OLD OAK CLUB (NASHVILLE, TENN.)
RECORDS, 1888-1997

Processed by:
Harriet Chappell Owsley, Mary Washington Frazier, et al.
Archives & Manuscripts Unit


Date Completed: September 26, 1960
Location: III-B-4-5, top; III-J-3; V-M-1; XII-E-5
INTRODUCTION

The Old Oak Club (Nashville, Tenn.) Records were given to the Manuscript Division by Miss Isabel Howell, daughter of Alfred E. Howell, a member of the club and secretary for many years. Robert McGaw, a member of the club, gave the papers which had been stored in the Alumni Office of Vanderbilt University. Dr. Daniel M. Robison, a member of the club, added several papers to the collection which had been turned over to him by the authors.

The materials in this finding aid measure 6.78 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Old Oak Club Records may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Old Oak Club (Nashville, Tenn.) Records, 1888-1997, are composed of correspondence, clippings, handbooks, programs, minutes, papers read by members, histories of the club, and several sketches of deceased members.

The club was organized by Herman Justi in November of 1887. The members consisted of a group of his friends who had been associated together in an eating club. Others were added from time to time as vacancies occurred but the membership was limited to twenty-five. The purpose of the club, as given in the constitution, is “for the discussion and investigation of subjects of general interest.” This included a wide variety of subjects and although all of the papers read are not in the collection, the programs are almost complete from 1888 to 1940. The minutes are also complete for these years with one exception: the period 1892-1901 is missing. Among the papers are histories of the club written by G. H. Baskette, J. T. McGill, and others who failed to sign their sketches. These papers give an insight into Nashville cultural history.

More recent records of the Club are located at the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Archives in Nashville, Tennessee.
CONTAINER LIST

Box 1
1. Correspondence, 1902-1908
2. Correspondence, 1909
3. Correspondence, 1910-1923
4. Correspondence, 1924
5. Correspondence, 1925
6. Correspondence, 1926-1927
7. Correspondence, 1928-1929
8. Correspondence, 1930-1934
9. Correspondence, 1935-1941
10. Correspondence, 1953-1960
11. Clippings
12. Facts and figures, 1888-1930

Box 2
1. Handbooks, 1888-1926
2. Handbooks, 1908-1938
4. History of the club – Notes, 1888-1918
5. History of the club – Baskette, et al., 1888-1923
7. Leaders and topics approved for study
8. Memorial to Herman Justi, 1909
9. Notices and miscellaneous papers, 1892-1957
10. Photographs and memorabilia
11. Planting of oak at Robert L. Burch’s home, 1916
12. Receipts, 1907-1934
13. Roster and calendars, 1929-1959
14a. Sketches – Reuben, Ford by Herman Justi
15. Sketches – Hale, George Weeks
16. Sketches – Jackson, Robert F., 1933
17. Sketches – Keeble, John Bell, 1929
18. Sketches – McMurry, Charles Alexander, 1929
19. Sketches -- Rodriguez, Primitivo A.
21. Sketches – Smith, Robert Trimble, 1929
22. Verses by Mrs. W. H. Witt and reply by Alfred E. Howell, 1916
**Box 3**
1. Minutes – Book No. 1, 1888-1892
2. Minutes – Book No. 4, 1901-1910
3. Minutes – Book No. 5, 1910-1921
4. Minutes, attendance records, etc., 1921-1926
5. Minutes, attendance records, etc., 1928-1930
6. Minutes, attendance records, etc., 1930-1935
7. Minutes, attendance records, etc., 1935-1940

**Box 4**
1. Programs, 1892-1910
2. Programs, 1911-1926
3. Programs, 1927-1944

**Box 5**

Papers Presented at the Old Oak Club Meetings
5. Baskette, G. H. and Alfred E. Howell – “Railway Rate Regulation,” 1905
8. Clark, James E. – “Italy in Tripoli,” 1911
10. Crabb, Alfred L. – “Poor Columbus,” 1957
11. Dake, Walter M. – “Right or Wrong, My Preceptor’s Story”
**Box 5A (accessions 90-369, 97-062)**

   "A Faculty Ghetto" by Joseph E. Wright, Oct. 22, 1987
   "Pre-Columbian Voyages: Fact and Fancies" by William C. Finch, Dec. 3, 1987
2. Papers presented, 1995-1997 (12)

**Box 6**

2. Little, Charles E. and Alfred E. Howell – “Der Zeitgeist,” 1912
10. Reeves, Joe – “Teapot Dome,” 1957
11. Robison, Daniel M. – “Planning Tennessee’s State Library and Archives Building,” 1953; notes on Tennessee history
15. Van Antwerp, Chiles – “To Meet the Shortage ,” 1956

**Box 7**

1. Bowen, Cawthon – “Preservation, of Food, that is,” 1962
2. Cate, George H., Jr. – “Render Unto Caesar,” 1966
9. Hughes, Norman M. – “Social Security After Fifteen Years,” 1951
12. Malone, Thomas H., Jr. – “Montaigne’s Essays”
14a Reeves, Joseph – “Justice with a Pitchfork…,” 1968
15. Robison, Daniel M. – “Bouncers at the Church Door,” 1964
15a Soprofkin, Bertram E. – “High Talk – A Language Barrier,” 1966
21a. Wade, John Webster – “Good and Bad Samaritans,” 1966
24. West, Olin, Jr. – “Caveat Emptor,” 1965
25. Wills, Jesse – “The Revolutions Around Us,” 1965

Box 8 (III-J-3)

Box 9 (V-M-1)
1. Constitution, by-laws, and history

Papers Presented at the Old Oak Club Meetings
5. Weaver, Herbert – “Poking Through Tennessee During the 1820s and 1830s,” 1969
9. Van Antwerp, Chiles – “Every Four Years”

**Oversize Folder (III-B-top)**
1. Photographs of members of the club, 1896, 1914, 1932, 1941

**Additions to Collection**

**Accession Numbers** 91-175, 91-184, 94-030, 95-066

**Location:** XII-E-5

**Box 10**

**Folders**
   “Beating the System,” April 28, 1983
   “Major Unanswered Questions,” February 23, 1984
3. “Das Lied von Der Erde” (Song of the Earth), November 24, 1982
   “Ms. Revisited,” April 22, 1982
   “200 Years of Witches-Why,” October 28, 1982
   “A Near Ms.” – September 26, 1974
   “This Rude Game,” March 27, 1986
   “At the Crossroads,” April 24, 1986
6. “Pen and Sword,” September 25, 1986
   “The Renaissance Discovery of the Real,” September 26, 1985
   “Another Look at Pearl Harbor,” October 23, 1986
   “The Ultimate Penalty,” January 22, 1987
   “A Revolutionary in Nashville, Dr. Oswald T. Avery,” March 26, 1987
   “Draft Riots of the ‘60s, TET, and the Battle of Nashville,” May 28, 1987
7. “Mortain and the Oracle at Bletchley,” by Joe Thompson, Jr. – 1988
   “Though Love,” by Cawthon A. Bowen, Jr. – 1988
   “Westward Ho in Three Movements: The Beginnings and Trauma of the
Mormons,” by Olin West, Jr. – 1989
“Some memories of a Nashville Boyhood,” by Robert A. McGaw –1989
“The Prints and the Pauper” by Joseph L. May – April 25, 1991
“Prisoners of Myth,” by Erwin Hargrove – April 23, 1992
“Three Rs, Xs, and Os,” by Cawthon A. Bowen – Sept 24, 1992
“Hume-Fogg Remembered,” by Robert A. McGaw – 2, 1992
“Two Examinations, One in Trig…,”” by James H. Sandlin – Feb 25, 1993
“Impairment Among Professionals: A Program for Its Management,”” by Charles
B. Thorne – April 22, 1993
“The Minimum Minority: The Mysterious Melungeons,”” by Olin West, Jr. – May
27, 1993
“Rugby Anyone?”” by Bertram Sprofkin – Sept 23, 1993
“If I Were Dean…”” by Robinson Neil Bass – Dec 2 1993

Box 11
Folders
“How the West Was Won – Between the Rivers,” by W. G. Holladay – Feb 24, 1994
“Politics and Laughter,” by Harry H. Ransom – March 24, 1994
“Semper Fi and All That: A Marine Corps Memoir,”” by Robert A. McGaw – April
28, 1994
“Ghosts of Academe (Medical): Past and Future,”” by Robert D. Collins, M. D. –
June 1, 1994
4. Papers presented, 1994-1995 season