

Eclectic Club (Bradford, Mass.) Records, 1896-1975

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 74
Creator:	Eclectic Club (Bradford, Mass.)
Title:	Eclectic Club (Bradford, Mass.) Records
Dates:	1900-1975
Size:	.417 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	The Eclectic Club records document the activities and administration of this women's literary and social organization from 1896 to 1975.

Organizational History

The Eclectic Club was a women's club founded in 1896 for the "mutual benefit of its members and advancement in the knowledge of general literature." Seven of the 18 charter members lived on or adjacent to Salem Street, Bradford, Massachusetts. When their husbands were occupied in the evenings, the ladies would sit with their neighbors, knitting and discussing the latest books and matters in general. Because they all felt the need of the development of the mind and the general study of literature, the idea of a club was born.

On 6 November 1896, a meeting was called at the home of Jane Wood, where it was voted to organize a literary club with Jane as the first president and Alice Kelley as secretary and treasurer. Later a vice-president was chosen. They selected the mountain laurel as the club flower; the club colors were pink and green. Cora Belle Sanborn came up with the name for the club and it was immediately accepted. At first, the first meetings were held on Saturday evenings from 7:45 to 10:00, but later were changed to Monday afternoons fortnightly. The members presented papers on an annual theme (e.g. Russia, Scandinavia, etc.) and there were social meetings and outings. Dues were 25 cents to start and later raised.

In the minutes of 5 May 1975, the assistant secretary wrote, "No regular meetings were scheduled for the future. The meeting closed with the hope that some understanding would be reached as to the future of the Eclectic Club." It is not known if or when the club disbanded.

Arrangement

Series 1. Administrative, 1896-1975, undated

Scope and Content Note

The Eclectic Club records document the activities and administration of the organization from 1900 to 1975. Series one contains the constitution and by-laws, financial records, attendance records, meeting minutes, programs, two essays, a poem, and a news clipping.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Eclectic Club Records, MSS 74, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Unknown.
Acquisition Information:	Probably donated by the club.
Processing Information:	Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021. Revised by Elizabeth Smith, 2024.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	None.
Copyright:	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
Related Collections:	None.
Separated Material:	None.
Conservation Notes:	The newspaper clipping was photocopied onto archival quality paper.
Subjects:	Eclectic Club (Bradford, Mass.) Bradford (Haverhill, Mass.) – History Literature -- Societies, etc. Programs Women – Massachusetts -- Bradford Women -- Societies and clubs

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administrative, 1896-1975, undated

This series contains administrative records such as the constitution and by-laws, financial records, attendance records, meeting minutes, programs, two essays, a poem, a record book and a news clipping.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Calendars, 1900-1912, 1946, 1973-1974, undated	1	1
"King George Strives to Please" poem by Ben Robertson, 1939	1	2
"Sixty Years with the Eclectic Club" part I by Carrie Louis Miner, Part II by Gertrude Carlisle, 1956	1	3
News clipping, 1959	1	4
Cash book, 1966-1974	1	5
Attendance, 1970-1975	1	6
Savings bank book, 1970-1974	1	7
Meeting minutes, 1963-1975	1	8
Constitution and by-laws written in 1896, undated	1	9
Record Book, 1896-1963	2	