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Forum / Ethical Culture Club records

Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114
1300 North Campus Drive
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-5094
Email: arcrefs@sdstate.edu

Collection Summary

Identifier

MA 2

Title

Forum / Ethical Culture Club records

Dates

1908-1928

Extent

0.21 linear feet – 1 small document case

Creator

Forum and Ethical Culture Club, Brookings, S.D.

Language

English

Repository

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Access note

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Preferred Citation

Name of item. Forum / Ethical Culture Club Records. MA 2. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Organized in 1906, the Forum / Ethical Culture Club was essentially a meeting for the free discussion of any topic of interest. Composed of meetings records, a constitution and a club history.

Historical Note

The Forum was organized in Brookings, South Dakota in January 1906. It was then called the Ethical Culture Club; according to one of its historians. It held its original meetings on Sunday and "was to be a substitute on a basis of liberal theology for church going". These early days notwithstanding, the Forum, as it became known after October 14, 1910, was essentially a meeting for the free discussion of any topic of interest. Topics included, child labor laws, the establishment of a public library, promotion of a league to enforce peace, and the use of metric measures. Many of these topics, particularly the building of a library, actually became calls to action.

The Forum was made up of members of both the college and the town with the majority being drawn from all parts of the College. According to William Powers, Forum historian, the outside membership has been distributed among different professions, including clergymen. Membership seems to have only been limited to men, with the added provision that all members were expected at some time to present a paper.

Governance of the organization was made up of a president, vice president and secretary treasurer who made up the executive committee. There were also two standing committees for programs and for membership.

Contents Note

Composed of miscellanies from both the era of the Forum and the time of the Ethical Culture Club. Materials from the latter era consist of the record of meetings from the years 1908-1910. Material for the latter years includes the minutes of meetings, a copy of the constitution, some miscellaneous materials and a history of the club written by William Powers.

Key Words

Forum (Club : Brookings, S.D.). – Archives

Men--South Dakota--Brookings--Societies and clubs

Powers, William H. (William Howard), 1868-1936

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Arranged and Described by

Elizabeth B. Scott, University Archivist, March 10, 1998

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Constitution	undated
1	2	Correspondence	1919-1928
1	3	History of the club	1923
1	4	Miscellaneous: program notes	undated
1	5	Programs	1919-1928

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	6	Record of meetings: Ethical Culture Club	1908-1910
1	7	Minutes of meetings: The Forum	1919-1928