

Coffee House Club Collection, 1909-2014

Collection Summary:

Title: Coffee House Club Collection

Summary: A collection of materials relating to the meetings, members, and day-to-day business of the Coffee House Club. Dates range from 1909-2014. Bulk dates: 1950-2009.

Physical Description: 19 Hollinger boxes, one oversize box; 9.4 linear feet.

Language: English

Stack Location: Section 11, shelves 1, 2, 11, 12, and 18.

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical/Biographical Note:

The Coffee House Club originally began in November of 1909 as an organization for literary-minded bachelors in Nashville, who held monthly meetings to exchange viewpoints on current events and cultural topics. The club held sixteen charter members, and meetings were originally held in the private dining room of Luigart's Café on Church Street. The original members decided to call the organization "The Coffee House Club," honoring the historic 18th-century coffee houses in England, which featured spirited conversations among famous intellectuals such as Richard Steele, Samuel Johnson, Joseph Addison, and Oliver Goldsmith.

In the beginning, membership in the Coffee House Club was limited to twenty-five unmarried men; however, this rule was later changed to allow married members into the club. Members were and are still elected, and membership is now limited to thirty-five regular members and twelve honorary members. The Coffee House Club currently meets monthly from October to May at Belle Meade Country Club, where papers are presented by members. Paper topics are broad and cover a large variety of subjects, including science, politics, medicine, literature, culture, and economics.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains materials relating to the meetings, members, and day-to-day business of the Coffee House Club. Materials include correspondence, meeting minutes, event programs, photographs, historical information, and, largely, papers presented to the Coffee House Club by its members. Dates of the records span from the club's inception in 1909 until 2014, with bulk dates between 1950 and 2009. Because of the breadth of paper topics presented to the

Coffee House Club, this collection contains important materials relating to Nashville's intellectual history.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Belle Meade Country Club (Nashville, Tenn.)
Clubs--United States.

Related Collections:

Old Oak Club Collection

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged alphabetically into four series: *Club History*, *Correspondence*, *Meetings*, and *Members*.

The *Club History* series contains materials relating to the history of the Coffee House Club, including a fragment of the constitution and by-laws, historical essays, event programs for anniversary dinners, photographs, yearbooks, and poetry largely written by club members.

Correspondence includes general correspondence regarding club business, and letters and notices to members.

The *Meetings* series includes minute books and minutes, meeting notices, program outlines, and season schedules for the club.

The *Members* series contains materials relating to club membership, such as membership proposals, ballots, attendance lists, resignations, and roster. This series also includes papers written by members and presented to the Coffee House Club. For a full inventory of every paper included in this collection, please contact Metro Archives.

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Box 1: Club History

- Fol. 1: Club History--Constitution/By-Laws (c.1909)
- Fol. 2: Club History--Essays (1949)
- Fol. 3: Club History--Essays (1999, 2009)
- Fol. 4: Club History--Events--Anniversaries (n.d.)
- Fol. 5: Club History--Events--Anniversary Dinner (1949)
- Fol. 6: Club History--Events--Anniversary Dinner (1954)
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Fol. 5: Club History--Events--Anniversary Dinner (2009)
Fol. 6: Club History--Misc. Documents (1909-1913)
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Fol. 12: Club History--Poetry--Barrack-Room Ballads (n.d.)
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Provenance: Donated to Metro Archives by the Coffee House Club.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, December 2021.

Accruals: Further accruals possible.