

Burton Historical Collection - Detroit Public Library

ALGONQUIN CLUB ARCHIVES

(Originally The Detroit History Club)

1934 - Present

4 Linear Feet

Box I - IX

MS/Algonquin Club

The Burton Historical Collection received the first donation of Algonquin Club Archives in 1947 when Dr. Milo Quaife, with membership approval, gave two boxes of Algonquin Club documents to the Detroit Public Library without restrictions. In 1966, the collection, which had been added to over time, was reorganized and designated a part of the Burton Manuscript Collection.

Begun on March 27, 1934 at the Detroit Leland Hotel by a planning committee of eight, the Detroit History Club, as the group was to be called, drew men interested in local history from both sides of the Detroit River. Led by Dr. Milo Quaife and George A. MacDonald, meetings were held monthly often at the Casa Loma Restaurant on Woodward near Kirby in Detroit. Following dinner, a program concerning the region's history was presented by a Club member. Father George Paré gave the first such lecture, 'The History of the Catholic Church in Michigan', on May 3, 1934.

After a brief hiatus in late 1936 and early 1937, Club participants decided to become more organized. Newly created By-laws were accepted on September 24, 1937 at the Mary Lee Tea Room in Detroit. Participation was to be limited to men who had been proposed by members. The name of the organization was changed to the Algonquin Club which derived from the language spoken by local Indians. Meetings, except for an annual excursion to Windsor and a Ladies Night, were usually held on Fridays evenings at the Casa Loma Restaurant. Programs, including an annual Lincoln lecture, were by tradition presented by Club members. From 1937 to 1939, the most significant of these, were printed as "Historical Bulletins" and distributed nationally. In addition, the club collected historical documents and supported local history projects such as the preservation of Mariners Church in Detroit and the Baby House in Windsor. In 1938, it was a sponsor of a Michigan-Ontario Historical Conference.

Even when some members were inducted into the armed forces, the Club continued to meet during World War II. In 1944-1945, it helped to develop the Governor Shelby Memorial. By then, its meetings were being held on Wednesdays, often at the Press Club in Windsor's Norton Palmer Hotel. From 1945 until the 1970s, the Hotel remained its primary meeting place with Friday evenings preferred beginning in 1949. In the 1950s and 1960s, there were also annual visits to the Detroit Curling Club and Wyandotte's American Legion Hall as well as occasional excursions to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and the Hiram Walker Distillery. Over the years, with well-known individuals such as Dr. F. Clever Bald and Dr. Sidney Glazer as members, programs usually related to recent scholarly publications or special interests. In 1956, the Club, to honor its first President, Dr. Milo Quaife, published a bibliography of his writings. The following year, members accepted as their logo the head of an American Indian. In 1961-1962 at the Belcrest Hotel in Detroit, they presented a special series, the Quaife Bayliss Lectures on the War of 1812. During these years, other projects included involvement in local history programs, restoration of Mme. Archange St. Martin's gravestone at

Assumption in Canada, sponsorship of the Dossin Museum Gothic Room in Detroit, and applications for American Association of State and Local History recognition of long-time members.

Beginning in 1970, members published a monthly newsletter called "Smoke Signals" as a replacement for the postcard meeting announcements used since the Club's inception. In October 1974, following the demolition of the Norton Palmer Hotel, the Club moved its meetings to the Old County Room at Windsor's Top Hat Steak and Lobster House. This location, except for occasional visits elsewhere, would remain the Club's primary meeting place for two decades. It was there on April 12, 1984 that members celebrated the Club's Fiftieth Anniversary.

In March 1994, with participation declining, the Club's President of fifteen years, Allan Treppa, sought a reorganization. During the Club's May annual meeting at the Detroit Press Club in the Renaissance Center - to which, as usual, ladies were invited - members accepted new, more specific By-laws. As part of the reorganization, the newsletter's name was changed to "The Algonquian", and in April 1996, a family membership category was added. Soon both men and women were being accepted for membership. Monthly meetings were now alternated between the United States and Canada with the favored locations usually Dearborn's La Trattoria and Windsor's Great Western Intercontinental Hotel. As always, presentations covered a variety of topics and were normally provided by members. In 1996, the Club for the first time opened its annual meeting to the Public; the program, held at the Botsford Inn, concerned the Great Border Debate. In February 1997, an annual Muskrat Dinner was reinstated at Monroe MI. That May, members amended Club By-laws to allow for officer terms of two, rather than the traditional three, years. In 1999, the Canadian meeting location was shifted to Thanasis Olynpia Restaurant and in 2005 the American site became the Clawson Steak House. A participant in Detroit 300th Anniversary in 2001, the Club purchased a large commemorative paver for the Hart Plaza Riverfront Promenade. In 2002, members published the Club's first formal membership directory and approved a new logo. From 2005, in lieu of a gavel, a large bell inscribed with the names of Club Presidents was used to call meetings to order.

Each year, the Algonquin Club has continued to give relevant Algonquin Club materials to the Burton Historical Collection. Since 2006, copies have also been placed in the Leddy Library, University of Windsor. These materials have included By-Laws, correspondence, meeting minutes, membership lists, publications, clippings in addition to some memorabilia and photos. Of particular interest are the Club's 'Historical Bulletins' and 46 Years: The Published Writings of Milo M. Quaife 1910-1955 as well as correspondence from various well-known historians and Club members.

Topics of Special Interest	Detroit	Local History
	Historic Preservation	Restaurants
	History Publications	War of 1812
	International Boundaries	Windsor

Individuals of Importance:	Dr. F. Cleaver Bald	Dr. Philip Mason
	Harold Brown	Dr. Milo Quaife
	Dr. Sidney Glazer	Allan Treppa
	George MacDonald	

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SERIES I: Early Years 1930s - 1940s

This series covers the inception and early development of the Algonquin Club. Its dinner meetings and historical lectures attracted men interested in history from both Detroit and Windsor. Begun in 1934, the Club waited until 1937 to create a formal organization. By-laws, correspondence, meeting minutes, membership lists and clippings are included here. There is also some data pertaining to support of special historical projects.

Subseries A: General 1930s-1940s

The items in this subseries pertain to the earliest years of the Algonquin Club. Organizational papers, membership lists, clippings and special projects are included. Of interest are the 'Historical Bulletins', which documented significant talks presented between 1937 and 1939.

Box I

1. By-laws 1937
2. Clippings
3. Historical Bulletin Nos. 1-3 1937-1939
4. Membership 1944-1950
5. Special Projects - Michigan-Ontario Historical Convention 1938
Governor Shelby Memorial 1944-1945

Subseries B: Correspondence 1930s-1940s

Arranged alphabetically by either individual or organization, letters and notes found here cover a range of topics. There is correspondence related to program planning, meeting responses and thank you notes. Orders for 'Historical Bulletins' include requests from several well-known colleges and organizations.

Box I

6. A-C 1937-1948
7. D-F 1937-1947
8. G-K 1936-1947
9. L 1937-1947

Box II

1. M-O 1936-1947

2. P-Y 1935-1947

(**Series I**; Early Years continued)

Subseries C: Meeting Minutes 1937-1950

Held initially on Fridays mainly at Detroit's Casa Loma Restaurant, meetings were moved to Windsor in 1944 and the following year shifted to Wednesdays. Earlier, there had been occasional outings to Canada. Each year the final meeting was opened to family and friends. Attendance usually varied from twenty-five to fifty. In 1943, dinner cost, which originally was \$1.00 per member, had increased to \$1.75.

Box II

3. Meeting Announcements 1936-1948
4. Detroit History Club Meeting Minutes 1934-1936
5. Algonquin Club Meeting Minutes 1937-1940
(By-laws accepted September 24, 1937)
6. Algonquin Club Meeting Minutes 1940-1943
7. Algonquin Club Meeting Minutes 1943-1945

Box III

1. Algonquin Club Meeting Minutes 1945-1947
2. Algonquin Club Meeting Minutes 1947-1950

SERIES II: 1950s -1960s

This series includes information about the Algonquin Club's on-going activities as well as involvement in a variety of projects. There are meeting minutes, correspondence and membership data. Dues in these years became \$2.00. In 1956, the Club created and had printed 46 Years; The Published Writings of Milo M. Quaife 1910-1955 in honor of Dr. Milo Quaife, the Club's first President.

Subseries A: General

In this subseries is found data about Algonquin Club community involvement. There is some correspondence and a copy of the 46 Years; The Published Writings of Milo M. Quaife 1910-1955

Box III

3. Activities 1950-e. 1960s
4. Correspondence 1954-1967
5. Quaife, 46 Years; The Published Writings of Milo M. Quaife 1910-1955

(**Series II;** 1950s -1960s continued)

Subseries B: Meeting Minutes

In addition to Friday evening meetings at the Norton Palmer Hotel, members also dined at various other sites including the Detroit Curling Club, Hiram Walker's, the Dossin Museum and Brodhead Armory. The Club continued to have an annual Ladies Night. In 1961-1962, the Club presented a series of public lectures on the War of 1812. In the 1950s and early 1960s, announcements, some correspondence and historical clippings are found with the meeting minutes. However, from 1966 to 1970, such minutes are frequently limited to a listing of the speaker, his topic and those who attended.

Box III

6. Meeting Minutes 1950-1951
7. Meeting Minutes 1951-1952

Box IV

1. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1952-1953
2. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1953-1954
3. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1954-1955
4. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1955-1956
5. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1956-1957

Box V

1. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1957-1958
2. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1958-1959
3. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1959-1960
4. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1960-1961
5. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1961-1962

Box VI

1. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1962-1963
2. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1963-1964
3. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence September-December 1964
4. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence January-June 1965
5. Clippings 1964-1965
6. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1965-1966
7. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1966-1967
8. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1967-1969
9. Meeting Minutes/Correspondence 1969-1970

(Series II: 1950s-1960s continued)

Subseries C: Membership 1950s-1960s

This subseries contains a few membership lists from a variety of years. These provide some indication of changes in membership. There are also examples of membership cards.

Box VII

1. Membership 1950s-1960s

SERIES III: 1970s-1980s

The years represented in this series saw a change in meeting location and a gradual dwindling of meeting attendance. After 1974, the Club usually met at the Top Hat Steak and Lobster House in Windsor. Included are correspondence, announcements, some meeting minutes and occasional clippings. There are also copies of the Club newsletter, 'Smoke Signals'.

Subseries A: Correspondence

Correspondence in this subseries primarily concerns participation in Club activities, administration of Club business or recording of Club membership status. Items are arranged chronologically.

Box VII

2. 1970s

3. 1980-1989

Subseries B: Meeting Minutes

With razing of the Norton Palmer Hotel, Algonquin Club meetings were moved in October 1974 to the Old County Room in the Top Hat Steak and Lobster House in Windsor. Occasional meetings were held at Wyandotte's American Legion Hall and other locations. There are only a few complete sets of minutes. Arrangement is chronological.

Box VII

4. 1970-1971

5. 1971-1976

6. 1976-1980

7. 1980-1990

(**Series III:** 1970s-1980s continued)

Subseries C: Membership

This limited subseries contains lists of members. The years covered are limited to 1979 through 1986.

Box VII

8. Lists 1979-1986

Subseries D: Publications

This subseries contains a full set of the Club's monthly newsletter. Issues, first published in 1970, covered program information, comments by the President and pertinent historical data..

Box VII

9. "Smoke Signals" 1970-1980

10. "Smoke Signals" 1980-1990

SERIES IV: 1990s-2000

From 1990 to 2000, the character of the Algonquin Club changed dramatically. Worried about the declining membership, members in 1994 reorganized. Soon anyone with a sincere interest in local history was accepted for membership. New meeting venues included Dearborn's Trattoria and Windsor's Great Western Intercontinental Hotel or from 1999 Thanasis Olynpia Restaurant. The newsletter, renamed The Algonquian, was expanded. Included in this series are some correspondence, publicity clippings, meeting minutes, membership lists and publications.

Subseries A: General

In addition to some correspondence relative to the membership, this subseries includes membership lists, special awards and By-Laws as well as clippings and publicity. The last was sought as a means of familiarizing the region with the Club. Of interest are copies of some monthly meeting talks, including 'Evolution of Exterior Auto Design'.

Box VIII

1. Awards
2. By-Laws
3. Correspondence 1990-2000
4. Membership Lists 1990s
5. Publicity-Clippings 1990s-2000
6. Talks 1995-2000

(Series IV: 1990s- 2000 continued)

Subseries B: Meeting Minutes

Meetings continued to be held at the Top Hat until regular alternation between Canada and American was instituted in 1994 with Dearborn's La Trattoria and Windsor's Great Western Intercontinental Hotel as popular locations. In 1999, after the Incontintenal's demise folowed by the Ivy Rose Restaurant's disregard of a Club reservation, Windsor meetings were moved to the Thanasis Olympia Restaurant. In this subseries, completeness of meeting minutes, which are arranged chronologically, varies from year to year. In addition, there are lists of participants.

Box VIII

7. 1990-1997
8. 1997-2000

Subseries C: Newsletters

The name of the Club newsletter was changed in 1994 to 'The Algonqian'. During the second half of the decade, its size was expanded. In addition to meeting announcements and president comments, more historical data and listings of historical events and discoveries were included. There are issues of 'Smoke Signals' and a full set of 'The Algonquian'.

Box VIII

9. "Smoke Signals" 1990-1994
10. "The Algonquian" 1994

SERIES V: 2000-2005

The new millenium found the Algonquin Club a vibrant organization. Meetings continued to held in between Windsor and Detroit. The Club supported historical activities such as the Local History Conference and the donation of a paver in connection with 'Detroit 300'. This series contains meeting minutes, limited correspondence,, some clippings, membership lists and Club publications.

Subseries A: General 2000-2005

This Subseries contains documents relating the the Club's administration. Included are By-Law changes and a few complete talks

Bozx VIII

11. By-Laws
12. Talks

(**Series V:** 2000-2005 continued)

Subseries B: Meeting Minutes 2000-2005

Minutes for monthly and executive committee meeting are found in this series. Meetings alternated between Dearborn's La Trattoria and Windsor's Thanasis Olympia, continuing to do so even after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks made border crossing difficult. Also included in this Series are lists of those attending. Arrangement is chronological.

Box VIII

- 13. Meeting Minutes 2000-2002
- 14. Meeting Minutes 2002-2005

Subseries B: Membership

Membership was now double that of former times. In the spring of 2002, production of a membership directory was begun. Once members had paid the necessary dues of \$15.00 per year, this directory, the first ever created by the Club, was completed, printed and distributed to the membership.

Box VIII

- 15. Membership Directory 2001-2005

Subseries C : Publications

The Club continued to distribute a monthly newsletter in lieu of meeting announcements. However, the format was simplified and the content returned to program information, review of previous meeting and President's comments. A new logo and mast head were developed. Arrangement is chronological.

Box VIII

- 16. 2000-2005

SERIES VI: 2005-Present

The Algonquin Club attracted a number of new members, both male and female. The Club President shifted from an American to a Canadian member. Meetings continued to rotate between the two countries. There was an effort to formalize various elements of the Club. Included in this Series are By-Laws, correspondence, meeting minutes, membership data and newsletters.

Subseries A: General

By-Laws were updated and approved. Correspondence, usually in the form of E-Mails, primarily concerned Club business. Information concerning a planned Web Site is not included in this Subseries.

Box IX

1. By-laws and Correspondence 2005-

Subseries B: Meeting Minutes

While meetings continued to be held at Thanasis Olympia in Windsor, need of a better venue caused a shift in 2005 from Trattoria in Dearborn to the Clawson Steak House in Clawson. Programs were varied often dealing with recent publications of members. The Monroe Muskrat Dinner was continued, and there were special meetings at special sites such as the Hiram Walker Distillery and Fort Malden. Included in this Subseries are both general and Executive Committee meeting minutes, some reports and attendance sheets. The arrangement is chronological.

Box IX

2. 2003-2007

3. 2007-2009

Subseries C: Membership

During these years, material to attract members was developed. Directories were formalized into booklet form and distributed to members. In 2007-2008, membership dues were increased from \$15 to \$20. This Subseries has yearly membership directories as well as application information and a brief history of the Club.

Box IX

4. Directories and Membership Applications 2005-2007

Subseries D: Publications

"The Algonquin" was expanded to four pages, and in 2006-2007 photos and color were added as was information about pertinent local historical events. The use of E-Mail, unless regular mail was requested, facilitated distribution of the newsletter. This Subseries has a complete set of the newsletters arranged chronologically.

Box IX

5. 2005-2007

6. 2007-2009