The Lit-Mus Study Club of Buffalo Papers
[1920-1990]

Descriptive Summary:

Title: The Lit-Mus Study Club of Buffalo Papers
Date Span: [1920-1990]
Acquisition Number: N/A
Creator: The Lit-Mus Study Club
Donor: The Lit-Mus Study Club
Date of Acquisition: Feb., 1995; 1997-2003
Extent: 3 boxes; 3 linear ft.
Language: English
Location: Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State
Processed: 1995; reprocessed 2006

Information on Use:

Access: The Lit-Mus Study Club of Buffalo Papers are open for research.

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Preferred Citation:
[Description and dates], Box/folder number, The Lit-Mus Study Club of Buffalo Papers, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.

Biographical Note:
The Lit-Mus - short for "Literary" and "Music" -- Study Club is an on-going African American women's study group that originated in Buffalo in 1922. It was founded by Florence Jackson Lee, Amelia Anderson and Ora Lewis Anderson in the hopes of fulfilling its mission to study topics in the arts, humanities and social sciences that would enable the club's women to improve their community. It became part of the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs as well as an affiliate of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. In 1928, the Study Club introduced Negro History Week to Buffalo. The Club maintains a scholarship fund that has assisted many local students with their education and supports many local charities. It has also enabled the community to have greater access to African American literature and has donated books to libraries and schools. In order to preserve the records of the Club, it was deemed advisable to house them in the Special Collections area of the Buffalo State College's E. H. Butler Library.

Scope and Contents:
The Lit-Mus Study Club collection houses historical information, activities, correspondence, ephemera, printed material, subject files, and records of the organization from its founding in the 1920s (bulk, 1930s-1980s). There is significant ancillary material which highlights the activities and functions of the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., and other similar state- and nationwide (primarily women's) clubs and organizations.

*Note: Due to the nature of donations to the collection, some material may be filed in supplementary series based on accession dates.*

Inventory:

Box 1:

I. Subject Files

Folder 1-1. Anniversary Celebrations. Programs from the 50th (1972; 4 copies) and 70th (1992) anniversaries.


Folder 1-5. Letter from Mario Cuomo, 1992.
Folder 1-8. Fortieth Anniversary program (2 copies), 1962.
Folder 1-11. Life Sketch. Four handwritten accounts, miscellaneous recollections by various authors(?); author(s) unknown, n.d.
Folder 1-25. "The Women's Press," Original magazine, June 1929. (Note: Includes article on the Buffalo Playmakers.)
Box 2:

II. Awards (July 2003 donation)

Folder 2-1. 60th Anniversary Award to Mabel Johnson. Unframed, 1982.
Folder 2-2. 70 Years of Service Award (to Lit-Mus Study Club) from (County Executive) Dennis T. Gorski. Unframed, 19 December 1992.
Folder 2-3. 50 Years of Service Award to Mabel Johnson. Unframed, 19 November 1982.
Folder 2-4. 25 Years of Service Award to Mary Crosby Chappelle from the Headstart Program. Unframed, 18 May 1990.

Box 3:

III. Miscellaneous Materials

Supplement #1 (Aug. 2003 donation)

Folder 3-17. Photographs. Lit-Mus Study Club 1985 Citizen Honoree Night; Criterion(?) photo, 1977; NACWC photo, 1976; Lit-Mus(?) photo, n.d.
Folder 3-23. Miscellaneous Information, 1980s(?).

Supplement #2

Folder 3-26.

- Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, Buffalo Region. Program dedication to Mrs. A.H. Brandon, 16 November 1958.
- Speech. Handwritten, with associated clippings and historical information, 1993(?).
Supplement #3

Folder 3-27.

- Eulogistic Services for Voyle Lee, 4 December 1995.
- Club Meeting. 2 photographs, January 1996.

Supplement #4 (received 25 August 1997)

Folder 3-28.

- Empire Federation of Women's Clubs, 1939. 31st Annual Convention program; program honoring Mrs. Freddie M. Thompson, 1991.

Folder 3-29: Plays. Typescripts. (ca. 1930)

- "Bargains in Cathay." (Poor condition), n.a., n.d.
- "The Sun," n.a., n.d.
- "Thursday Evening," n.a., n.d.
- [No title.] Page one missing; dialogue between characters "Emily" and "Jerry," n.a., n.d.

Supplement #5 (received 3 March 1998): 

Folder 3-30:

- "One in a Million." Martin Luther King Celebration Committee; MLK birthday celebration program, 18 January 1998.
- Celebration of Life for Albert Thompson. Obituary and service program, 1 November 1997.
- Loving Memory: James Crawford. Obituary and service program, 2 August 1996.
- NACWC, Inc. Information pamphlet, ca. 1994; miscellaneous clippings and program: James Crawford, Citizens' award, n.d.
- 55th Annual Celebration. Ephemera and clippings (Criterion article), May 1978.
- Empire State Federation, Buffalo Region at Bethel. Photocopy and newspaper article, 30 October 1937.
- 50th Anniversary Luncheon: "50 Years of Fashion; 50 Years of Music." 3 programs, 1972.
- Handwritten biography of Mary Burnett Talbert, n.a., n.d.
- Partial (?) letter regarding co-sponsorship with Phyllis Wheatley Club, n.d.