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Ladies Art Club - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 762)

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 Department of Library Special Collections
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 762 LADIES Art Club – Bowling Green, Kentucky

½ box. 8 folders. 27 items. 1935-1963. Originals.

SC2024.23.9

COLLECTION NOTE

The Ladies Art Club was founded in 1906 by Reverend Robert Mitchell, the president of Simmons Memorial College in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and his wife Virginia (Leach) Mitchell. Its first president was teacher M. Celestine Slaughter, a teacher at State Street School. This collection consists of the minute books for the club dating from 1935-1939, 1940-1941, and 1951-1957, with a few loose items extending the date span of materials to 1963. The club's membership consisted of approximately one dozen African-American women whose meetings regularly included prayer and song, scripture, discussion of current news topics, and enjoyment of a meal. The club presented a yearly exhibition consisting of various sewing projects—pillow slips, tea towels, pot holders, guest towels, etc.—made by members. Members also contributed money to be used for various charitable purposes both small and large: the purchase of a pair of shoes for a disadvantaged child; the purchase of a table and chairs for the State Street School library; the distribution of Christmas baskets; and in the 1950s, contributions to scholarship funds in support of women's higher education. The club was among those listed in the Kentucky Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Among the items of interest in the minutes and associated loose items are: the observation of club anniversaries and the accompanying exhibitions in celebration thereof; an admonition in the 3 January 1941 minutes against gossip and bringing "discord" that could lead to the expulsion of a member; a resolution to send material relating to the club's 50th anniversary to "negro papers"; and a 1957 letter (Folder 7) from its first president, then living in Washington, D.C., with thanks for the club's remembrance of her. Also of interest (Folder 7) is correspondence with Bowling Green funeral director James E. Kuykendall and his wife, exchanged after club members deplored a cross burning on his property in September 1953.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Ladies Art Club	1935-1963	27 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item

Folder 2	Minute book	1935-1939	1 item
Folder 3	Loose items from minute book	1939, n.d.	2 items
Folder 4	Minute book	1940-1941	1 item
Folder 5	Loose items from minute book	1941, n.d.	10 items
Folder 6	Minute book	1948-1951	1 item
Folder 7	Minute book	1951-1957	1 item
Folder 8	Loose items from minute book	1953-1963	10 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 762 LADIES Art Club – Bowling Green, Kentucky 1935-1963

Minute books of the Ladies Art Club, an African-American women's club in Bowling Green, Kentucky whose objectives included social and charitable activities and annual exhibits of sewing work.
 ½ box. 8 folders. 27 items. Originals.
 SC2024.23.9

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans – Bowling Green
 Clubs – Bowling Green
 Kuykendall, Eva May (Luvall), 1876-1944 B1,F8
 Kuykendall, James Elwood, 1874-1960 B1,F8
 Slaughter, M. Celestine B1,F8
 Women – Societies and clubs

Niedermeier 04/18/2024