

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Wednesday History Club Collection**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Accession Number:** 2014.8.25

**Title:** Wednesday History Club Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 record storage box

**Donated by:** Mrs. A. G. Thornton

**Arrangement:** Chronologically

**Creator:** Members of Wednesday History Club

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Angela Stiefbold, November 2024

**Historical Note:**

Organized in 1917 as the “Wednesday Club,” with its first meeting in January of 1918, members changed the name to “Wednesday History Club” in 1921. The organization was a women’s literary study club with programs focused on history, world affairs, and fine arts. With membership originally capped at 20 and expanded to 25 in 1950, it met twice monthly on Wednesdays, September through May. In addition, the organization’s members gifted books to the public library and donated time and money to other civic causes. The club disbanded in 2022.

**Scope and Content:**

The collection is primarily club yearbooks from 1917-18 through 2013-14, with a few additional items of club ephemera and newspaper clippings. Yearbooks list members, past presidents, program topics and presenters, club constitution and by-laws. A set of yearbooks from 1917-18 through 1986-87 were originally donated within a scrapbook compiled by the club; for conservation purposes they were removed from the scrapbook. The 1917-18 and 1918-19 yearbooks are handmade and fragile. Later yearbooks are professionally printed or typed and copied, though some from the 1930s also have hand-illustrated covers. For most of the years between 1920 and 1990 the library also received and held copies of the yearbooks; many have notations regarding information to support the program topics. The 1977-78 yearbook includes essays on the club’s history, 1917-1977; many later yearbooks include updated club histories.

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Scrapbook title pages, ephemera – Copies of title pages from scrapbook containing yearbooks from 1917-18 through 1986-87, and non-yearbook items removed from the scrapbook, including “History of the Wednesday History Club, 1917-1953” and newspaper clippings about members.

Folder 2: 1917-18 Yearbook

Folder 3: 1918-19 Yearbook

- Folder 4: 1919-20, 1920-21 Yearbooks  
Folder 5: 1921-22, 1922-23 Yearbooks  
Folder 6: 1923-24, 1924-25 Yearbooks  
Folder 7: 1925-26, 1926-27 Yearbooks  
Folder 8: 1927-28, 1928-29 Yearbooks  
Folder 9: 1929-30, 1930-31 Yearbooks  
Folder 10: 1931-32, 1932-33 Yearbooks  
Folder 11: 1933-34, 1934-35 Yearbooks  
Folder 12: 1935-36, 1936-37 Yearbooks  
Folder 13: 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40 Yearbooks  
Folder 14: 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 Yearbooks  
Folder 15: 1943-44, 1944-45 Yearbooks  
Folder 16: 1945-46, 1946-47 Yearbooks  
Folder 17: 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 Yearbooks  
Folder 18: 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54 Yearbooks  
Folder 19: 1954-55 through 1959-60 Yearbooks  
Folder 20: 1960-61 through 1966-67 Yearbooks  
Folder 21: 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71 Yearbooks  
Folder 22: 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75 Yearbooks  
Folder 23: 1975-76, 1976-77 Yearbooks  
Folder 24: 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80 Yearbooks  
Folder 25: 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 Yearbooks  
Folder 26: 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87 Yearbooks  
Folder 27: 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 Yearbooks  
Folder 28: 1990-10 through 1997-98 Yearbooks / update pages  
Folder 29: 1998-99 through 2004-05 Yearbooks / update pages  
Folder 30: 2005-06 through 2010-11 Yearbooks / update pages  
Folder 31: 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 Yearbooks / update pages  
Folder 32: Loose Items – Other items donated along with yearbooks, including:
- 1968 letter from Nell T. Adams inviting Mary Lou Thornton to become a member of the Wednesday History Club;
  - 1970-71 draft meeting agendas/minutes;
  - Dues paid receipts for Mary Lou Thornton (1970s, 1980s) and Mrs. Wm. P. Swartz Jr. (1976);
  - Obituary Mrs. Page Stone Jones (1984);
  - Funeral program for Mrs. Annie Argabright Davis Karr (1984)
- Folder 33: U.S. War Ration Book Folder – Belonged to Mrs. A G Thornton, includes ration books for Mary E. Thornton, Andrew G. Thornton, Donald R. Thornton, and Shirley A. Thornton