

Minneapolis Writers Workshop Collection

M/A 1996.01

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Minnesota.
Title	Minneapolis Writers Workshop Collection
Date	1941-1997
Extent	4.0 boxes
Language	English

History

The Minneapolis Writers Workshop was a byproduct of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. One of the programs formulated by Harold Ickes, Director of the WPA, was to write guidebooks for each of the 48 states in the Union. To accomplish this, the Minnesota office was instructed to hire 120 writers from the state relief rolls. Only one published author was found, Meridel LeSeur, plus one poet and two reporters. The others hired were people whose connection to the written word was tenuous: a typist from the newspaper, an English teacher, a classified ad seller, and 50 recently graduated English majors.

At the same time, unemployed teachers were hired by another arm of the WPA to teach writing. Many of the newly hired "writers" were inspired to take these writing classes which were taught at the Minneapolis Public Library. The students asked if one of the classes could be organized into a workshop. That workshop continued on as the Minnesota Writers Workshop even after WPA funds were discontinued in 1939.

The club initially met weekly at the Minneapolis Public Library or the 620 Club on Hennepin Avenue. Its members included a variety of writers, journalists, and academics from the Twin Cities area. Its members published work ranging from science fiction and romance novels to historical non-fiction and magazine articles. In 1972 the club was formally incorporated. Later meetings were held at the Minnesota Press Club and the Regency Plaza Hotel; and as of 2012, they were being held the Black Forest Inn.

Collection Description

The collection consists of 4 boxes containing biographical profiles, membership lists, examples of members' work, meeting minutes, scrapbooks, treasury information, conference programs, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Related Materials

Related Library Materials

The Hennepin County Library has a number of works by authors who were part of the Minnesota Writers Workshop, particularly C. D. Simak and Dan Brennan.

Special Collections also has the periodical *Narrative Problem*, 1941-1943.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Minneapolis Writers' Workshop.

Subject(s)

- American literature -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Clubs -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Member Biographies 1970s	1	1
Clippings 1952-1978	1	2
Clippings 1972-1987	1	3
Clippings - Poems 1970s	1	4
Conferences 1985-1995	1	5
Conferences -- First Annual 1985	1	6
Constitution and Bylaws 1972	1	7
Contests and Certificates 1972-1973	1	8
Correspondence 1971, 1975	1	9
Critiqued Works 1972-1973	1	10
Minnesota Writers Workshop History 1997	1	11
Brochures and Stationary 1970s	1	12

Inkweavers 1960s-1970s	1	13
Members' Work and Biographies 1950s-1970s	1	14
Membership Lists 1955-1960	1	15
Membership Lists 1963-1986	1	16
Membership Profiles 1950-1980s	1	17
Miscellaneous	1	18
Meeting Minutes 1941-1943	2	1
Meeting Minutes 1944-1949	2	2
Meeting Minutes 1950-1952	2	3
Meeting Minutes 1953-1955	2	4
Meeting Minutes 1956-1957	2	5
Meeting Minutes 1958-1959	2	6
Meeting Minutes 1960	2	7
Meeting Minutes 1961-1962	2	8

Meeting Minutes 1963-1964	2	9
Meeting Minutes 1965-1966	2	10
Meeting Minutes 1967-1969	2	11
Meeting Minutes 1972-1973	2	12
Newsletters 1941-1943	3	1
Newsletters 1970	3	2
Newsletters 1971-1972	3	3
Newsletters 1973	3	4
Newsletters 1974	3	5
Newsletters 1975	3	6
Newsletters 1976	3	7
Newsletters 1977-1980	3	8
Newsletters 1981-1988	3	9
Newsletters 1991-1997	3	10

Treasurer's Reports and Receipts 1960-1962	3	11
Treasurer's Reports and Receipts 1964-1966	3	12
Treasurer's Reports and Receipts 1967-1970	3	13
Treasurer's Reports and Receipts 1971-1972	3	14
Treasurer's Reports 1982-1992	3	15
		Box
Articles of Incorporation 1972		4
Clippings Scrapbook 1946-1959		4
Member Biographies Scrapbook 1956		4