

The Sertoma Club of Dayton Records

MS - 106

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## Introduction

The Sertoma Papers consist of twenty-one boxes of material relating to the affairs of the Dayton Sertoma club as well as its activities in conjunction with various regional Sertoma clubs and Sertoma International, the top governing body in the club hierarchy. These records, which comprise one hundred & seventy-eight folders, contain information dealing with the Dayton Sertoma Club's finances, civic programs, annual events, and the political view of some members, notably past presidents William W. Owen and Rev. Harvey Hahn.

These records span 1925 to 1994. Letters, memos, news clippings, pamphlets and other documents are present in the collection. Much of the material is of a mundane nature, although this does not preclude its significance to the researcher, as it gives a fair view of the nature of Sertoma, particularly the period 1954-1975.

## Agency History

The Dayton Sertoma Club traces its origins to the founding of the first Cooperative Club of Kansas City, MO, founded on April 13, 1912, by Dr. George W. Smith. Smith, in conjunction with Dr. Charles E. Allen and newspaper editor W.R. Rowe, conceived the idea of another civic service club to aid society aside from the existing Rotary clubs. Smith believed that the Cooperative Club should not just utter principles toward mankind's betterment, it should selflessly take an active, non-political role in improving society. The number of Cooperative clubs proliferated throughout the next eight years, due largely to word of mouth and increasing public awareness.

In 1921, the decision was made to establish a national body for the existing clubs (located in Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, and California). The Cooperative National, later known as Cooperative International, was established in June 1921. Cooperative National was organized in large part by Dr. Smith and the original founders of the first club in Kansas City. The number of Cooperative Clubs flourished through the 1920s. Dayton's Cooperative Club was chartered in September 1925. The groups grew sporadically through the 1930s and 1940s. In 1950, it was determined that the name "Cooperative" was too confusing to the public, owing to the over usage of the term. The name "Sertoma" was adopted, an acronym for "Service to Mankind." Hence, the clubs' current name reflects the values of the founding spirit of the organization--- to aid, improve, and serve society. A women's branch of Sertoma, "La Sertoma," has been in existence since 1925, nationally and locally (formerly known as "Cooperettes".)

The number of Sertoma clubs grew rapidly after 1950, from 130 bodies scattered throughout the South, Southwest, and Midwest, to 903 clubs located in every state, as well as Canada and Mexico (1977), with an aggregate membership of 34,000. Membership figures for the past decade are absent from this collection, although the upbeat tenor of the Dayton Sertoma Club's bulletins indicate that there has been no decline in membership, locally or nationally.

The chief governing body, Sertoma International, sets policy guidelines and rules for the local clubs to follow. The International governing body, located in Kansas City, MO, divided the nation into 39 regions in 1956, each region having its share of local clubs. Thus, the Sertoma hierarchy is divided into three echelons--International, Regional, and Local.

Officers for the International level are chosen each July. These include International President, three Vice-Presidents, Chairman of the Board, and Managing Director, plus Governors for each region. The local clubs adhere to the guidelines set by Sertoma International, although they are allowed a fair amount of autonomy concerning procedure. For example, Dayton Sertoma Club officers were until 1974, chosen in January of each year rather

than July. Dayton Sertoma Club officers include a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Sergeant-at-Arms, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

Sertoma International publishes a bimonthly news magazine, The Sertoman. This publication, available to members only, lists a broad overview of Sertoma activities, pledge drives, organizational procedures and changes, and general news features dealing with Sertoma Club members throughout the nation.

## Scope and Content

The Sertoma Papers rely heavily on documents of the Dayton Sertoma Club from 1925 (when it was known as the Dayton Cooperative Club) through June 1994. The material in each of the one hundred & seventy-eight files largely covers traditional events, inaugural ceremonies for the installation of new officers, board meetings and minutes, financial statements, programs and their implementation, and a wide range of other activities tied to the club's motto "Service To Mankind."

The documents (which number nearly 4500) take the form of memos, form letters, photographs partly of the 60th anniversary celebration, news clippings of various Sertomans (William Owen of Dayton City Transit and President of the Dayton Sertoma Club in 1955 is prominent in these, as is Harvey Hahn, pastor of the East Dayton Evangelical United Brethren Church and a President in 1954), brochures, convention schedules, photos of prominent club events, and local club bulletins. The files contain a fair amount of correspondence between Rev. Hahn, William Owen and past Sertoma members, and a number of folders are designated as being material chiefly relating to activities of various individuals. There are folders, for instance, containing correspondence to Paul J. Price, former Chief of Dayton Police, Robert Makarius, a 50 year member of the local club, Ed Kester, a member who later became a regional governor, etc.

The preponderance of local material presents a fairly accurate view of the day to day life of the club, and the attitude of club officers to questions of morale, structural and organizational problems, etc. A weakness of the local records is their paucity after 1975. Local club bulletins are the only source of information concerning Dayton Sertoma from 1976-1986. These newsletters lack the intimacy provided by the other documents, and tend to present a sterile, skeletal view of the local club in the last decade. Also rosters from various years serve as a good means to trace membership and changes.

In some respect, the regional and international records are distracting to the flow of local activities found in the collection. These documents include issues of the Sertoman, programs and brochures of international and regional conventions, regional bulletins which occasionally appear to have little relevance to the local material, campaign buttons, and brochures and other memorabilia culled from past elections for international officers. The regional and international files are nonetheless useful in providing an overall context in which to interpret the local records.

The bulk of the records, local as well as regional and international, cover the period 1925-1994. An interesting aspect of the Sertoma Papers is the political and ideological frame of mind found in the records of William Owen and Harvey Hahn. Both have several copies of International President James R.

Burchfield's talk to the Memphis regional convention of March 1968. This address, endorsed by an overwhelming vote of Sertomans at the mid-year convention in 1968, presents a very right-wing view on a wide series of issues confronting society, i.e., welfare, crime, war in Vietnam, racial disorders, etc. The impression given in the files is that the local and international bodies were comprised of men very conservative in their outlook, believers of the free-enterprise work ethic as opposed to the liberalism of the day.

Other records, both local and international, attest to Sertoma's dedication to charity programs, scholarships for needy students, an efficient Youth Employment Service run by Sertomas, and a host of other worthy volunteer endeavors.

## Series Description

The Sertoma Papers. 1925-1994

Twenty-one boxes containing one hundred & seventy-eight folders, totaling over 4300 separate documents. The material spans 1925 through 1994.

The type of material presented takes the form of:

Typed and handwritten notes, memos, form letters, brochures, magazines, club bulletins, photos of prominent club events, news clippings, etc.

The folders are divided into five categories:

Local, Regional, International, Convention Records, and Miscellaneous

Each category is labelled as series.

For example:

Series I - Local Papers 1925-1994

Series II - Regional Papers 1956-1977

Series III - International Papers

1955-1994, etc.

The folders within each series are presented in chronological order. Where two or more folders in a series are from the same year, the order becomes alphabetical.

For example:

Sertoma Board 1955  
Sertoma Club 1955  
Sertoma Programs 1955  
Sertoma Club 1956, etc.

The material in each folder (memo, form letter, etc.) is arranged chronologically.

Series I-Local Papers 1925-1994 is the only series further divided into subgroups, or subseries:

For example:

Subseries I - Club Records  
Subseries II - Inaugural Records  
Subseries III - Local Bulletins  
Subseries IV - Rosters  
Subseries VI - Financial Records

## Container Listing

Box	File	Description
		Series I: Local Papers, 1925-1994
		Subseries I: Club Records
1	1	Robert Smith 1943-1975
	2	Cooperative - Sertoma 1946-1953
	3	Dayton Sertoma Financial 1950-1973 (Sponsorships, Contributions, Budget Statements, I.R.S. Notes)
	4	Photographs of 28th Birthday Celebration, 1953
	5	Sertoma Club 1954
	6	Sertoma Board 1955
	7	Sertoma Club 1955
	8	Sertoma Programs 1955
	9	Sertoma Club 1956
	10	"Chief" Paul Price 1956-1959, 1969
	11	Sertoma Xmas Parties 1956-1977
	12	Rev. Harvey C. Hahn 1957-1958
	13	Sertoma Attendance 1958 -
	14	Membership 1958-1959
	15	One-Way Street Debate 1-6-1960
1a	1	Sertoma Dunk & Dribble 1989
	2	Sertoma Dunk & Dribble 1990-1993
	3	Life Memberships 1945-1974
	4	Sertoma Membership Applications 1935- 1965
	5	Dayton Sertoma Club History 1925-1987
	6	Paul Kagey & Bob Markarius 1988
	7	W.W. Owen 1986-1990
	8	"Chief" Paul Price 1956-1989
1b	1	Dayton Sertoma Attendance Records; 1951-1962
	2	Dayton Sertoma Attendance Records; 1963-1973
	3	Dayton Sertoma Attendance Records; 1974-1984
	4	Clowntown Slides 1985-1986
	5	Miscellaneous Pictures 1937-1987
	6	Student Thank-You Letters 1987
2	1	Sertoma Special Events 1960-1961
	2	Don Bassett 1961-1962
	3	Sertoma Talk by William W. Owen - 7-11-62
	4	Sertoma Board 1963
	5	Sertoma Club 1963
	6	Sertoma Scrap Book 1963
	7	Sertoma Classification Committee 1964
	8	Sertoma Club 1964
	9	Sertoma Club 1965

- 10 Photograph: G.Bayless, E.Kester,  
D.Hall -1966
- 11 41st Birthday - 9-28-66 Talk by  
William W. Owen
- 12 Programs (Political) Oct. 26-Nov. 2,  
1966
- 13 Robert Mouser, M.D. - Changing  
Calendar Year 1966-1967; History of  
Dayton Sertoma, Compiled 1967
- 14 Sertoma Club 1970
- 15 Sertoma Club 1971
- 16 Sertoma Club 1971-1972
- 17 Pancake Breakfasts 1972-1979
- 18 Bob Makarius - 50 Year Member 1973
- 19 Calendar Year Changed 1974
- 2a 1 Joseph McLaughlin 1974-1983
- 2 50th Anniversary, Dayton Sertoma  
1975
- 3 Photographs of 50th Anniversary  
Celebration 1975
- 4 Correspondence to Jack Moore 1984-  
1985
- 5 60th Anniversary, Dayton Sertoma  
1985
- 6 Clowntown 1985-1986
- 7 George Foster House 1985-1986
- 8 Sertoman of the Year 1986
- 2b 1 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1934-1940
- 2 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1941-March 1953
- 3 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
April 1953-Dec. 1958
- 4 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1959-1963
- 5 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1964-1967
- 6 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1968-1974
- 7 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1975-1981
- 8 Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes;  
1982-Apr. 1987

Subseries II: Inaugural Records

- 3 1 Inaugural Balls 1954-1959
- 2 Inaugural Balls 1960-1966
- 3 Inaugural Balls 1967-1970
- 4 Inaugural Balls 1971-1977
- 5 Inaugural Balls 1978-1980

Subseries III: Local Bulletins

	6	Sertoma Bulletins 1954	
4	1	Sertoma Bulletins 1955	
	2	Sertoma Bulletins 1956-1957	
	3	Sertoma Bulletins 1958-1959	
	4	Sertoma Bulletins 1960-1961	
	5	Sertoma Bulletins 1962-1963	
	6	Sertoma Bulletins 1964-1965	
	7	Sertoma Bulletins 1966	
	8	Sertoma Bulletins 1967-1968	
4a	1	Sertoma Bulletins 1969-1970	
	2	Sertoma Bulletins 1971-1972	
	3	Sertoma Bulletins 1973-1974	
	4	Sertoma Bulletins 1975-1976	
	5	Sertoma Bulletins 1977-1978	
	6	Sertoma Bulletins 1979-1980	
	7	Sertoma Bulletins 1981-1982	
	8	Sertoma Bulletins 1983-1984	
	9	Sertoma Bulletins 1985-	1986
5	1	Sertoma Bulletins 1987-1988	
	2	Sertoma Bulletins 1989-1990	
	3	Sertoma Bulletins 1991	
	4	Sertoma Bulletins 1992	
	5	Sertoma Bulletins 1994-May 1994	

Subseries IV: Rosters

5a	1	Rosters 1953,1957,1958,1959	
	2	Rosters 1961,1962,1963,1964	
	3	Rosters 1965,1966,1967	
	4	Rosters 1968,1969,1970	
	5	Rosters 1971,1972,1975	
5b	1	Rosters 1976,1977,1978,1979,1980	
	2	Roster 1981,1982,1983,1984,1985,1986	
	3	Rosters 1987,1988,1989,1990,1991,1992	

Subseries VI: Financial Records

5c	1	Dayton Sertoma Treasurers Reports; 1982-1984	
	2	Dayton Sertoma Treasurers Reports; 1985-1987	
	3	Dayton Sertoma Treasurers Reports; 1988-1992	
	4	Dayton Sertoma Budget Reports 1966- 1994	
	5	Dayton Sertoma Cash Disbursements; 1988-1990	
	6	Dayton Sertoma Tax Returns 1967-1981	
5d	1	Dayton Sertoma Tax Returns 1984-1990	
	2	Bank Reconsiliation & Deposit Slips; 1982-1987	
	3	Bank Reconsiliation & Deposit Slips; 1987-1989	
	4	Bank Reconsiliation & Deposit Slips;	

		1988-1992
5e	1	Sertoma Club Sponsorship Fund, Inc. ; Records Book 1966-1986
	2	Sertoma Sponsorship Pledges 1970-1987
	3	Sertoma Sponsorship Fund, Inc. 1978-; 1990
	4	Sertoma Sponsorship Fund Tax Returns; 1983-1990
	5	Sertoma Sponsorship Deposits &; Statements 1988-1992
		Series II: Regional Papers, 1956-1977
6	1	Gov. Lou McCoy 1956-1957
	2	District Bulletins 1957
	3	District Governor 1957
	4	Governor William W. Owen 1957 (Southwestern Ohio District Material)
	5	Governor's Newsletter 1957-1958 (William W. Owen)
	6	District Bulletins 1958
7	1	District Governor 1958-(Chicago Convention, June 25-28, 1958)
	2	Leadership Conferences 1958
	3	Miamisburg 1958
	4	Regional Convention (Dayton) 1958
	5	Gov. Bill Owen 1958-1959
	6	Sertoma Special Programs & Inter-Club Relations 1958-1970
	7	District Bulletins 1959
	8	Gov. Ed Kester 1959-1961
	9	District Bulletins 1960
	10	Governor's Newsletters 1960-1965
	11	Kester-Director-Louisville 1965
	12	Cincinnati Sertoma Club 1968
	13	Sertoma Regional 1968
	14	Governor's Newsletters 1969
		Series III: Sertoma International Papers, 1955-1994
8	1	Sertoman Magazine 1978-1984
	2	Sertoman Magazine 1985-1988
	3	Sertoman Magazine 1989-1990
	4	Sertoman Magazine 1991-1992
	5	Sertoman Magazine 1993-1994
	6	Sertoma International Directories; 1971-1986
8a	1	Sertoma International 1955
	2	Sertoma International Membership 1958
	3	Sertoma Life Memberships 1958-1960
	4	William Wendell Owen - Past Governor 1959-60, 1960-61

5 Sertoma International History 1960  
6 LaSertoma 1961-1964  
7 Burchfield Talk "Time to Take a  
Stand and Be Heard," 1967-1968  
8 Burchfield Talk (Welfare) 1968-1970  
9 Historical Facts about Sertoma  
International 1985

Series IV: Conventions, 1954-1977

10 Conventions: Richmond (1950);  
11 Colorado Springs (1951); Houston  
(1952)  
11 Sertoma Windsor 1954  
12 Los Angeles Convention 1955;  
London, Ontario Convention 1957  
13 Conventions: St. Louis (June 1957),  
Chicago (1958), Memphis (June 1959)  
14 Chatham Reg. Convention April 1960;  
Miami 1960  
15 Middletown Convention 1960;  
Indianapolis Convention 1961  
16 Indianapolis Convention (Regional)  
1967; New Orleans Convention 1967;  
Akron Convention 1969, Toronto;  
Convention 1969  
17 Indianapolis Convention 1973, Dayton  
Convention 1971, Vancouver  
Convention 1977  
18 Hamilton 1977, Dearborn 1978, Dayton  
1979, Niagra Falls 1980, Indianapolis  
1981, Catham 1982, Akron 1983;  
Evansville 1984, Louisville 1965

Series V: Miscellaneous 1954-1976

9 1 News clippings 1937-1985  
2 Photographs c. 1948-1961  
3 President's Club 1954-1959  
4 Sertoma Miscellaneous 1954-1973  
5 Sertoma Club Officer's Manual;  
Constitution & By-Laws of Other Clubs  
1955-1962  
6 William W. Owen - Talks, Letters,  
Memorandums, etc. 1956-1976  
7 Sertoma Music - Songs 1957-1973  
8 Sertoma Certificates 1960-1972  
(William Owen)  
9 Sertoma Resolutions 1964-1968  
10 Awards to Non-Members 1967-1973