Finding Aid to the
Fine Arts Club of Fargo Records

Fine Arts Club (Fargo, N.D.)
Fine Arts Club of Fargo Records, 1917 - 1998
1.4 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 248

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid to earlier accession (Mss 34) of Fine Arts Club of Fargo Records
Finding aid to the Fine Arts Club of Fargo Photograph Collection

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.


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HISTORY

The Fine Arts Club of Fargo, North Dakota had its origins in the Fargo Amateur Music Club. In the spring of 1911 Mrs. Frank J. Thompson consented to assume the presidency of the Music Club on the condition that it be merged into a new organization consisting of several departments. This was accomplished and in September 1911 the Fine Arts was formally organized at the home of Mrs. Thompson. There were five original sections representing Music, Writers (Quill), Drama Art, and
Sociology (Social Economic). The first meeting was held December 2, 1911 and the first yearbook published in 1912. The club became federated on October 4, 1912 and joined as member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs in 1925. The club continued to grow with the addition of the Home Economics Section in 1913, the Literature Section in 1922, the Women’s Sports Section in 1926, and the History Section in 1926. Clubhouse facilities continually changed until November 5, 1930 when the gift of Watson Hall (formally of Fargo College) from Mrs. John H. Watson was formally accepted as a permanent residence. A Fine Arts Library was a project for the 1934-1935 season and dedicated March 29, 1935. An addition of a stage and auditorium was accomplished in 1937. The Fine Arts Club continues to function, today, at the Watson Hall location, 601 4th Street South.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Fine Arts Club of Fargo, North Dakota can be loosely categorized in three general areas: records pertaining to the club as a whole, those pertaining to the nine individual sections of the club, and scrapbooks. The scrapbooks category, which also contains photo albums, contains both general scrapbooks and those associated with a particular section. The earlier donation of club records was processed as Mss 34. Consult the separate finding aid to that collection regarding its contents.


The **Section Materials Series** consists almost exclusively of meeting minutes of various sections. The bylaws of the Literature Section as adopted on March 27, 1992 are also included. The meeting minutes of the various sections, in alphabetical order, include the Art Section 1917-1937, Drama Section 1949-1958, and 1974-1981, Home Economics Section 1974-1982 Literature Section 1980-1998, and Social Economics Section 1982-1984.

The **Scrapbook Series** consists of five scrapbooks. Two of the scrapbooks are associated with the club as a whole while two more of them document the Music Section and the Sports Section. One final book documents the gifts received by the club during the years 1930 to 1974.
## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

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### General Club Materials Series

**Financial Material—**

- **1/2**  
  Treasurer’s reports, April 1, 1948-April 1, 1956
- **1/3**  
  Treasurer’s reports, April 1, 1967-April 1, 1978
- **1/4**  
  Check register, September 1, 1948-September 13, 1954
- **1/5**  
  Check register, September 1954-December 28, 1963
- **1/6**  
  Check register, December 28, 1963-December 31, 1972
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**General Reports—**

- **1/11**  
  Annual reports, 1957-1976
- **1/12**  
  Annual reports, 1977-1978
- **1/13**  
  President’s reports, 1963-1979
- **1/14**  
  Board of Director’s meeting minutes, Sept. 19, 1944-May 1, 1951
- **3/1**  
  Board of Director’s meeting minutes, April 24, 1974-February 5, 1979

**Subject Files—**

- **3/2**  
  Correspondence, October 9, 1964-February 1, 1994
- **3/3**  
  Caretaker agreements, 1976-1979

**Annual Booklets—**

- **2/1**  
  Annual booklets, 1912-1930
- **2/2**  
  Annual booklets, 1930-1950
- **2/3**  
  Annual booklets, 1959-1960
- **2/4**  
  Annual booklets, 1960-1970
- **2/5**  
  Annual booklets, 1970-1980

### Section Materials Series

**Art Section**

- **3/4**  
  Meeting minutes, April 4, 1917-May 1, 1928
- **3/5**  
  Meeting minutes, October 2, 1928-May 4, 1937

**Drama Section**

- **3/6**  
  Meeting minutes, October 3, 1949-May 19, 1958
Meeting minutes, October 7, 1974- November 2, 1981

Home Economics Section

Meeting minutes, September 26, 1974- May 13, 1982

Literature Section

Bylaws, March 27, 1992

Meeting minutes, September 26, 1980- December 9, 1988

Meeting minutes, January 13, 1989- March 27, 1992

Meeting minutes, April 10, 1992- May 8, 1998

Social Economics Section

Meeting minutes, November 8, 1982- May 14, 1984

Scrapbook Series

Scrapbook, General, June 1975- April 1986

Music Section photo album, October 24, 1978- April 29, 1980

Photo album, General, May 1976

Sports Section scrapbook, September 15, 1978-1982

Gift book, 1930-1974