



# Guide to the Halcyon Literary Club Records, 1910-2011

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Halcyon Literary Club records, 1910-2011

**Creator:**

Halcyon Literary Club

**Abstract:**

Durham, N.C., club organized "to promote interest in literary study and to further social enjoyment." Limited to thirty female members. Collection includes club history research, program booklets for the length of the club's operation, various correspondence from club members, meeting minutes, and historical versions of the constitution and other administrative materials.

**Extent:**

4.0 Linear Feet  
5.02 Gigabytes  
3000 Items

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.00492

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1qc90>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Halcyon Literary Club Records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

The collection has been arranged into four series: Club History, Halcyon Members, Programs, and Club Administration. The Club History Series contains research and recollections by Halcyon members about the group's founding and early members. A large portion of this series is the Centennial Memory

Notebook, created in 2011 in honor of the Halcyon Club's 100th anniversary. The series also includes handwritten and typed histories by club members from the 1930s through the 1990s. The Halcyon Members Series includes membership and officer lists, news coverage, membership nomination letters, resignation letters, and other correspondence between members relating to Halcyon member business. The majority of the Programs Series consists of the Halcyon Literary Club program booklets, created each year with the annual theme, schedule, and lists of participating and hosting members. Some years include multiple copies of the program booklets, sometimes including members' personalized notes. Other materials in the series include written book reviews, essays, and poems from different programs throughout the Club's history. Finally, the Club Administration Series includes meeting minutes, copies of the constitution, financial records, and receipts from various charitable donations made by Halcyon. This series also includes notes from families across the world thanking the Halcyon Club for contributing Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (C.A.R.E.) packages during the post-World War II period. Thematic summaries of the meeting minutes have been collected by Halcyon members and are included in the Club History Series.

### **Biographical/Historical**

The Halcyon Literary Club was formed among 12 women in Durham in 1910 "to promote interest in literary study and to further social enjoyment." Club histories reveal that early meetings were held once a month, with a luncheon followed by a book club. An annual theme was selected by the Club's program committee. Topics ranged, based on the interests of the Club's members, and included several countries or regions, art, music, as well as different genres of literature, including North Carolina authors, humorists, drama, and novels. Several mid-century programs discussed the changing roles of women in society. Membership grew but was capped at 30 members, excluding daughters or daughters-in-law.

Along with monthly meetings, the Club has maintained an active outreach program, beginning by contributing generously to charities in Europe following World War II. Recent efforts have focused locally on the Durham County Public Library, various symphonies, and local arts councils.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

The Halcyon Literary Club Records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1975, 2012, and 2016.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Chloe Rockow, Meghan Lyon, April 2012

Addition 2016-0228 processed by Katrina Martin, September 2016 and Laurin Penland, May 2020

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, April 2012

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2012-0050, 2016-0228

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

### **Access Restrictions**

Access note. Collection contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Literature -- Societies, etc.
- Clubs -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Durham (N.C.) -- History
- Women -- Societies and clubs
- Machine-readable artifacts
- Halcyon Literary Club

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## Collection Inventory

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### Club History Series, 1931-2011

#### Scope and Contents note

The collection has been arranged into four series: Club History, Halcyon Members, Programs, and Club Administration. The Club History Series contains research and recollections by Halcyon members about the group's founding and early members. A large portion of this series is the Centennial Memory Notebook, created in 2011 in honor of the Halcyon Club's 100th anniversary. The series also includes handwritten and typed histories by club members from the 1930s through the 1990s.

#### Access Restrictions:

Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.

Centennial Memory Notebook, 2011 Box 1

**Physical Description:** 8 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Includes cover and introduction, programs, list of program topics, histories, membership list (1910-2011), "Halcyons in the News," and profiles.

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Club History, by Mrs. C.C. Thomas, 1931-1932 Box 1

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"Lest We Forget," Club History, by Mrs. Helen Davis, 1931-1952 Box 1

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History of Halcyon, by Hatsy Moorhead, 1994 Box 1

Notes from Minutes	Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 7 folders	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes research on early members and notes written by Lucy Grant. Topics covered by Grant include meeting locations outside homes, Halcyon programs, Halcyon people and homes, asides, Halcyon food, and outside speakers.	
Research on founding members	Box 1
Member biographies, by Lola Williams	Box 1
Profiles of former members' husbands	Box 8
Halcyon Archive Inventory	Box 8
Arrowhead Inn tour recording, 2010	Digital-materials RL00492-SET-0001 Box Digital Media Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 1 CD containing 1 audio file, 22.7 MB	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Audio file in WMA format	
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	
Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.	
Halcyon house photographs, 2008-2010	Digital-materials RL00492-SET-0001 Box Digital Media Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 1 DVD containing 48 files, 30.2 MB	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
48 photographs in JPG format	
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	
Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.	
Halcyon house slideshows, 2010	Digital-materials RL00492-SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 2 DVDs, 4.63 GB

**Access Restrictions:**

Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.

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## Halcyon Members, 1910-2011

### Scope and Contents note

This series includes membership and officer lists, news coverage, nomination letters, resignation letters, and other correspondence between members relating to Halcyon member business.

Membership lists, officers, and duties	Box 2
Halcyons in the news, 1910-2011	Box 2 Box 8
Newspaper clippings, obituaries, sympathy notes, 1923-2011	Box 2 Box 8
Nomination letters, 1972-2000 and undated	Box 2
Nomination letters, 2008-2010	Box 8
Acceptance letters, 1919 and 1979-1981	Box 2
Thank you notes and acknowledgements, 1923-1972	Box 2
Thank you notes and acknowledgements, 2010-2011	Box 8
Resignation letters, 1969-1996 and undated	Box 2
Other member letters, 1979-1996	Box 2
Members' homes	Box 8
Founding members	Box 8
Historic membership	Box 8

Member photographs, 2008	Box 8
Member interviews, member profiles, membership rosters	Box 8
Books by Halcyon members and featuring Halcyon Literary Club	Box 9

**Scope and Contents**

Includes book by Duke alumna Ann Dodds Costello with a profile of Halcyon Book Club, "Smart Women: The Search for America's Historic All-Women Study Clubs". Also includes books by Catherine Petroski, "A Bride's Passage: Susan Hathorn's Year Under Sail" and "Beautiful My Mane in the Wind".

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**Programs, 1910-2008**

**Scope and Contents note**

The majority of this series consists of the Halcyon Literary Club program booklets, created each year with the annual theme, schedule, and lists of participating and hosting members. Other materials include written book reviews, essays, and poems from different events.

**Access Restrictions:**

Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.

**Miscellaneous Program Materials**

List of topics	Box 2
List of club topics, 1910-2010	Box 8
Papers and articles	Box 2
Poems	Box 2
Christmas music program recording, 2008	Digital-materials RL00492-SET-0001 Box Digital Media Box 1

**Physical Description:** 1 CD containing 1 audio file, 17.4 MB

**Scope and Contents**

1 audio file in WMA format

**Access Restrictions:**

Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.

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**Program Booklets**

Studies in Southern Literature, 1910-1911	Box 2
North Carolina: A Study in Social History and Resources, 1911-1912	Box 2
Mexico, 1912-1913	Box 2
Norway and Sweden, 1913-1914	Box 2
Famous Women, 1914-1915	Box 2
Italian Art, 1915-1916	Box 2
Seventeenth Century Art, 1916-1917	Box 2
Contemporary Literature, 1919-1920	Box 2
Contemporary Drama, 1920-1921	Box 2
American Life as Portrayed in American Fiction, 1921-1922	Box 2
South America, 1922-1923	Box 2
Music, 1923-1924	Box 2
Literature of Today, 1924-1925	Box 2
The Old North State: Past and Present, 1925-1926	Box 2
British Isles, 1926-1927	Box 2
Memoirs and Biography, 1927-1928, 1928-1929	Box 2
Our Own United States, 1929-1930	Box 2

Anniversary: Selected Topics, 1930-1931	Box 2
Short Stories and Short Story Writers, 1931-1932	Box 2
A Journey in Spain, 1932-1933	Box 2
Selected Topics, 1933-1934	Box 2
North America (United States, the Mixing Bowl), 1933-1934, 1934-1935	Box 2
Selected Topics, 1936-1937	Box 2
North Carolina, 1937-1938	Box 2
Modern Drama, 1938-1939	Box 2
Loafing through the Pacific: World Cruise, 1939-1940	Box 2
The Arts in Georgian England, 1940-1941	Box 2
Selected Topics, 1941-1942	Box 3
Book Reviews, 1942-1943	Box 3
Book Reviews, 1943-1944	Box 3
Selected Topics, 1944-1945	Box 3
Places and People of the Mediterranean, 1945-1946	Box 3
Rivers of America, 1946-1947	Box 3
Famous Families, 1947-1948	Box 3
Famous Cities, 1948-1949	Box 3
Career Women at Mid-Century, 1949-1950	Box 3
Americans from Abroad, 1950-1951	Box 3
Humor and Humorists, 1951-1952	Box 3
Other Peoples' Lives, 1952-1953	Box 3

Books of Travel, 1953-1954	Box 3
Book Reviews, 1954-1955	Box 3
Travel, 1955-1956	Box 3
The Great West; in Fact and Fiction, 1956-1957	Box 3
The Art Collection of the North Carolina Museum, 1957-1958	Box 3
Music, 1958-1959	Box 3
Study of Theater (Various Countries), 1959-1960	Box 3
Around the World, 1960-1961	Box 3
Golden anniversary program, 1910-1960	Box 8
Cultural and Political Personalities of the Last Decade - 1950-1960, 1961-1962	Box 3
Book Reviews: Collector's Items, 1962-1963	Box 3
The Cabinet of the United States, 1963-1964	Box 3
From the Mountains to the Sea, 1964-1965	Box 3
Biographies and Autobiographies of Women, 1965-1966	Box 3
The Modern Arts, 1966-1967	Box 3
Great Castles and Palaces of the World, 1967-1968	Box 3
Man and Religion, 1968-1969	Box 4
Kaleidoscope, 1969-1970	Box 4
Book Reviews, 1970-1971	Box 4
"Civilisation," by Kenneth Clark, 1971-1972	Box 4
NOW, 1972-1973	Box 4

A Year of Books, 1973-1974	Box 4
Women, 1974-1975	Box 4
Interesting Americans, 1975-1976	Box 4
Any Subject, Book, or Person of Current Interest, 1976-1977	Box 4
Different Cultures of the World, 1977-1978	Box 4
Twentieth Century Fiction-Non Fiction, 1978-1979	Box 4
Looking Back on the 70s: A Review of the Past Decade, 1979-1980	Box 4
Famous Families, 1980-1981	Box 4
North Carolina Personalities, 1981-1982	Box 4
The Life and Work of a Colorful Literary Personality, 1982-1983	Box 4
Famous Artists, 1983-1984	Box 4
Museums of Interest, 1984-1985	Box 4
Kings, Queens, and Jacks, 1985-1986	Box 4
Famous Churches of the World, 1986-1987	Box 4
Mysteries, 1987-1988	Box 4
Mistresses, 1988-1989	Box 4
American Dynasties, 1989-1990	Box 4
The Irish, 1990-1991	Box 4
Focus on Your Favorite Author, 1991-1992	Box 4
Book Review of 90s Best Seller, 1992-1993	Box 4
Portraits of Ladies, 1993-1994	Box 4
The Joy of Music/A Variety of Religious Experiences, 1994-1995	Box 4

Saints and Sinners, 1995-1996	Box 4
Art and Design, 1996-1997	Box 4
Great Love Affairs, 1997-1998	Box 4
A New Generation of Southern Literatures; Our Contemporary NC Writers, 1998-1999	Box 4
The Greatest Generation: Milestones of the 20th Century, 1999-2000	Box 4
Heroes, 2000-2001	Box 4
Women who Made a Difference, 2001-2002	Box 4
Potpourri, 2002-2003	Box 4
Sacred Sites, 2003-2004	Box 4
Southern Comfort, 2004-2005	Box 4
"Books that Made a Difference" and Revised Edition, 2005-2006	Box 4
Journeys of Life, 2006-2007	Box 4
Dreams and Discoveries, 2008-2009	Box 8
100 Years of Fashion and Music, 2010-2011	Box 8

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## **Club Administration, 1923-2011**

### **Scope and Contents note**

This series includes meeting minutes, copies of the constitution, financial records, and receipts from various charitable donations made by Halcyon. This series also includes notes from families across the world thanking the Halcyon Club for contributing Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (C.A.R.E.) packages during the post-war period. Thematic summaries of the meeting minutes have been collected by Halcyon members and are included in the Club History Series.

### **Access Restrictions:**

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### Minutes

1923-1926	Box 5
1926-1932 and undated, by Susie Shipp	Box 5
October 1931-November 1940	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
1941-1952	Box 5
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
1952	Box 5
November 1952-May 1954	Box 5
1954-1964	Box 5
1964-November 1970	Box 5
December 1970-May 1972	Box 5
October 1972-December 1974	Box 6
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
January 1975-May 1975	Box 6
October 1975-May 1976	Box 6
October 1976-January 1978	Box 6
February 1978-March 1979	Box 6
April 1979-December 1980	Box 6
January 1981-May 1982	Box 6
October 1982-May 1983	Box 6
October 1983-May 1985	Box 6
October 1985-May 1987	Box 6

1987-1990	Box 6
October 1990-May 1991	Box 6
October 1991-May 1992	Box 6
October 1992-May 1993	Box 6
October 1993-May 1994	Box 6
October 1994-May 1995	Box 6
October 1995-May 1996	Box 6
October 1996-May 1997	Box 6
October 1999-May 2002	Box 6
2002-2005	Box 7
<b>Physical Description: 3 folders</b>	
2005-2007	Box 7
October 2007-May 2008	Box 8
October 2008- May 2009	Box 8
October 2009-May 2010	Box 8
October 2010-May 2011	Box 8

### **Financial and Administrative Materials**

Treasurer's Records, 1934-2006	Box 7
<b>Physical Description: 2 folders</b>	
Constitutions and Bylaws, 1931-2008	Box 7
1947 Day Planner with notes about members	Box 7
Receipts and thank you notes for charitable donations	Box 7
Receipts and information about C.A.R.E. packages, 1950s-1961	Box 7

Thank you letters re: C.A.R.E. packages,  
1948-1959 Box 7

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Duke archive correspondence, club  
agreement, 2009-2011 Box 8

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### **Special Events and Photographs**

Event photographs, 2011 Box 8

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Centennial Celebration Planning Committee,  
2008-2009 Box 8

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Centennial meetings recordings, 2010-2011 Digital-materials RL00492-  
SET-0001  
Box Digital Media Box 1

**Physical Description:** 1 CD containing 5 audio files, 167 MB

**Scope and Contents**

5 audio files in WMA format

**Access Restrictions:**

Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.

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Luncheon photographs, 2011 May Digital-materials RL00492-  
SET-0001  
Box Digital Media Box 1

**Physical Description:** 1 CD containing 30 files, 158 MB

**Scope and Contents**

30 photograph files in JPG format

**Access Restrictions:**

Collection contains electronic records that must be requested and accessed in our reading room. Contact Research Services with questions.

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