

Collection #
SC 2676,
BV 3377

BROWSERS BOOK CLUB (INDIANAPOLIS, IND.) HISTORY AND SCRAPBOOK, 1995–2000

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder and 1 bound volume

COLLECTION
DATES: 1995–2000

PROVENANCE: Mary Anne Parks, Washington Township Schools, 8550
Woodfield Crossing Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46240, May 2001

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2001.0741

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Browsers Book Club dates its founding to 1946. The African-American women's club was conceived by Henrine Banks, Fannie Blackburn, Shirley Evans, and Willa Taylor. By its second meeting, it had twenty-five members—the maximum number of members allowed. In addition to the four women mentioned above, early members included Olivia Anderson, Ilma Clark, Flora DeFrantz, Eula Fountroy, Jacqueline Hanley, Leslye Henderson, Delores Hummons, Jessie Jacobs, Albertine Johnson, Ethel Kuykendall, Helene Maxey, Katherine Maye, Theresa Neisler, Maenelle Newsome, Sophia Ramsey, Alice Ray, Roselyn Richardson, Mary Roberts, Hortense Shelton, Ruby Thomas, and Mary Wilson.

The initial format of the monthly club meeting included a description of the author, a review of the book, and a group discussion of the book. Browsers review seven books annually, generally in the months of October, November, and February through June. There are no January or July meetings. The August meeting features a luncheon with a speaker, usually an African-American woman. The annual business meeting is conducted in September. A celebration with friends and spouses is held in December.

The Browsers' history reflects that the club's members have been especially active in community affairs. They have worked with groups including the Boy and Girl Scouts, church youth organizations, and Parents-Teachers Associations. Traditionally, the Browsers have sponsored Guest Days. A couple of their early, noteworthy programs were "Can Democracy Survive American Prejudices?" and "Government Responsibility Versus Individual Initiative—(where should one end and the other begin?)" held in 1949 and 1951, respectively. Both programs were held at the Indiana War Memorial Auditorium.

SOURCES: Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of one folder and one bound volume. The folder contains newspaper clippings and a short history of the book club written by Roselyn Richardson in 1995. The large scrapbook, "Browsers Book Club Celebrates 50 Years of Reading," was created in 2000 and has six pages. The first page displays group and individual photographs of club members. The remaining five pages represent 10-year spans of club activity from 1945 to 1999. Each of the five periods is denoted by a theme:

1945–1955 Browsing Around the World

1956-1966	Seeds of Change
1967-1977	Man in a Changing World
1978-1988	African-American Achievement
1989-1999	Topsy Turvy Decade

In addition to providing a major theme, each page includes topics pertaining to issues and book titles of the era.

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Browsers Book Club History

Scrapbook (in celebration of 50th anniversary)

CONTAINER

SC 2676, Folder 1

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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://157.91.92.2/>
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, SC 2676).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.