	Box 7, Folder 10
Annual Audits, 1981–1984	Box 7, Folder 11
Financial Correspondence and Notes, 1940–2008, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 12
Invoices and Expenses, 1988–1999	Box 7, Folder 13
Invoices and Expenses, 2000–2001	Box 8, Folder 1
Invoices and Expenses, 2002–2006	Box 8, Folder 2
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Tax Information and Not-For-Profit Tax Exemption, 1978–2008	Box 8, Folder 4
Miscellaneous Financial Documents	Box 8, Folder 5

Series 6: Events

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Herron High School Program, 2014	Box 8, Folder 13
Event Reservations and Dues, 1981–1985	Box 9, Folder 1
Room and Finance Committee, 1962–2009	Box 9, Folder 2
Propylaeum Booking, 1981–1998	Box 9, Folder 3
Event and Program Attendance, 2000–2012	Box 9, Folder 4
Anniversary Banquet Ribbon, 1886	Artifact: 2006.0309
Fortnightly Literary Club Ribbon, 1894	Artifact: 2006.0309
I.U.L.C. Delegate Ribbon, 1894	Artifact: 2006.0309
Indiana Union of Literary Clubs, President Ribbon, 1906	Artifact: 2006.0309
G.F.W.C. Delegate Ribbon, 1912	Artifact: 2006.0309
Visiting Club Woman, Biennial G.F.W.C. Ribbon, 1912 with attached Indiana Ribbon	Artifact: 2006.0309
San Francisco, "The Exposition City" Ribbon, 1912	Artifact: 2006.0309

Series 6: Clippings

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Series 7: Essays and Writing

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Essays and Poetry, 1941–2001	Box 9, Folder 6
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Essays, 2012	Box 9, Folder 8
Essays, 2013–2015	Box 9, Folder 9
Essays, n.d.	Box 9, Folder 10
Slides to accompany undated essay, "The Book of Kells"	Slides, Bin 1
Undated notes for essays	Box 10, Folder 1
Essay, "Left in the Lurch" by Charlotte Harris, and drafts, 1977	Box 10, Folder 2
Essay, "I'm Just Dragon Along" by Charlotte Harris, and materials, 1980	Box 10, Folder 3
Fortnightly Christmas Magazine, 1914	Box 10, Folder 4
Fortnightly Magazine, 1929	OM 0593 Folder 1 of 1
Fortnightly Literary Program Papers, Christmas, 1938	Box 10, Folder 5
"Write Right: And Love It" 1990	Box 10, Folder 6

Series 8: Yearbooks, 1885–2005

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Yearbooks, 1890s	Box 10, Folder 9
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Yearbooks, 1905–1910	Box 10, Folder 11
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Series 9: Photographs

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Series 10: General

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Miscellaneous Notes and Drafts	Box 13, Folder 6
Miscellaneous Brochures and Postcards	Box 13, Folder 7