SCIENTECH CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS
MATERIALS, CA. 1920–1998

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Brittany Deeds
August 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1920–1998

PROVENANCE: James L. Cooper, Greencastle, Indiana, 2014

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2014.0127

NOTES:
HISTORICAL SKETCH

In October 1918, a group of business leaders, scientists, engineers, and other professionals in the Indianapolis area banded together to provide a forum for interdisciplinary exchange of technical knowledge. Among the 164 charter members were D.J. Angus, Hugh J. Baker, Elwood Haynes, D.B. Luten, and Eli Lilly. Charter member Herbert Bass is credited with suggesting the name "Scientech." William Insley served as the first president.

Very early in its history, the Scientech Club began holding weekly luncheon meetings, wherein speakers gave presentations on a wide range of topics. The time limits on these presentations were strictly regulated by an alarm clock, as the meetings were held during the workday. In August 1920, the Scientech Club published its first weekly newsletter. These weekly newsletters, full of good-natured humor, was characterized as the "glue" that held the club together, as many participants were unable to regularly attend the weekly meetings. As of 1996, it was estimated that the club had created about 3900 newsletters.

In the 1920s, the club appointed committees that would study issues of the day from many angles and then present resolutions to the club for discussion. If a resolution passed, the resolution was sent along to the political officials involved. However, in the fall of 1931, the club began distancing itself from such public involvement. During the Great Depression, club membership dropped to a low of fifty members. By the 1940s, membership had recovered to over 100 members, although only a few of the charter members remained active.

For the first sixty years of its existence, the Scientech Club was an organization of men. In February 1980, the by-laws were amended, allowing woman to join. Since that time, women have been active participants and served in several official capacities, including Club President.

Today, the Scientech Club remains a local endeavor with a focus on continuing education; it is not sponsored by, nor affiliated with, any national organization. Scientech does not promote any movement or cause, and petitions or personal solicitations are not acceptable at any meeting.

Sources:

Materials in collection.
http://www.scientechclub.org/clubinformation/clubpagecss.shtml
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is largely the result of an effort by the Scientech Club to conduct a full inventory of the club's records. The project was undertaken in the fall of 1997, as the Scientech Club approached its 80th anniversary. The Scientech Club history committee had hoped the inventory would be used to create a history of the club, but there is no evidence from the materials in this collection that a complete history of the club was written.

Dr. James L. Cooper, a retired history professor from DePauw University, served as the supervising history consultant, and Joan Cunningham, a former archivist for the Indiana State Archives, was hired to assist in creating the inventory.

The collection has been organized into four series.

Series 1 Contains the Roster, Constitution, and By-laws of the Scientech Club of Indianapolis for the years 1995 and 1996. There is also a roster of members dated 5 March 1998. The roster lists the first and last names of the members, as well as what appears to be the year each member joined the club.

Series 2 Contains three folders of Scientech Club weekly newsletters for the following date ranges: August 1920–December 1927; February 1930–April 1951; and June 1997–May 1998. The run of newsletters for each set of dates is incomplete.

Series 3 Contains materials most directly related to the inventory and history project. This series contains several drafts of the inventory of records, which thoroughly lists all known Scientech Club records, such as Minutes of the Board of Directors, pamphlets, news reports, and rosters. This series also contains two rough drafts chronicling the club's history. One draft covers the years 1918 to 1929, and the other draft covers the years 1930 to 1950. All papers related to documenting the inventory project and attempts to receive a grant to write an institutional history are placed in one folder.

Series 4 Contains biographical information, such as booklets and newspapers articles, for several prominent members of the Scientech Club. A note in the collection from Joan Cunningham to Dr. James Cooper indicates that these materials were gathered in anticipation of conducting oral history interviews.

This series includes clippings files for the following club members: Robert B. Annis, George Fassnacht, Charles Edward Kleis, Robert Kryter, and Daniel B. Luten.

Additionally, there are several more extensive biographical materials. For member D. J. Angus, there is a booklet entitled "D.J. Angus: Practical Entrepreneur" (1990). For member Robert Bains Annis, there is a booklet entitled "Robert B. Annis: Man of Precision" (1993), as well as a transcript of an oral history interview from July 1996. Both booklets were written by Gordon Olson.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Rosters, Constitutions, and By-Laws

CONTENTS
Roster, Constitution, and By-laws of the Scientech Club of Indianapolis, 1995
Box 1, Folder 1

Roster, Constitution, and By-laws of the Scientech Club of Indianapolis, 1996
Box 1, Folder 2

Roster, Scientech Club Members, 5 Mar. 1998
Box 1, Folder 3

Series 2: Scientech Club Newsletters

CONTENTS
Scientech Club Newsletters, Aug. 1920–Dec. 1927 [incomplete]
Box 1, Folder 4

Scientech Club Newsletters, Feb. 1930–Apr. 1951 [incomplete]
Box 1, Folder 5

Scientech Club Newsletters, June 1997–May 1998 [incomplete]
Box 1, Folder 6

Series 3: Scientech Club Inventory of Records and History Project

CONTENTS
Inventory of Records Project Documentation, 1997–98
Box 1, Folder 7

Scientech Club of Indianapolis Inventory of Records, Drafts dated Feb. 1998
Box 1, Folder 8

Drafts, Inventory of Records
Box 1, Folder 9

History of Scientech Club, 1918–1929 [Rough Draft]
Box 1, Folder 10

History of Scientech Club, 1930–1950 [Rough Draft]
Box 1, Folder 11
Series 5: Biographical Articles for Interviews of Scientech Club Members

CONTENTS

Note about Biographical Articles, written by Joan Cunningham to Dr. John Cooper  
Box 1, Folder 12

Booklet, "D. J. Angus: Practical Entrepreneur: A Biography by Gordon Olson" (1990)  
Box 1, Folder 13

Booklet, "Robert B. Annis: Man of Precision: A Biography by Gordon Olson" (1993)  
Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Clippings File–Robert B. Annis [ca. 1980s]  
Box 1, Folder 16

Clippings File–George Fassnacht  
Box 1, Folder 17

Clippings File–Charles Edward Kleis  
Box 1, Folder 18

Clippings File–Robert Kryter  
Box 1, Folder 19

Clippings File–Daniel B. Luten  
Box 1, Folder 20
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1129).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.