



BHC-MSS 0095
Guide to the Records of the Mosaic Club
By Meg Rinn
October 2020

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Mosaic Club

Title: Records of the Mosaic Club

Dates: 1872-1975

Quantity: 4 manuscript boxes

Abstract: Organized in May of 1897, the Mosaic Club was a women's organization that lasted from the 1890s until sometime in the 1970s. It came out of a small circle of neighborhood women who got together and read Shakespeare together, but over time it expanded to include most of the humanities, including art, music, history, and social sciences. Minutes and clippings make up the bulk of the collection, and provide extensive documentation of most of the club's history.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Organized in May of 1897, the Mosaic Club was a women's organization that lasted from the 1890s until sometime in the 1970s. It came out of a small circle of neighborhood women who got together and read Shakespeare together, but over time it expanded to include most of the humanities, including art, music, history, and social sciences. While the original membership was restricted to 20 women at a time, this was later rescinded and Bridgeport ladies from all over the city attended the club.

The name of Mosaic Club was chosen to reflect the diversity of interests the club represented, and indeed, they had speakers from various fields such as architecture, music, and history among many others. This is likewise reflected in the many, many minute books that comprise the bulk of the collection.

As a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a national level organization to connect clubs together, the Mosaic Club was highly active and even saw members win awards for their participation. Edith May Porter was one such example, as she was honored on May 1966 by the national level organization.

A full history of the club up until 1957 was written by Edith May Porter and is a part of the collection. However, members are referred to as "Mrs. [husband's name]." Identification is ongoing.

It is unclear when the Mosaic Club ceased to exist, but based on when dates thin out in the records, it was likely sometime in the 1970s.

Scope and Content note:

The bulk of the collection contains meeting minutes for most of the club's history. As such, a consistent record of club activities are represented from 1897-1965. Clippings and club history help to supplement the meeting minutes.

Arrangement Note:

Minutes have been placed in Series I, along with a guest register for an "eclectic club" which was included in the collection's donation and may have been an earlier incarnation of the club. Governance and activities make up series II, and includes the club history, various By-laws, and correspondence. Clippings and citations make up series III, containing newspaper clippings and a set of club directories for Bridgeport and the State of Connecticut.

Administrative information:**Provenance:****Preferred Citation:**

Records of the Mosaic Club (BHC-MSS 0095) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings*Personal names*

Porter, Edith May

Corporate names

Mosaic Club

Subject tracings

Literary clubs

Detailed box and folder listing

Series I - Minutes

Box 1

1. Eclectic club visitor's register, 1872-1879
2. Minutes, 1897-1899
3. Minutes, 1899-1902
4. Minutes, 1902-1908
5. Minutes, 1908-1910

Box 2

1. Minutes, 1915-1921
2. Minutes, 1923-1925
3. Minutes, 1926-1927
4. Minutes, 1930-1934
5. Minutes, 1934-1940

Box 3

1. Minutes, 1940-1946

2. Minutes, 1946-1951
3. Minutes, 1951-1955
4. Minutes, 1955-1960
5. Minutes, 1960-1965

Series II – Governance and activities

Box 4

1. Mosaic club history, 1947, 1957
2. Constitutions and By-laws, 1946
3. Report on socials at 15th anniversary, Toast to Charter members, 1912, 1923
4. Treasurer's report, 1968-1971
5. Correspondence, 1906, 1965-1966, 1975
6. Photograph of club members, 1970

Series 3, Clippings and citations

7. Clippings, 1902 reception, 1902
8. Clippings, 1958-1960
9. Clipping, Edith May Porter, May 8, 1966
10. Lists of clubs, 1909, 1962, 1967