

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. #88

Date processed:

July, 1978

I. Title CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS COLLECTION, 1781 - 1960

II. The papers of (See Table of Contents)  
deposited in the Library on , by  
In converted the deposit to a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1  
Approximate number of items: 75

IV. Restrictions:

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of  
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of  
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated  
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note:

Friendly Society. Records show that beginning in July, 1781, a small group of New Haven men met weekly to discuss and debate moral, religious, and current issues. For example, whether "the Flood of Noah Covered the whole Earth.... Whether it is Right for a Man to collect Debts to the Distress of the Debtor for the purpose of Improving his Fortune...." They also discussed the subject of establishing a bank in New Haven and organized a linen manufactory. At one time Simeon Baldwin was a member. The Society's records end on April, 1791.

Amicable Society. This group was founded on April 14, 1800, by fifteen men from the New Haven community who met weekly until November 2, 1800, for the purposes of mutual instruction and improvement. The rules show that communications were presented "which members have the liberty to make respecting anything ... of History, Morality, Poetry, Physic, Mechanik-Arts or other branches of Knowledge .... But no Religious or Political Controversy shall be admitted." Also "Local information for the improvement of the City of New Haven ... and any worthy persons who are in need of relief." Reading selections were also included on the meeting agenda. Members were taxed at 37 1/2 cents a head.

Clerks Union Society. A group of young clerks met on March 21, 1828, to form a secret society. Meetings were held weekly until the Society was dissolved on October 1, 1830. Compositions and orations were given and debates held, of which the ledgers give detailed accounts. Assignments were given out and debate subjects chosen the previous week. Those unprepared were fined. The Society kept a circulating library from which members borrowed books according to a strict code of rules.

The New Haven Social Science Association. This organization was formed by a diverse group of men in December, 1892. Among the lawyers, clergymen, educators, physicians, manufacturers, and other professionals were a machinist, mason, barber, and bank clerk. At monthly meetings reports were given by a member or invited guests and then discussed by those present. Meetings were often given extensive press coverage. Subjects included many areas of social science - government, politics, taxation, social questions, education, and religion from local, national, and international points of view. The last meeting was held on January 4, 1906.

Hamden Men's Club. Founded in 1909, this was essentially a recreational club. The constitution stated that the object of the club was to "promote social and educational advantages of the men of our community." Membership was open to anyone willing to pay dues (\$.25 per month) and conform to the club's rules.

New Haven Book Club. This club was established in 1846 by leading New Haven citizens and several members of the Yale faculty, who purchased new books and circulated them among themselves. Books were selected by a committee and paid for by dues collected. At the end of the year the books were auctioned off and vacancies were filled by votes of the active members. The club disbanded around 1960.

Blue Ribbon Book Club. This club was organized along the lines of the New Haven Book Club. Records begin in 1875, but the club may have been founded earlier. At first members were of both sexes, but by 1925 the club was exclusively female. Book selections were divided almost equally between fiction and nonfiction. Records of the book club end in 1958.

#### VIII. Analysis:

This collection contains twelve ledgers and five folders. The older ledgers are paperbound and somewhat fragile. The ledgers contents vary. The Friendly Society, Clerk's Union and Social Science Association ledgers give detailed accounts of all meetings. The Social Science Association's includes also press clippings with more details. The Amicable

Society's ledger covers business matters only. The Hamden Men's Club ledger is a rule book and membership roster. The book clubs both had several ledgers listing members and books purchased along with financial information and minutes of annual meetings. Several ledgers are signed by the original members. The folders contain loose materials found in the ledgers.

The clubs are ordered chronologically within categories - discussion, social, and book.

Numbers in brackets following title of folder indicate the amount of items contained in that folder.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Box I:Friendly Society

Ledger (Gift of Augustus Russell Street, 1871)

Entitled "Friendly Society Records - from July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1781"

Minutes, August 15, 1781 - April 3, 1791, signed  
by clerks (Chas. Chauncey, William Lyons, R. Alden,  
John Goodrich, Henry Daggett, E. Beers)

Folder A: Typed transcripts of Ledgers [2]

One copy is photostat

Amicable Society

Ledger April 14, 1800 - November 2, 1800

Rules

Signatures of founding members

Reports of business (eleven meetings)

"Memorandum of Members who were absent from Stated Meetings"

Clerks Union Society of New Haven

Ledger #1 March 12, 1828 - March 3, 1830

Entitled "Record Book of the Clerks Union Society of  
New Haven, Connecticut"

Record of founding of the Society

Constitution

Signatures of founding members

By-laws

Minutes, March 12, 1828 - March 3, 1830

List of members

Ledger #2 March 12, 1830 - October 1, 1830

Entitled "Record No. 2"

Minutes, March 12, 1830 - August 25, 1830

Resolution of dissolution, October 1, 1830

Account Book 1828-1830. Member listing and semi-annual tax receipts.

The New Haven Social Science Association

Ledger #1 December 22, 1892 - November 7, 1901

By-laws and amendments

Membership list, signed and with occupations

Box I: The New Haven Social Science Association, ContinuedLedger #1 (Continued)

Records of meetings (minutes), December 22, 1892 -  
November 7, 1901

Newspaper clippings giving detailed accounts of several  
meetings, pasted into ledger

Ledger #2

Minutes, December 12, 1901 - January 4, 1906  
(includes newspaper clippings)

List of members, January, 1906

Folder B: Miscellaneous papers [22]

Secretary's Reports: 1892 (attendance list), 1894,  
1895, 1896, 1898, 1900

Treasurer's Reports: 1893, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1906

Correspondence, Incoming:

Fred S. Clark, February 1, 1901; January 3, 1906

W.E. White, October 20, 1902

C.L. Baldwin, October 31, 1904

J.B. Sargent, December 28, 1904

F.B. Farnsworth, January 2, 1905

John W. Townsend, January 7, 1905

L.M. Tarr, January 4, 1906

Minutes, November 14, 1900

Rules: Amendment IV, February 11, 1897

Notebook: Names and addresses of members

The Hamden Men's Club

Ledger October 14, 1909 - October 10, 1911

Two sketches by Nelson Bocchi

Constitution, adopted October 14, 1909

Signatures, followed by remarks

[Only twenty pages of this ledger have been filled]

Box II:New Haven Book Club

Ledger #1 January 15, 1880 - 1960

History of Club by Daniel J. Eaton, January 15, 1880

Membership lists

Regulations

Minutes of annual meetings

Lists of books purchased

Box II: New Haven Book Club, Continued

Ledger #2 January 1, 1874 - 1904

List of Officers, 1874 - 1888  
Books purchased, listed by title, author, member who  
received book first, date

Folder A: Miscellaneous papers [16]

Articles of Association, signed, 1846  
(two pages, torn in half)  
Correspondence, incoming:  
Chauncey Brewster Tinker, February 9, 1931  
Henry F. English, December 23, 1941  
Circulation (membership) lists: 1921, 1941, 1945, 1947, 1954  
Book list, 1931  
Copy of minutes, 1941  
Note from G.G.P.  
Other handwritten notes

Blue Ribbon Book Club

Ledger #1 January, 1876 -1958 Account Book

Dues collected, receipts, disbursements, occasional can-  
celled checks  
Circulation lists, 1885-1887 (used for dues collections)  
Books, listed by disbursements to bookstores, 1948-1958

Ledger #2 April, 1905 - May-June, 1924

Books purchased, listed by title, author, (price, 1921-24),  
member who received book first, date

Ledger #3 October, 1924 - 1948

Books purchased, listed by title, author, date, price  
(after 1931)  
Membership dues collected

Folder B: Miscellaneous papers [19]

History of Club, three typed pages, n.d.  
Memoranda to Members; rules, n.d.; 1948; book lists, 1952  
Book lists, handwritten 1948, handwritten n.d.  
Membership list, n.d.  
Circulation list, 192-  
T.V. Name, handwritten note, n.d.

Cultural and Social Organizations  
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Box II

- Folder C: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. Constitution. 1799. (1)  
Sent to Rev. John Marsh, Wethersfield. MSS note on second page  
by J. Meigs, Recording Secretary, Newhaven, May 22, 1799.

Box III

- Folder A: New Haven Sketch Club  
-mss list original members, 1883 (also photocopy)  
-First annual exhibition 1887, program and invitation (7)
- Folder B: New Haven Paint and Clay Club.  
- check membership dues and receipt with ALS Huc Mazelet-Luquiens, 1943 (3)
- Folder C: Sleeping Giant Park Association  
minutes directors, April 11, 1940.
- Folder D: Meeting notices: The Club, The dancing class, The Graduates, Lawn,  
Patrizates, Quinnipiac, New Haven Golf, Whist clubs, 1898-1932. (17)  
Misc. notices including: Olive Branch Lodge, The Academy,  
Village Unity League, Jolly Mermaid Club, Saint Andrew's  
Ladies Society
- Folder E: The New Haven Lawn Club  
Papers of Brower Hewitt  
Letters & reports 1924-1926 when he was Treasurer of the  
Little Theatre Guild  
Correspondence, reports, leases from Lawn Club where he held  
various offices (President, Chairman-House Com. 1916-1930)

MSS #88 - Cultural and Social Organizations

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
4/A	Amateur Bicycle League of America, Bicycle Championships, 1949, Program
4/B	Scrapbook – New Haven Council, American Youth Hostels, 1953-54
4/C	Oriental Lodge, #6, F. & A.M., Minutes 1938-1943
4/D	New Haven Ravens, Baseball Team, Photographs, 1980's Articles from New Haven Register, 1993-1995
4/E	New Haven Chowder Club, Record book, 1866-1875 Includes list of members at first meeting, 1842
4/F	Harugari Singing Society, Photograph

New Haven and Leon Nicaragua Sister City Committee

5/A	Letters, brochures, newspaper articles, flyers, photographs, 1984-95
5/b	“ “ “ “ 1987-1995  1 audio tape, “Give Peace a Dance”