

Inventory of the

**Thursday Arts Club**  
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 250**

## INTRODUCTION

Sally Deihl donated the Thursday Arts Club Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 6, 2000 and May 1, 2001. An addendum was added in May 2003.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the materials in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.25  
Number of containers: 3  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 250

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Thursday Arts Club date from its formation in 1925 to 2000. The collection includes two histories, constitutions and by-laws, meeting minutes, yearbooks, correspondence and newspaper clippings.

The records include a full set of meeting minutes dating from 1925 to 1989. Also contained in the meeting minute books are the by-laws and constitutions, including any revisions to the same. The yearbooks range from 1929 to 1990 and include officer names, programs and membership lists.

The addendum includes anniversary histories, constitutions, meeting minutes, yearbooks, correspondence, and program committee minutes and notes. The meeting minutes also include correspondence, constitutions, program handouts, and attendance sheets.

For additional information on the Thursday Arts Club and other women's organizations researchers should consult the Regional History Center's guide and reference shelflist.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

In February 1925, four lady friends, Mrs. Simms, Mrs. Crego, Mrs. Powell, and Mrs. Gould, decided to turn their frequent habit of meeting for coffee, sewing and visiting into "a club composed of intelligent women who were interested in intellectual development." These ladies, along with a few other friends, eventually formed the Thursday Arts Club.

The ladies met and agreed that membership would be limited to twenty (this was later increased to twenty-four). Each member was to present one topic each year that she had thoroughly studied. The ladies then compiled a list of names of potential members and extended an invitation to each person on the list. On March 17, 1925, the members agreed to name their

group “Thursday Arts Club,” and to meet on the second and fourth Thursday from the months of September to May.

A program committee was formed and began to outline programs for the coming year. In the early years meetings included current topics presented by several ladies and followed by a book review by another member. In the beginning years of the club, the ladies discussed such topics as prohibition, The Great Depression, promotion of education, and foreign countries. In later years, programs continued to discuss current topics but in addition branched out to include pleasures such as flowers, collecting gemstones, and listening to music.

In February 2000, the Club celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its current 23 members who are dedicated to the intellectual growth and friendships the club brings.

[Historical information taken from the histories included in the collection.]

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Arts Club  
DeKalb, Organizations  
Thursday Arts Club  
Women’s Organization

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Histories, 1925-2000
	2	Constitution, By-laws, Revised, 1993
	3-10	Constitution, By-laws, and Meeting Minutes, Vol. I-VIII, February 7, 1925-February 13, 1975
2	1	Meeting Minutes, Vol. IX, February 27, 1975-May 14, 1981
	2	Attendance and Meeting Minutes, Vol. X, September 24, 1981-April 27, 1989
	3-6	Yearbooks, 1929-1990
	7	Correspondence, 1972, 1982, 1984-1986
	8	Newspaper Clippings, 1986, 1987

ADDENDUM

3	1	20th Anniversary History by Florence C. Gould, February 8, 1945
	2	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1974, 1975
	3	Constitutions, 1929-1988
	4	Meeting Minutes, Vol. XI, September 28, 1989-May 12, 1994
	5	Yearbooks, (1990-2001)
	6	Correspondence, 1971-1997, n.d.
	7	Program Committee, 1970-1986
	8	Program Committee Notes, 1985-1986, n.d.