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# **Finding aid for the Coffee Dunkers of America, Grand Rapids Chapter Records Collection 479**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections  
Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	4
Collection Inventory .....	4

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator:</b>	Olson, Gordon L
<b>Title:</b>	Coffee Dunkers of America, Grand Rapids Chapter Records
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 479
<b>ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::ACCESSION]:</b>	1163
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1941-2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.25 Linear Feet 1 slim box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Coffee Dunkers of America is an international non-profit organization; a local chapter in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was founded on January 30, 1939 by Gerald R. Ford Sr., Police Chief Frank O'Mally, Kent County Sheriff Hugh M. Blacklock, and Kent County Circuit Court Judge John H. VanderWal, among others. The aim of Coffee Dunkers International is to raise funding for charities and promote camaraderie among members. Beginning in the 1960s, the Grand Rapids chapter began holding an annual event (in December) that roasted the events of the year. Many prominent Grand Rapids citizens have been members of the Coffee Dunkers of America Grand Rapids chapter over the decades, including Suzanne Geha, Susan Heartwell, and other active citizens at that time. Material in this collection can be used to gain an understanding of the chapter's activities, though most material is concentrated in the 1990s, largely due to the participation of former city historian Gordon Olson.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains printed material related to the Grand Rapids Chapter of Coffee Dunkers of America, including Board of Directors rosters; charities; contributors; correspondence; donor lists; members/ mailing lists; memos; minutes/agendas; programs/invitations; Santa Claus Parade; and scripts

from annual programs. While the inclusive dates include material from the 1940s and the early 2000s, most of the material in the collection is from the mid-1990s. This collection may be interested to a researcher looking to understand more about the philanthropic activities in Grand Rapids. Additionally, some parts of the collection, such as the scripts from the performances orchestrated by the Coffee Dunkers members, provide insight into and commentary on how Grand Rapids citizens and/or events were perceived.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift from former city historian Gordon Olson who was involved with the Coffee Dunkers of America Grand Rapids chapter in the 1990s. Accession number: 1995.021.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Non-profits -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Charities -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Board of Directors, 1988-1994	Box 1      Folder 1

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1988-1994		
Charities, 1988-1994	Box 1	Folder 2
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1988-1994		
Contributors, 1992-1993	Box 1	folder 3
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1992-1993		
Correspondence , 1988-1994	Box 1	folder 4
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1988-1994		
Donor lists, 1992-1995	Box 1	Folder 5
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1992-1995		
Members/Mailing labels, 1992-1995	Box 1	folder 6
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1992-1995		
Memos, 1994-2001	Box 1	folder 7
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1994-2001		
Minutes/Agendas, 1990-1994	Box 1	Folder 8
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1990-1994		
Newspapers, 1941-1948	Box 1	folder 9
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1941-1948		
Programs/Invitations, 1959-1995	Box 1	Folder 10
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959-1995		
Santa Claus Parade, 1992-1993	Box 1	folder 11
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1992-1993		
Scripts, 1988-1994	Box 1	folder 12
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1988-1994		