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## Miltonian Literary Society Records

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# Miltonian Literary Society 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](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

## Collection Summary

### *Identifier*

UA 35.6

### *Title*

Miltonian Literary Society Records

### *Creator*

Miltonian Literary Society, South Dakota Agricultural College, South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts

### *Dates*

1887-1931

### *Extent*

0.42 linear feet -- 1 document case

### *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.* Miltonian Literary Society Records. UA 35.6. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Abstract*

The Miltonian Literary Society fostered training along forensic, dramatic and social lines. The collection is composed of correspondence, ledgers from the beginnings of the society that include the constitution of the society and minutes from meetings and programs from plays presented by the society.

## **Historical Note**

The Miltonian Literary Society was one of the first social groups to be founded on State's campus. It was organized as the Lyceum Club in the early 1880's and membership was restricted to men. In 1887, the club divided and formed another society, the Athenian Literary Society, which included both sexes on its roll call. In 1892, the club drew up a new charter and organized under the title of the Miltonian Literary Society. The Miltonian's directed their energies into forensics, dramatics, and social channels. The purpose of the society was to foster training along forensic, dramatic and social lines. Activities of the society included contests in debate, oratory, extempore speaking, dramatic reading, and one-act plays. The Society existed on campus until the early 1930's.

## **Contents Note**

This series is composed of correspondence, ledgers from the beginnings of the society that include the constitution of the society and minutes from meetings and programs from plays presented by the society. Found inside the back of the ledger from 1903-1931 were loose papers that include clippings, notes, membership information, reports and an orations from a 1916 contest on Booker Washington.

## **Key Words**

Literary societies

Miltonian Literary Society

Student activities

Students -- Societies, etc.

## Administrative Information

### *Conditions Governing Access*

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

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### *Arranged and Described by*

Crystal J. Gamradt, 1998 August 25.

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Constitution	1887 circa
1	2	Correspondence	1927, 1930
1	3	Loose papers found in back of ledger (clippings, notes, membership, reports, oration)	1906- 1931
1	4	Play programs	1888- 1930

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	5	Report of the Secretary (ledger)	1887- 1890
1	6	Report of the Secretary (ledger)	1891- 1893
1	7	Report of the Secretary (ledger)	1906- 1931