

Minneapolis Poetry Society and the League of Minnesota Poets

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	League of Minnesota Poets.
Creator	Minneapolis Poetry Society.
Title	Minneapolis Poetry Society and the League of Minnesota Poets
Date	1934-1982
Extent	2.08 Linear feet
Language	English

History

The League of Minnesota Poets was founded by Clara A. Clausen, Irl Morse and Marie d'Autremont Gerry in 1934. In 1934, Margarett Ball Dickson became the first poet Laureate for the state of Minnesota. The first officers for this society were Margarett Ball Dickson, Robert Cary, Mary Pierre Boucher, Clara A. Clausen, and Maude C. Schilplin. The League of Minnesota Poets published a yearbook annually. In 1937 this yearbook was renamed the "Moccasin Annual". Today the "Moccasin Annual" is simply called "The Moccasin". The League of Minnesota Poets is still an active organization today. Annual membership cost twenty dollars. The league has holds poetry contests and academic conferences for its members.

One of the founders and most well-known members of the league was Clara A. Clausen. Clara was well-known as a poet in her native Ohio before moving to Minnesota. She wrote several books on writing techniques including, "Steps in Creative Poetry" and "Suggestions for the Writer of Verse". She often gave lectures on writing and had a large following of correspondence students. She worked as an instructor of adult education in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Another well-known member of the league was Alice "Ruth" Sherman. Mrs. Sherman was a graduate of Emerson College in Boston Massachusetts. She wrote and starred in many radio and television commercials in the Twin Cities. She also had her own radio show called the "Mixing Bowl". She published under the pen name, Alice O'Connell Sherman. She had a column in the Star Tribune for many years.

Collection Description

Two boxes. Collection consists of a large number of newspaper clippings, snapshots, clippings of published poems, event invitations and programs, scrapbooks, press notices, membership rolls.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Related Materials

Related Materials

Cary, Robert. "Voices at Daybreak and Other Poems" 821.0 C27.1

Clausen, Clara A. "Steps in Creative Poetry, a Book for Poetry Lovers". 808.1 C61

Dickson, Margarete Ball. "One Man and a Dream" 821.0 D554.1

Flynn, Harry Eugene, Ray Butts MacLean and Chester Benford. "Voices of Verse" 821.08 F64

Schilplin, Maude C. "Minnesota Verse, an Anthology". Edited by Maude C. Schilplin 821.08 S33

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- American poetry -- 20th century.
- American poetry -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Clubs -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Envelope 1 - a 1956 historical sketch of the League of Minnesota Poets, season programs from 1940-1948, a copy of the Moccasin News Supplement from the winter of 1962. 1940-1962	1
Envelope 2 - seasonal programs from 1981-1982 and 1963-1964 1963-1982	1
Envelope 3 - Two photocopied copies of a Tribune article entitled "The Master Engine Stands Supreme Industry by Minneapolis Poets". The article is from April 7, 1957. This envelop also contains a Minneapolis Tribune article entitled "Poet's Haven to Be opened Near Akeley", from May 20, 1934. 1934, 1957	1
Envelope 4 - a large number of newspaper clippings about the league and its various members, several invitations to league events, pages from books and programs from events.	1
Scrapbook 1 - First History Book of the League of Minnesota Poets, 2/1934-2/1935. The scrapbook contains photos of the president, Marie d'Autremont Gerry, and other members of the league, including secretary Clara A. Clausen. The book also includes clippings from newspapers, clippings of poems published, invitations to events, correspondences between members and other league documents. 1935	1
Scrapbook 2 - Second History Book of the League of Minnesota Poets 1935-1936. Scrapbook includes pictures of the president Margarett Ball Dickson, clippings from various newspapers, invitations to events, clippings of poems published, correspondences between members and other league documents. 1936	1

<p>Scrapbook 3 - Third History Book of the League of Minnesota Poets 1936-1940. Scrapbook contains clippings from various newspapers, programs from league events, clippings of poems published, invitations and snapshots. Some items have fallen out of the book. 1936-1940</p>	1
<p>Scrapbook 4 - Seventh History Book of the League of Minnesota Poets 1940-1941. Scrapbook contains clippings from various newspapers, invitations to events, programs from events, correspondences between members, clippings of poems published and other league documents. 1941</p>	1
<p>Scrapbook 5 - contains event invitations and programs, clippings of published poems, clippings from various newspapers and reports by the Editorial Round Table.</p>	1
<p>Zippered Case 1 - contains a certificate of copyright registration for the Minneapolis Skyline (Anthology of Minneapolis Poems), a brief history of the Minneapolis Poetry Circle, various newspaper clippings, snapshots, event invitations, correspondences, clippings of poems published.</p>	1
<p>Zippered Case 2 - contains clippings of poems published, event invitations, correspondences, event programs, clippings from various newspapers.</p>	1
<p>Folder 1 - Contains a pamphlet entitled "Poetry and Journalism" and a large photo of an older woman labeled (probably Victoria Janda, August 2, 1930-). Folder also contains a loose-leaf binder of membership rolls, press notices, reviews, editorials, and other clippings from 1938-1958. Many of these items are not dated. 1930-1958</p>	1
<p>Envelope 1- contains one signed copy of Evelyn Byrnes' Petals of Song, 1963. 1963</p>	2
<p>Envelope 2- contains one signed copy of Ada Clarke Carmichiel's This Bud That Blooms, published in 1953. 1953</p>	2

Envelope 3 - contains one copy of Clara A Clausen's, Carving.	2
Envelope 4 - contains one signed copy of George D. Craig's They That Dream, published in 1939. 1939	2
Envelope 5 - contains one copy of Margarette Ball Dickson's One Man and a Dream, publishing date unknown.	2
Envelope 6 - contains one signed copy of Paul Gianoli's Blueprint, published in 1980.	2
Envelope 7 - contains one signed copy of Frances Greenleaf Jensen's, The Little Hills, publishing date unknown.	2
Envelope 8 - contains one signed copy of Florence Gibbs Keenan's, Poems, publishing date unknown.	2
Envelope 9 - contains one signed copy of Margaret M. Walker's, Orchid Echoes, publishing date unknown. Book contains colored illustrations.	2
Envelope 10 - contains one copy of W.C. A. Waller's, Carillons and one signed copy of From Fallow Fields, published in 1939. 1939	2
Envelope 11 - contains one copy of Othilie Swenson's, Yesteryears, published in 1949.	2
Envelope 12 - contains one copy of Elsie Swanson's, Pine Cones, published in 1939. 1939	2

Envelope 13 - contains one copy of each of the following, Alice "Ruth" Sherman's, A Wish for You, Hear the Bells on Christmas Eve, A Blessed Holiday, and A Collection of Poems.	2
Envelope 14 - contains one signed copy of Estelle Chase Samuelson's, Black and White, published in 1938. 1938	2
Envelope 15 - contains one copy of Candles in the Window, composed and published by the St. Paul Poet's Seminar.	2
Envelope 16 - contains one copy of Didrick J. Orfield's, On Your Golden Wedding Day, written for a couple named Carl and Milda.	2
Envelope 17 - contains one copy of Helen Lethert Meier's, Carols and Chimes, publishing date unknown.	2
Envelope 18 - contains one copy of Underneath the Bough by Londroche, A. Phil, published in 1937. 1937	2
Envelope 19 - contains a number of poems cut out from publications, much like the poems placed in the scrapbooks.	2
Envelope 20 - contains one copy of Wind Swept by John Allison Haining. No publishing date is given.	2
Envelope 21 - contains one signed copy if Verse After All by Mary Salinda foster, published in 1950. 1950	2

Envelope 22 - contains one copy of The Ballad of Paul Bunyan and other verses, by Mabel Natalie Ericksen, published in 1939. 1939 2

Envelope 23 - contains the following poetry collections written by Edward Collins Downing, one copy of God's Poetry, published in 1936, The Poet, published in 1938, The Gifts of Nature to Man, publishing date unknown, Productive Poetry, publishing date unknown, The Villanelle, published in 1943. 1936-1943 2

Envelope 24 - contains the following poetry collections written by Lorena Thomas Witham, one signed copy of Songs of The Bottom Road, published in 1941, and one copy of Come Walk with Me, published in 1947. 1941-1947 2

Envelope 25 - contains one signed copy of Unfinished Tapestry by Lillian Dirksen, published in 1961. 1961 2

Envelope 26 - contains one copy of Dakota Dust, by Allen E. Woodall, published in 1940. 1940 2

Envelope 27 - contains one copy of Kiddie Jingles by Ethelyn Wightman Whittier: publishing date unknown. 2

Envelope 28 - contains one signed copy of His Word was with Power, by Alice Jackson Wheaton: publishing date unknown. 2

Envelope 29 - contains one signed copy of The Heart of Kent, by Emma Kinney Whaley, published in 1939. 1939 2

Envelope 30 - contains one copy of Stray Leaves by Mary Nelson Wee, published in 1950. 1950 2

Envelope 31 - contains one copy of Poems by Members of the Arrowhead Poetry Association, published in 1944. 1944	2
Envelope 32 - contains a correspondence card sent from Gertrude Hanson to Miss Mary C. Moore and one copy of Tonka Tales and Poems by Harland Gordon Hanson and Gertrude Hanson: publishing date unknown.	2
Envelope 33 - contains one copy of the Sea to Sea in Song: Yearbook of the American Poetry League, compiled by Margaret Durant, published in 1951. 1951	2
Envelope 34 - contains the following poetry books written by Charlotte Belden, Flowered Gold: publishing date unknown, Lilac Lane; publishing date unknown, and Across the Counterpane, publishing date unknown.	2
Envelope 35 - contains one signed copy of The Merry-Go-Round has Wings by Elinor Henry Brown, published in 1948. It also contains sheet music for the song. 1948	2
Large Envelope 1 - This envelop is labeled Lillian Atcherson Biography and Poetry. It includes a small envelop with Atcherson poems cut out of various publications, a copy of her memorial service program and newspaper clippings of obituaries for Lillian Atcherson and Anna W. Whitcom also a Minnesapolis Poetry Society Member. The envelop also contains numerous Christmas cards with poetry written by Lillian Atcherson on them. The envelop also contains copies of The Moccasin, various songs written by Atcherson, and a program from a meeting for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. This folder also contains the lyrics and words for many other poems and songs written by Lillian Atcherson.	2
Large Envelope 2 - contains many clippings of poems, several newspaper clippings with articles concerning league members, and several different copies of The Moccasin.	2

Large Envelope 3 - contains typed minutes from Minneapolis Poetry Society meetings, as well as some handwritten minutes and notes from members. The minutes are from meetings that took place between 1967 and 1974. 1967-1974 2

Large Envelope 4 - contains a photo Christmas greeting card book created by the Schilplins, copies of "The Pen Woman" from 1970 and 1973, meeting notes from 1980 and a copy of "Ebenezer" from 1976. 1970-1980 2

Green Notebook 1 - contains one printed copy of "Of Sitting Late Before the Fire..." by Helen Thatcher Akers and Dana Kneeland Akers. No publication date is given. This may have been a proof copy of the actual publication. 2

Folder 1 - contains one copy of sheet music for the song "That's Why". The lyrics were written by Astrid Larson. The song was published in Gonvick, Minnesota in 1935. 1935 2

Folder 2 - contains newspaper clipping either written by or concerning Alice "Ruth" Sherman. The folder also contains advertisements starring Mrs. Sherman, a flyer for her radio show called the "Mixing Bowl", a flyer with Mrs. Sherman's theatrical headshots and flyers from various groups that Mrs. Sherman was a member of. 2

Folder 3 - contains one copy of "Tell me Another Story", written by Louise E. Montgomery, published in 1943. 1943 2

Yearbook 1 - contains the published yearbooks from 1935-1937. 1935-1937 2

Leather Book 1 - contains unpublished printed poems from the year 1937-1939. This yearbook also contains some articles about the founding of the League of Minnesota Poets and Clara A. Clausen. 1937-1939 2

Leather Book 2 - contains unpublished, typed poems of Lucile Chandler from 1943-1957. 1943-1957	2
Leather Book 3 - contains unpublished, typed poems of Lucile Chandler from 1958-1963. 1958-1963	2
Leather Book 4 - contains unpublished, typed poems of Lucile Chandler from 1945-1970. 1945-1970	2
Tan Notebook 1- contains the poems of W.C.A. Wallar. It also contains a brief self-description and picture of Wallar in the front cover.	2