

**Finding aid for the Shakespeariana
Club of Grand Rapids collection
Collection 331
(Shakespeare Club)**

Finding aid prepared by Rebecca Mayne

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
2003-2007
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503
616-988-5400
localhis@grpl.org

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Shakespeariana Club of Grand Rapids collection
Date [inclusive]	1887- circa 1980
Extent	3.0 Linear feet Seven boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Shakespeariana Club of Grand Rapids, Michigan is an organization devoted to the study of Shakespeare. Founded in April 1887 by Loraine Pratt Immen, it was originally a subgroup of the Ladies Literary Club. This collections contains records from circa 1893-1987, including minutes, programs, yearbooks, original writings of members, reference materials and printed plates.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Lorraine Pratt Immen is credited as being the founder of the Shakespearian Club, which was originally a subgroup of the Ladies Literary Club, where Immen was an active member. Immen gave the Shakespeare "Rose" stained glass window by Louis Comfort Tiffany, designed by artist Frederick Stuart Church, to the Ladies Literary Club. In 2006, the Ladies Literary Club Building was sold to Calvin College, after the Club disbanded in 2005. Though the window was desired by others, it is considered an historically significant part of the building and is expected to remain with the historic structure. Immen died October 21, 1927 at the age of 87.

Scope and Contents note

The bulk of this collection as of 2003 was formed by the official materials received from the Shakespeariana Club of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Other miscellaneous items related to the local club, found in GRHSC, were added. As with some other archival collections, materials from other unknown sources, or other donors, are sometimes attached to the collection, making it basically a subject or general collection, of mixed, rather than pure provenance.

A recent addition to this collection is the poem "Shakespeariana Twenty Years Ago" by Sophie Bingham Buchanan. It is signed by the author, and was Lorraine Pratt Immen's own copy, having been received by the Library from her estate. Immen and other early members are referred to in the poem.

In addition to the records found here, a wooden Shakespeare chest, given to the Library by the Club, resides in the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections on the third floor of the Main Library building. It is placed near the VanderVeen Center, under the portraits of Louis & Sophie Campau.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 2003-2007

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Barbara Robinson for the Club and existing miscellaneous holdings. Accession numbers 2003. ; ?
1980.041 / 1986.205 / 00.[0056] ? ; 00.[3689].1 ; 00.[5288].1-9.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 187, Loraine Pratt Immen Collection

Coll. 228, Frederick Stuart Church Collection

Coll. 275, Ladies Literary Club. Box 1.3 and 19 in particular contain information on the Club. But, also earlier minutes, yearbooks, and scrapbooks, before the Shakespeare Club separated from the LLC will also contain reports and information on Shakespeare Club activities. See 1902-1905 Shakespeare Publications from Loraine Pratt Immen in 275-19.

Coll. 278, GRPL Poets and Poetry Collection

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Shakespeariana Club of Grand Rapids.

Genre(s)

- records (documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Immen, Loraine Pratt, 1840-1927

Subject(s)

- Women -- Michigan -- Societies and clubs

Series I. Minutes

Collection Inventory

Series I. Minutes

Scope and Contents note

Some coverage for the years 1893-1913, 1919-1967 and 1981-1987 is found. A couple of minute books appear to overlap in time period.

	Box
Minutes 1893-1899	1
Minutes 1900-1911	1
Minutes 1911/1912, 1912/1913	1
Minutes 1919-1935	1
Minutes 1921-1926	1
Minutes 1935-1960	1
Minutes 1960-1967	2
Minutes 1981-1987	2

Series II. Documents**Series II. Documents****Treasurer's Book/Memberships****Scope and Contents note**

One folder for 1910/1911 to 1960/1961 is available in the collection, with limited additional information on the finances of the club.

	Box	Folder
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Treasurer's book/memberships 1910/1911-1960/1961	2	
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		Box
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Bankbook 1949-1959		2
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General**Scope and Contents note**

Folders with the club bylaws, as well as miscellaneous items are also included in this series.

		Box
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Misc. Notebook		2
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By-Laws		2
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Series III. Yearbooks & Programs.

		Box
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Series IV. Writings

Yearbooks and programs

3

Series IV. Writings**Box**

Writings

5

Shakespeariana Twenty Years Ago / Sophie Bingham Buchanan April 23, 1907

5

Scope and Contents note

Signed by the author on April 23, 1907, this is Loraine Pratt Immen's own copy, having been given to the Library from her estate. Immen, the founder of the Club, is referred to in the poem, along with other early members. (Formerly MKG374.3.B85, 00.[3689].1, added 4/8/2005).

Series V. Realia**Box**

Realia

6

Series VI. Clippings & Ephemera**Scope and Contents note**

Included here is a postcard documenting the Tiffany Shakespeare window at the Ladies Literary Club, given by Lorraine Platt Immen. The design for the window, executed by Tiffany's, was done by Grand Rapids born artist Frederick Stuart Church.

Clippings

Fragments of Shakespeare Terrentenary articles from the New York Times, 1916, were attached to this collection, from an unknown source, in September 2007. These are physically in poor condition and accessible on the New York Times microfilm in the Reference Department.

Clippings

Box

Shakespeariana loyal to the Immortal Bard / by Lois McIntyre. GR Press. April 27, 1969

2

Scope and Contents note

Includes an image with Mrs. Kreigh Collins and others with the Shakespeare Chest which was later given to GRPL.

Shakespeare Terrentenary : 1616-1916. The "New York Times". 9 issues February 20 to April 23, 1916

7

Ephemera

Box

Postcard. Shakespeare Window / Louis C. Tiffany, at the Ladies Literary Club. Gift of Loraine Pratt Immen. (2006.054, added 11/28/2006)

2

Postcards associated with Shakespeare. (4)

2

Shakespearian Actors of the Past. Eaton, Seymour. (ed.). (2003.068, added 5/14/2012) 1900

7

Ephemera

Shakespeare Rare Prints Collection. Eaton, Seymour. (ed.). (2003.068, added
5/14/2012) 1900

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