

Collection #
M 1129

SCIENTECH CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS MATERIALS, CA. 1920–1998

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1920–1998

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

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Robert B. Annis Collection, 1925–1976 (P 0496).

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 "Sciencetech." William Insley served as the first president.

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

Sources:

Materials in collection.

"Sciencetech Club History," Accessed 11 August 2014.

<http://www.sciencetechclub.org/clubinformation/clubpagecss.shtml>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is largely the result of an effort by the Sciencetech Club to conduct a full inventory of the club's records. The project was undertaken in the fall of 1997, as the Sciencetech Club approached its 80th anniversary. The Sciencetech 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 Sciencetech 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 Sciencetech 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 Sciencetech 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 Sciencetech 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	CONTAINER
Roster, Constitution, and By-laws of the Sciencetech Club of Indianapolis, 1995	Box 1, Folder 1
Roster, Constitution, and By-laws of the Sciencetech Club of Indianapolis, 1996	Box 1, Folder 2
Roster, Sciencetech Club Members, 5 Mar. 1998	Box 1, Folder 3

Series 2: Sciencetech Club Newsletters

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Sciencetech Club Newsletters, Aug. 1920–Dec. 1927 [incomplete]	Box 1, Folder 4
Sciencetech Club Newsletters, Feb. 1930–Apr. 1951 [incomplete]	Box 1, Folder 5
Sciencetech Club Newsletters, June 1997–May 1998 [incomplete]	Box 1, Folder 6

Series 3: Sciencetech Club Inventory of Records and History Project

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Inventory of Records Project Documentation, 1997–98	Box 1, Folder 7
Sciencetech Club of Indianapolis Inventory of Records, Drafts dated Feb. 1998	Box 1, Folder 8
Drafts, Inventory of Records	Box 1, Folder 9
History of Sciencetech Club, 1918–1929 [Rough Draft]	Box 1, Folder 10
History of Sciencetech Club, 1930–1950 [Rough Draft]	Box 1, Folder 11

Series 5: Biographical Articles for Interviews of Sciencetech Club Members

CONTENTS

Note about Biographical Articles, written by Joan Cunningham to Dr. John Cooper

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

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

Sciencetech Club, Inc. Transcript of Oral History Interview with Robert Bains Annis, 22 July 1996

Clippings File--Robert B. Annis [ca. 1980s]

Clippings File--George Fassnacht

Clippings File--Charles Edward Kleis

Clippings File--Robert Kryter

Clippings File--Daniel B. Luten

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

Box 1, Folder 18

Box 1, Folder 19

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.