

Collection #
M 0585

FORTNIGHTLY LITERARY BOOK CLUB COLLECTION, 1927–2007

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Processed by

Wilma L. Gibbs
August 1991

Updated by

Jessica Frederick
July 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 photograph folder, 5 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1927–2007

PROVENANCE: Doris Rasdell, Indianapolis, IN, 5 May 1990;
Betty Brookins, Indianapolis, IN, 3 August 2009

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 90.0297; 2009.0201

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Fortnightly Literary Club (now the Fortnightly Literary Book Club) was founded in Indianapolis in 1923. Traditionally, its membership has included teachers, librarians, social workers, and businesswomen. According to the club's constitution, the organization's purpose is to review and discuss new books, world problems, current events, and other subjects of cultural value. In 1974, the club revised its name. It became the Fortnightly Literary Book Club.

The club meets regularly throughout the school year. The women review books and discuss timely topics. New members are invited to a closing party in June.

The club has hosted authors and supported other groups with charitable contributions. In 1948 and 1973, it observed its 25th and 50th anniversaries with special celebrations.

The club continues to operate in Indianapolis. Carolyn Woods is the current president (2014).

Sources:

Material in the collection.

Wilma L. Dulin, "Fortnightly Literary Club," *Black History News and Notes*, #41. p.1.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Fortnightly Literary Book Club Collection comprises one manuscript box. The organizational records include correspondence, a minute book, loose minutes and 40 yearbooks numbered irregularly from 1927–2007. The newspaper clippings include information about the club, its activities, and the members. There is also an April 2001 poem, "Literary Ladies," written by Wendell L. Parker, Indiana Poet Laureate, about the Fortnightly Literary Book Club. Memorabilia contains a napkin from the 50th anniversary celebration, a 50th anniversary letter opener, a hand-held sign, a small address book, and a mirror from the Era Belle Thompson meeting.

The photographs include pictures of founders including Georgia Martin Patton, Madeline Allen, and Marcia Skelton (substituting for deceased sister, Ora Skelton Willett), 28 October 1973 50th Anniversary Committee of Fortnightly Literary Club (8 women pictured); and 25th Anniversary Celebration of Fortnightly Literary Club, 31 October 1948.

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Historical Remembrances, 1989.

Minutes Book, 1959–77.

Minutes, 1979–87.

Correspondence, 1970–87.

Programs, 1935, 1988.

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Yearbooks, 1950–68.

Yearbooks, 1969–83.

Yearbooks, 1992–2007.

Clippings, 1948–90, n.d.

"Literary Ladies," 2001.

Memorabilia, n.d.

Photographs, 1948–73.

CONTAINER

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Box 1, Folder 2

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Artifact:
1990.0297

Photographs:
Folder 1