Browning Club - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 301)

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The Browning Club was organized in September, 1895, with six charter members, which increased over the years to eighteen members. The purpose of the Club was to meet to read and study the works of Robert Browning together; the scope of the club’s programs has expanded over the years to include a wide array of subjects. The second year, the club studied Shakespeare; the following year the Bible was chosen. Each year a topic of study is selected and members take turns preparing a program for presentation at a meeting or hosting the meeting.

The club did not formally organize with a constitution until later, and the first constitution available is 1931. The constitution contains information about membership, dues, and the organization of the course of study and how it has evolved since 1931. In 2010, the Browning Club voted to permanently archive their papers at the Kentucky Library & Museum.

COLLECTION NOTES

The papers of the Browning Club have been organized into two series. Series I contains the organization’s minutes. These minutes record the date and place of each meeting as well as the hostess and program presenter. The secretary also records information related to the program in the minutes. In earlier years, the presenter actually turned in notes that were included with the minutes. These notes were separated from the minutes and appear in Series II. Series II contains administrative papers, such as the constitutions, correspondence, programs, loose materials about programs, histories, photographs, and miscellaneous material related to the club. The early programs were printed and contained the course of study for the club year, including the topic chosen by each individual, the hostess name, and the date. The last printed program was for the program year 1950-1951; afterwards a mimeographed or photocopied program was prepared.

The club does not have its early minutes and there are gaps in many of the files. Excessive duplicates were removed. All paper clips and other fasteners were removed from the collection and replaced with coated clips or stainless steel clips; articles on newsprint were
photocopied on acid-free paper and all materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. The club will regularly add new material to the collection.

**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERIES I</th>
<th>Browning Club – Administrative papers</th>
<th>1950-1997</th>
<th>10 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>1950-1997</td>
<td>10 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 1a  Inventory</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 1  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 1950-May 14, 1955</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 2  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 23, 1955-May 24, 1959</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 3  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 25, 1959-May 18, 1962</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 4  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 26, 1962-May 5, 1967</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Folder 5  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 1967-May 3, 1974</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 6  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 13, 1974-March 16, 1979</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Folder 7  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 14, 1979-May 6, 1988</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Folder 8  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 1988-May 24, 1994</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 9  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 13, 1994-August 16, 1997</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>2000-2014</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Folder 1  Minutes</td>
<td>Oct. 3, 2000-July 10, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 2  Minutes</td>
<td>Sept. 18, 2007-May 12, 2009</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Folder 3
- **Minutes**
  - **Dates:** Sept. 8, 2009 - May 24, 2011
  - **Items:** 1

### Folder 4
- **Minutes**
  - **Dates:** Aug. 9, 2011 - May 28, 2013
  - **Items:** 1

### Folder 5
- **Minutes**
  - **Dates:** Aug. 27, 2013 - May 27, 2014
  - **Items:** 1

### SERIES II
**Browning Club – Administrative papers**
**Dates:** 1913-1996
**Items:** 210

**BOX 1**
**Miscellaneous administrative papers**
**Dates:** 1913-1996
**Items:** 210

### BOX 1
- **Folder 1**
  - **Constitutions**
    - **Dates:** 1931-1994
    - **Items:** 5

- **Folder 2**
  - **Histories**
    - **Dates:** 1970-1995
    - **Items:** 12

- **Folder 3**
  - **Membership**
    - **Dates:** 1950-1996
    - **Items:** 13

- **Folder 4**
  - **Correspondence**
    - **Dates:** 1963-2010
    - **Items:** 22

- **Folder 5**
  - **Programs**
    - **Dates:** 1913-1996
    - **Items:** 38

- **Folder 6**
  - **Loose material about programs**
    - **Dates:** 1956-1966
    - **Items:** 69

- **Folder 7**
  - **Loose material about programs**
    - **Dates:** 1970-1987
    - **Items:** 26

- **Folder 8**
  - **Photographs**
    - **Dates:** 1970-2011, n.d.
    - **Items:** 26

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

**MSS 301**

**BROWNING Club**
**Dates:** 1913-1997

Constitutions, minutes, club histories, membership and program materials of the Browning Club, a women’s literary club founded in Bowling Green in 1895.

3 boxes. 17 folders. 206 items.

Originals.

2010.18.1

### SUBJECT ANALYTICS
Clubs – Bowling Green, 1913-
Societies – Bowling Green, 1913-
Women – Societies and clubs, 1913-

Jeffrey 03/01/2010