

The Helen Hunt Club Papers

MS – 228

Wright State University  
Department of Special Collections and Archives

Processed by:  
Kristina Sullivan  
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## Introduction

The papers of the Helen Hunt Club were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in December of 1991 from the Montgomery County Historical Society.

The papers in this collection date from 1891-1950 and fill two Hollinger box and eight file folders. The collection is arranged in five series as follows. The collection is arranged in five series as follows:

- Series 1: Constitution and By-laws
- Series 2: Programs 1898-1950
- Series 3: Meeting Minutes
- Series 4: Manuscript for the Helen Hunt Club novel
- Series 5: Miscellaneous

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

### Agency Sketch

The Helen Hunt Club was founded in February of 1891 by a group of teachers, and federated in February of 1892. Named for the poetess and writer, Helen Hunt Jackson, the club served as a literary organization for women. The primary purpose of the club was the “study and reading of papers on literary subjects”. The H.H. Club, as it was commonly referred to, was Dayton’s second literary club for women.

Along the way, the teachers devoted some of their club activities toward the production of an annual play. It was felt that there was few opportunities for drama in the Dayton area at this time, and a play was produced in the Spring of each year.

The Club also had a philanthropic aspect. They donated a painting by one of their own member artists to the Dayton Art Institute and donated funds to various organizations that were concerned with education, women, and children.

## Scope and Content

The records within the Helen Hunt Club Collection fall into five series: (1) Constitution and By-laws (2) Programs 1898-1950 (3) Meeting Minutes (4) Manuscript for the Helen Hunt Club Novel; and (5) Miscellaneous papers.

Series 1 contains the constitution and by-laws for the Helen Hunt Club from its beginnings in 1891. The constitution was rewritten in 1926.

Series 2 has a nearly complete set of club programs from 1898-1950. The following years are missing from the collection; 1906-1907, 1913-1914, 1920-1921, 1930-1931, 1937-1938, 1938-1939, 1939-1940, 1944-1945, 1945-1946, 1946-1947, and 1947-1948. The programs contain suggested reading lists for club members. There is also a schedule of literary presentations for each meeting.

Series 3 consists of the meeting minutes from March of 1927 to February of 1947. The minutes are a record of the meeting activities and give insight into issues concerning the particular time period in the scientific, literary and cultural spheres. The club wrote papers on the classics and special topics that they felt were important to scholarship and women.

Series 4 has the original manuscript for the Helen Hunt Club novel (untitled). Sixteen members of the club contributed a chapter for this romantic novel set in the 1910's.

Series 5 contains miscellaneous correspondence, membership cards and papers.

## Container Listing

### **Series I: Constitution & By-laws**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Constitution and by-laws	

### **Series II: Meeting Minutes**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	2	Meeting Minutes	1927-1936
	3	Meeting Minutes	1937-1947

### **Series III: Club Programs**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	4	Club Programs	1898-1918
	5	Club Programs	1918-1935
	6	Club Programs	1935-1937
			1940-1944
			1948-1950

### **Series IV: Helen Hunt Club Novel**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Synopsis of Helen Hunt Club Novel	
	2	Helen Hunt Club Novel	

### **Series V: Miscellaneous**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	3	Miscellaneous Correspondence	