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Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Woman's Club Collection 103

Including the "Our Society" and the South End (Side) Ladies Literary Club

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History Center

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Creator:	Grand Rapids Woman's Club
Title:	Grand Rapids Woman's Club Records
ID:	Collection 103
Date [inclusive]:	1890-1960, n.d.
Physical Description:	3.96 Linear Feet 10 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Grand Rapids Woman's Club was a club in Grand Rapids, Michigan dedicated to social, literary and philanthropic efforts. This collection includes documents of the club, including under its earlier names Our Society and South End Ladies Literary Club or South Side Ladies Literary Club. In addition to the usual minutes, constitution and by-laws, member lists, and accounts, is a scrapbook, and information on philanthropies. Also, a major group within the Club was The Players, which produced amateur stage productions. A separate constitution, play production licenses and various ephemera document this theatrical group. The Grand Rapids Woman's Club was one of several clubs in the City, and was a member of the Grand Rapids Federation of Women's Clubs (GRPL Coll. #020).

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Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids Woman's Club was founded on Oct. 7, 1890 under the name "Our Society", which was changed to "South End Ladies Literary Club" at the next meeting on October 14, 1890. This name has been annotated to the "South Side Ladies Literary Club" in v. 1-3 of the record books. It became known as the Grand Rapids Woman's Club beginning May 1, 1900. Original founding members were Clara J. Denton, Kittie H. Powers, Effie Van Valkenburgh, Carrie Stover and Miss Fox.

In the late 1890s the membership purchased a clubhouse at 1132 Cass Avenue, SE. The Club was one of several clubs in the City, and was a member of the Grand Rapids Federation of

Women's Clubs (GRPL Coll. #20). Other similar clubs were the Woman's City Club, and those listed in the related archival materials note.

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Scope and Contents

The Collection is organized into the following series: meeting minutes, executive board minutes, records secretary files, subject files and The Player records. The minutes document both the general meetings as well as the executive process. The recording secretary's files contain data on members and finances. The subject files contain a number of activity reports, some ephemera, certificates and correspondence. The Players Records include a separate constitution, play production licenses, and ephemera related to the production activities, mostly as the GR Woman's Club. One item advertising a dramatization by the South End Ladies' Literary Club, however, is included for 1898.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

111 Library Street NE

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donor unknown. Accession numbers G41:BM12; G41:BM14; G41:BM17; 00.[1385].1 to 00.[1390].1; 1986.461

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Related Materials

Related Materials

See also other similar clubs and collections in the GRPL Archives including:

Grand Rapids Study Club, GRPL Coll. #82

East Side Ladies Literary Society, GRPL Coll. #32

Ladies Literary Club Records, Coll. #275, including also information on the following clubs:

West Side Ladies Literary Club, 1926/27

Acorn Literary Club, 1907-1908.

Mutual Improvement Club Announcements.

Woman's Club, Homer, Mi. Yearbooks, 1902-1906

Women's Literary Club, Hesperia, Mi.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Societies and clubs
- Theater -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- records (documents)

Collection Inventory

Series I. Documents

Meeting Minutes, 1890-1959

Title/Description	Instances
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Record of the Proceedings of "Our Society," including Constitution and member lists. G41:BM12.1	Box 1	Volume 1
Oct. 3, 1892-Oct. 1, 1895, including Constitution and bylaw, and member lists. G41:BM12.2	Box 1	Volume 2
Oct. 1, 1895-May 21, 1901, including Constitution and bylaws, and member lists. G41:BM12.3	Box 1	Volume 3
Oct. 1, 1901-May 29, 1906, including bylaws. G41:BM12.15	Box 1	Volume 4
Oct. 2, 1906-May 13, 1913. G41:BM12.16	Box 2	Volume 5
Oct. 7, 1913-March 19, 1918. G41:BM12.14	Box 2	Volume 6
Oct. 28, 1924-Oct. 20, 1931, including ephemera. G41:BM12.9	Box 2	Volume 7
Oct. 20, 1931-Apr. 13, 1937, including ephemera. G41:BM12.10	Box 3	Volume 8
Apr. 20, 1937-March 23, 1943, including ephemera. G41:BM12.11	Box 3	Volume 9
Mar. 23, 1943-Apr. 24, 1951, including ephemera. G41:BM12.12	Box 4	Volume 10
May 1, 1951-Jan. 6, 1959, including ephemera. G41:BM12.13	Box 4	Volume 11

Executive Board Minutes, 1898-1955

Title/Description	Instances	
Oct. 4, 1898-Oct. 22, 1901, including accounts. G41.BM12.4	Box 5	Volume 12
June 27, 1902-Apr. 18, 1905, including accounts. G41.BM12.5	Box 5	Volume 13
Apr. 25, 1905-Dec. 17, 1907, including accounts and members. G41.BM12.6	Box 5	Volume 14
Jan. 21, 1908-May 26, 1910. G41.BM12.7	Box 5	Volume 15
Oct. 2, 1916-Nov. 1, 1926. G41.BM12.8	Box 5	Volume 16
March 24, 1941-Apr. 4, 1955. G41.BM14.3	Box 5	Volume 17

Recording Secretary Records, 1902-1960, n.d.

Journals

Title/Description	Instances	
1926-1940 G41.BM14.6	Box 6	Volume 18
1940-1956 G41.BM14.1	Box 6	Volume 19

Dues payments, 1938-1946 G41.BM14.9	Box 6	Volume 20
Disbursements, 1944-1960. G41.BM14.2	Box 6	Volume 21
Guest Book, 1900-1904. G41.BM16.2	Box 6	Volume 22
Members, 1902-1906. G41.BM16.1	Box 6	Volume 23
Library Holdings, n.d. G41:BM14.8	Box 9	Folder 1

Reports

Title/Description	Instances	
1891-1894	Box 9	Folder 2
1900-1910	Box 9	Folder 3
1914-1915	Box 9	Folder 4
1916-1917	Box 9	Folder 5
1934-1939	Box 9	Folder 6
1945-1948	Box 9	Folder 7
1955-1956	Box 9	Folder 8

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Series II. Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, 1897-1932. G41:BM17.1 [Most pages blank] Philanthropies	Box 7	Volume 24
1902-1921 G41:BM14.5	Box 7	Volume 25
1927-1940 G41:BM14.4	Box 7	Volume 26
1941-1945 G41:BM12.17	Box 7	Volume 27

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Series III. Yearbooks

Scope and Contents

1912/1913 and 1913/1914 yearbooks – accession number 1986.461. 1919-1945 yearbooks – formerly MKG374.3.G761, accession numbers [1385]-[1392] and [2104]

Title/Description	Instances	
1912/1913	Box 10	Folder 0.5
1913/1914		

	Box 10	Folder 0.5
1919/1920	Box 10	Folder 1
1921/1922	Box 10	Folder 2
1922/1923	Box 10	Folder 3
1923/1924	Box 10	Folder 4
1926/1927	Box 10	Folder 5
1927/1928	Box 10	Folder 5.5
1942/1943	Box 10	Folder 6
1944/1945	Box 10	Folder 7

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Series IV. Players Records, 1907-1960

Title/Description	Instances	
Constitution, n.d.	Box 9	Folder 9

Players Meeting Minutes

Title/Description	Instances	
1930-1936 (G41:BM12.8)	Box 8	Volume 28
1944-1956 (G41:BM12.19)	Box 8	Volume 29
1956-1960 (G41:BM12.20)	Box 8	Volume 30
Executive Board minutes, 1930-1933 (G41:BM12.21)	Box 8	Volume 31
Reports, 1928-1957, n.d.	Box 9	Folder 10
Programs, 1907-1956, n.d.	Box 9	Folder 11
Program, "The House Boat on the Styx" / South End Ladies Literary Club, March 22, 1898. (G41:BM17.2)	Box 9	Folder 12
Anniversary Program 1890-1956, 1956-11-27	Box 9	Folder 13

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