

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. MSS B82

Date processed: December 15, 1988

- I. Title Saturday Morning Club, New Haven. Records, 1881-
- II. The papers of Saturday Morning Club deposited in the Library on June 1988, by Roberta Yerkes Blanshard as a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 8'  
Approximate number of items: 4400 (includes 29 vols.)
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: Saturday Morning Club is a social and literary club composed of women living in New Haven, connected with Yale University as faculty wives, or, especially lately, as members of professional staff. Throughout its 100-year history it has included many civic leaders, educators, artists and authors.  
The Club was founded in March of 1881 by Alice Mabel Bacon (1858-1918), daughter of Rev. Leonard Bacon (1802-1881), the notable pastor of Center Church, and 17 others, mostly in their 20's, living at home with time on their hands, eager to use their minds. Only a few founding members of the Saturday Morning Club had a college education. They absorbed their cultural interests from family backgrounds, reading and some travel. In the beginning no married women were admitted as new members, although members could remain after marrying. This rule was changed in 1899. Records of their discussions show that some members yearned for the opportunity to work or have a career; however, the
- VIII. Analysis: (cont'd. on page 2)  
The 13 boxes and 1 oversize item of the Saturday Morning Club Papers consist mainly of records, obituaries, Club histories, papers delivered by its members, photographs and memorabilia. The range of dates is from 1881, when the Club was founded, to 1987. Additions to the records are expected.  
The Saturday Morning Club Papers were given to Yale University in 1976 by Roberta Yerkes Blanshard, archivist of the Club. The preliminary inventory was supplied by the archivist. A detailed guide to their content and organization was to be prepared. Copy of their register may be found with the correspondence concerning the collection.  
The papers were transferred to New Haven Colony Historical Society in 1987. Here the papers were arranged according to the type of material in chronological or alphabetical order.

traditions of the day frowned on work outside the home, especially for pay, when the money was not needed. At the beginning of its second decade, the Club's membership had increased to only 25 and later was to stop at 30, where it remains to-day.

Initially the Club sponsored bi-monthly lectures, which alternated with discussion meetings. Many distinguished visitors and young Yale faculty members were engaged as speakers. In the fall of 1885 the Club voted to cut down on the number of lectures and have more discussions. But lectures continued till 1923, 546 in all being delivered. After that date Club members preferred to present their own work.

In the early years the Club entertained and was, in turn, entertained by other Clubs: The Fortnightly, The Friday Nights, The Colby Club and The Dissenters. Plays were presented and verses exchanged. One of the early secretaries noted that she spends more time reporting social events than serious discussions. The number of such events declined after World War I.

Throughout its existence the Club repeatedly reviewed its method of choosing and electing its members. In the beginning the balloting was done by a ballot box (now in the possession of the New Haven Colony Historical Society's Museum). One black ball or two meant exclusion, later four black balls, and, eventually, since 1960, 1/3 of the members had to vote exclusion.

After the first half-century, records reflect social change in New Haven. More than half of the members had regular jobs and furthermore the majority were not born and raised in New Haven. The Club's "Old New Haven" image had considerably faded. An attempt was made to expand the pool of possible new members.

For 100 years the minutes of Saturday Morning Club meetings were faithfully kept. However, only a few of the early papers survived. In the 1960's the Club started asking their members to turn in their papers after presentation and saved them for the Club's archives. The range of subjects of papers over the last two decades has been wide: local history, exotic travels, art, education and various aspects of women's lives. On occasion, several members, while working on books for publication - a number of which were actually published - have presented trial chapters at Club meetings.

After 100 years the Saturday Morning Club is still faithful to its early aims - to promote culture and social intercourse. The social time of the Club is usually after meetings at lunch over sherry, with special luncheons after annual meetings in members' homes. The Club continues to be a place to suggest ideas, discuss current issues, share experiences and enjoy friendships.

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Saturday Morning Club, New Haven. Records, 1881-

Content Guide.

BOX 1.

- Folder A: List of members [n.d.] (1 v.)
- Folder B: Honorary members 1883-1893 [i.e. 1889] (1 v.)
- Folder C: Subscribers to lectures and former members 1896-1907. (1 v.)  
(3)
- Folder D: Members and subscribers to lectures 1907-1913. (1 v.)
- Folder E: List of members 1923. (1 v.)

BOX 1a.

- Folder A: Subscribers to lectures 1913-1922. (1 v.)
- Folder B: Chronological lists of members 1881-1987; lists of officers and presidents; map of meeting places; charter members' homes; ballot for nomination procedure; blank questionnaires; Constitution of S.M.C. (80)

BOX 2.

- Folder A: Records 1881-1885 (v.1) (1 v.)  
(1)
- Folder B: " 1885-1890 (v.2) (1 v.)  
(5)
- Folder C: " 1890-1894 (v.3) (1 v.)  
(11)
- Folder D: " 1895-1903 (v.4) (1 v.)
- Folder E: Loose papers removed from Records 1895-1903 (v.4) (41)
- Folder F: Records 1903-1908 (v.5) (1 v.)  
(17)

BOX 3.

- Folder A: Records 1908-1916 (v.6) (1 v.)
- Folder B: Loose papers removed from Records 1908-1916 (v.6) (80)
- Folder C: Records 1916-1929 (v.7) (1 v.)  
(16)
- Folder D: " 1929-1941 (v.8) (1 v.)  
(25)

BOX 4.

- Folder A: Records 1942-1959 (v.9) (1 v.)  
(7)
- Folder B: " 1959-1970 (v.10) (1 v.)  
(12)

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Saturday Morning Club, New Haven. Records, 1881-

Content Guide (cont'd.)

BOX 5.

- Folder A: Records 1970-1977. (199)
- Folder B: " 1977-1980. ( 63)
- Folder C: " Oct. 11, 1980-May 16th, 1987. (101)
- Folder D: Notices of meetings, 1975-1987. (142)
- Folder E: Treasurer's Book, 1889-1933. (1 v.)

BOX 6.

- Folder A: "S.M.C 1902": bound volume recording celebration of S.M.C. "coming of age" (21st anniversary) (1 v.) (8)
- Folder B: "Cranford, S.M.C. 1904": bound volume on performance of the play by S.M.C. members. (1 v.) (7)
- Folder C: Poems at S.M.C.'s 25th anniversary, 1906. (15)
- Folder D: "S.M.C. 1921": bound volume on celebration of the 40th anniversary of the S.M.C. (1 v.) (16)
- Folder E: Celebration of the 45th anniversary, 1926. (38)
- Folder F: "1881-1931": celebration of the 50th anniversary of the S.M.C. (contains verse, scripts for the program, and a 23 page history of the Club). (1 v.) (31)

(The S.M.C. 100th anniversary celebration, a bound volume, is in oversize item I)

BOX 7.

- Folder A: Histories of the Club: S.M.C, Historical sketch 1881-1861, with 1 p. of notes regarding meeting places by Katharine Farnham Harvey and shorter histories of the Club (some of them by periods) including Anna (Mrs. John) Porter's on the 75th anniversary (1956), Anne (Mrs. C.E.A.) Winslow's on the 80th anniversary (1961), and Anne Willard's (Heyniger) Flexible stability: one hundred years of S.M.C., 1881-1981. (95)
- Folder B: Letters from lecturers [n.d.] arr. alphabetically. (27)
- Folder Ba: Letters from lecturers, mainly 1892-1921. (113)
- Folder C: Lists of lectures, 1884-1923. (1 v.) (59)
- Folder D: Discussions and suggestions, 1881-1894. (21)
- Folder E: Selections from programs, 1883-1923. ( 6)
- Folder F: Lists of programs, 1962-1988. (21)

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Content Guide (cont 'd.)

BOX 7 (cont'd.)

- Folder Fa: Titles of members' papers, 1885-1921, considered for publication by Yale Press (possibility that came to nothing) (33)
- Folder G: List of Obituaries. Obituaries A-H. (148)
- Folder H: Obituaries J-Z. (90)
- Folder I: Memories of Club members, A-M. (43)
- Folder J: Memories of Club members, N-W. (47)

BOX 8.

- Folder A: War activities of Club members and post-war philanthropies. (41)
- Folder B: War recipies, prepared by Club members in 1917. (35)
- Folder C: Letters of acceptance , sympathy, etc. (24)
- Folder D: Poems of Club members on various occasions. (1 v.) (42)
- Folder E: Papers concerning the Fortnightly and other clubs. (2 v.) (58)
- Folder F: Memorabilia. (23)
- Folder G: Valentine Party 1923. Poems and memorabilia. (1 v.) (46)

BOX 9.

- Folder A: Photographs and negatives. (42)
- Folder B: 3 audio tapes and S.M.C. initials (for engraving) (4)
- Folder C: Books published by S.M.C. members. (4)

(Some oversize photographs are in MSS B82 Oversize Box, Item 1.

21 Glass plates of the early members of S.M.C. and 13 glass slides of: 1/ composite photo and individuals, who composed it, 2/ Cranford cast, 1904, 3/ group photos 1921, 1931, etc. are in photographic archives)

BOX 10. PAPERS BY MEMBERS.

(Papers of the S.M.C. Members were put at the end of collection at their request to facilitate further additions)

- Folder A: List of papers. Anonymous papers. (77)
- Folder B: Bacon, Alice M. (17)
- Folder C: Bacon, Mary P. Woolsey (40)
- Folder D: Blanshard, Frances Bradshaw (36)

## Saturday Morning Club, New Haven, Records, 1881-

Content Guide (cont'd.)BOX 10 (cont 'd.)

|                  |                               |       |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| <u>Folder E:</u> | Coffin, Catherine Butterfield | (158) |
| <u>Folder F:</u> | Corwin, Margaret Trumbull     | ( 29) |
| <u>Folder G:</u> | Dana, Maria Trumbull          | ( 23) |
| <u>Folder H:</u> | DeVane, Mabel                 |       |
| <u>Folder J:</u> | Hadley, Helen Morris.         | (121) |
| <u>Folder K:</u> | " " "                         | (141) |
| <u>Folder L:</u> | " " "                         | (105) |
| <u>Folder M:</u> | Harvey, Katharine Franham     | ( 13) |

BOX 11. PAPERS BY MEMEBERS (cont'd.)

|                  |                           |       |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| <u>Folder A:</u> | Miles, Anna Nettleton     | (165) |
| <u>Folder B:</u> | " " "                     | (101) |
| <u>Folder C:</u> | " " "                     | (111) |
| <u>Folder D:</u> | [Mitarachi] Sylvia Wright | (200) |
| <u>Folder E:</u> | Moseley, Laura Hadley     | (102) |
| <u>Folder F:</u> | " " "                     | ( 83) |

BOX 12. PAPERS BY MEMBERS (cont'd.)

|                  |   |                 |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| <u>Folder A:</u> | Munger, Rose  | (129)           |
| <u>Folder B:</u> | " "   | (102)           |
| <u>Folder C:</u> | " "   | (193)           |
| <u>Folder D:</u> | Notenstein, Ada Louise  | (116)           |
| <u>Folder E:</u> | Perry, Elizabeth MacAfee; Ripley, Elizabeth Blake; Sargent,<br>Agnes Bacon; Willard, Anne Heyniger; Williams, Frances<br>Hopgood. | ( 65)           |
| <u>Folder F:</u> | Woolsey, Edith  | (1 v.)<br>(110) |
| <u>Folder G:</u> | " "   | ( 82)           |
| <u>Folder H:</u> | " "   | ( 43)           |
| <u>Folder J:</u> | Wright, Elizabeth Bigelow   | ( 18)           |

## OVERSIZE ITEM I.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 5 Oversize photographs. Club's 100th anniversary (1 v.). |        |
| Record of the Jane Austen supper party, 1911 (1 v.)      | (2 v.) |
|  | (5)    |

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Content Guide (cont'd.)

Box 13

Folder A: Hitchcock, Margaret Ballou

Folder B: Lippard, Margaret Isham Cross

Folder C: Patterson, Elizabeth Chambers

Folder D: Obituaries of above and Moseley, Laura Hadley

Box 14

Folder A: Blanchard, Roberta Yerkes

Folder B: Blanchard, Roberta

Folder C: Buck, Polly

Folder D: Haight, Mary Nettleton

Folder E: Keefe, Kate Hemingway

Folder F: Kennedy, Catherine

Folder G: Mack, Florence.

Folder H: May, Martha

Folder I: Rash, Nancy

S.L.

F  
104 Keefe, Mrs. Kate (Hemingway)  
.N6 The long and the short of it: a  
K335 paper read to the Saturday Morning  
Club (New Haven, 1972)  
9 1.

Xerox copy of typescript.

1. Long Wharf, New Haven - Hist.  
I. Title.

S.L.

F  
104 Haight, Mary Nettleton.  
.N6 Cecy comes to town [New Haven, 1981]  
H234 14 [i.e. 69] l

Paper read at the Saturday Morning Club in  
1981.

Caption title.

Copy of typescript and mss, including ex-  
cerpts from the Combes' diaries (originals in  
the National Library of Scotland)

1. Combe, George, 1788-1858. 2. Combe,  
Cecilia Siddons, 1794-1868. 3. New Haven -  
Social life and customs. I. Title.



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Box 15      Response forms returned from survey of members of the Club, 2006

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