

**The Explorers Club
Archives and Special Collections
A Random Box
Accession Number: 2006-27**

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Overview of the Records

Creator: The Friends of the Explorer's Club Library
Select Various Materials

Title: 'A Random Box' (Subtitled: Files for the Explorers Club 1920-1990)

Inclusive Dates: 1920-1990

Bulk Dates: 1967-1989

Quantity: 10 inches (Note: 5in make up 'A Random Box' and the other 5in make up 'Junk Files'; Of 'A Random Box', only 2_in are in use.)

Repository:

The Explorers Club
46 East 70th Street
New York New York 10021

Custodial History:

The papers in this collection were a random assortment of materials, mostly from the Explorers Club Friends of the Library. These papers appear to have been saved for no specific reason and for no real purpose, as they were a completely random assortment of materials. The materials that make up the collection of 'A Random Box' were kept in a standard box in the basement of the Explorers Club until they were lent to the Fall 2006 Archives Class at the Pratt Institute. At that point, an aspiring Librarian/Archivist named Mark Zubarev worked on this collection. He spent many precious days sorting the papers and materials so that only papers of value would be returned to the Explorers Club, to be available to shock researchers and archivists of the future.

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for research.

Copyright:

The Explorers Club retains Copyright for all materials.

Preferred Citation:

Item, folder title, box number., A Random Box, The Explorers Club Research Collection, The Explorers Club

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Biographical/Historical Note

The collection now known to researchers and archivists at the Explorers Club as 'A Random Box' was originally a collection inside of a storage box that was labeled with the following information:

Box 3: The Explorers Journal
Q-Z
1988
J. Gurnee to T. Rockwell 3/1989
Mailed to Club 4/15/2002

This collection was made up of two very different types of material and was split between two Librarian/Archivist students of the Pratt Institute to work on. The first half of the original box contained membership materials and is now in a separate collection called Papers of the Explorers Club Journal, 1958-1989. The remainder of the original box became the collection that is discussed in this Finding Aid. Largely, the materials worked on were a hodgepodge of papers.

Originally the materials of 'A Random Box' was made up of 22 folders, most of which contained materials related to the Friends of the Explorers Club Library and some other materials related to the workings of the Library. The material ranged in terms of date, containing materials from both the beginning of the century, and the period of the 1970s and 1980s. There is no material past 1990, which supports the theory that this is the period when the materials were sealed. This collection of various useless and space occupying material was eventually weeded down to nine folders. The remaining folders and material were placed in a separate box labeled 'Junk Files' for disposal. From the remaining nine folders, only one can be considered to be irreplaceable due to the fact that the materials in it are completely unrelated to the other materials in 'A Random Box'. Folder 01 is a collection of photographs and other various memorabilia.

Original order was not a concern when this collection was being weeded due to the mixed up nature of the materials. Nothing was really sorted by either date or author as much as it seemed that papers were simply put in folders, then in a box, and then the box was stored. Order had to be created in this case rather than followed.

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Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Friends of the Explorers Club Library are a collection of nine folders that can be split into two separate parts. The first section consists of Folder 01, labeled "Various - Photos and Misc." is a collection of photographs, photo negatives, newspaper and magazine clippings, and map/floor plans. It is largely unrelated to the rest of the material in 'A Random Box'. The second section is made up of eight folders containing materials connected to the Friends of the Explorers Club Library and to the Library itself. It consists largely of materials such as correspondence, thank you letters, and memorandums.

Generally, only the first section of 'A Random Box' is worth the time of a researcher or archivist as it contains materials of interest. The second section of the collection has only niche value in that some of the papers have comic value (i.e. internal memorandum) or historical value for the club itself (i.e. bills/budget proposals from the 1920s). Other than that some of the material can be moved to separate members' files (i.e. the correspondence letters to the Library) or can be added to the larger second box labeled 'Junk Files' for shredding and then followed by burning.

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Series Statements

Collection Outline

Series 01 - Unique Materials

Folder 01
Various - Photographs and Miscellaneous

Series 02 - Administrative Materials

Folder 02
J. Baldwin Sample Correspondence

Folder 03
Patron Inquiries and Librarian Replies, circa 1980-1981

Folder 04
Internal Correspondence - Librarian and Library Board, circa 1981

Folder 05
Spiral Notebook

Folder 06
Bibliographic Collection Building and Cataloging

Folder 07
Early 20th century Cataloging and Cartoons

Folder 08
Bills and Budget Proposals of Historical Value

Folder 09
Material for other Files, circa 1987-2000

Series 03 - 'Junk Files'

Note: Random weeded materials of no value that are to be shredded and burned.

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Folder 01

Materials included in this folder include the following: Post Cards, Playbills, Booklets, Floor Plans, Photos and Photo Negatives, Newspaper Clippings, a Map, and a scholarly paper.

Post Card - Women of Discovery, 12/11/2001
Playbill Photocopy - "The Frozen Deep" Play, 11/16-18/1990
Booklet - Robert Edwin Peary Memorial Meeting, 3/12/1920
Floor Plan - Grand Palace d'Angkor Thom
Photo - Nathaniel E. Reich
Photo - George W. Frame
Photo Negative - 2 Half Naked South Pacific Women
Photo - Iceberg, 9/1964
Photo - African Market, Egypt, 5/1979
Photo - Iceberg, 9/1964
Photo - Scott's Hut at Cape Evans, 9/1964
Photo - Look Picture - Thomas Edison
Photo - Ship - The Last of the Yankee Whalers
Photo - Rhinoceros and Antelope by a Mountain
Photo - Picking Shells by the Ocean/Zebra's Drinking
Photo - Leopard Cubs/Zebra Herd Fight
Photo Negative - Old Man/Primitive Village Hallway
Newspaper Clippings:

- San Diego Union, 10/31/1980
- New York Times 12/9/1979
- New York Times 12/7/1980

Magazine Clipped Photos:

- Cheetah Cubs
- Area of Tolerance
- An Artists Dream
- Water Hole
- Private Fight

Map - Yukon Territory Flight Map, 1972
Floor Plan - Temple of the Setting Sun
Paper - Becoming a Woman by Dr. Charles Stoloff (contains photos)

Folder 02

Materials include correspondence between various Explorers Club members and J. Baldwin; also includes Handouts and Flier Templates for Club fundraising done at the time.

Correspondence - Pascal Impercato and Janet Baldwin, 1992-1993
Letter - George and Glenn Jr. to Janet Baldwin
Correspondence - George Michanowsky and Library Committee
Post Card - Sent by John Lundquist, Amy Handback and Janet Baldwin
Correspondence - Edmund Ball and Janet Baldwin
Correspondence - Kenneth Kamler and Janet Baldwin
Explorers Club Handouts and Flier Templates

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Folder 03

Patron Inquiries and Librarian Replies, circa 1980-1981

Folder 04

Internal Correspondence between Librarian and Library Board, circa 1981

Folder 05

This folder contains only a single Spiral Notebook with notes on various materials including Library Material and cataloging.

Folder 06

Materials included here are document packet copies and correspondence concerning Library Cataloging from two separate time periods - 1937-1957 and 1967-1968.

Document Copies Packet

- 1937 Bibliographic Project
- 1957 Correspondence concerning obtaining a collection

Correspondence - Concerning contracts to Catalog the Library Collection, circa 1967-1968

Folder 07

Material included here are catalog cards, letters, a warning sign, and two political cartoon reproductions.

DC Classification Material Inquiry and Correspondence, circa 1935-1938

DC Classification Material Inquiry and Correspondence, circa 1938

Letter concerning Cataloging, circa 1934

Letter concerning Library positions, circa 1926

Packet on Club Cataloging, circa 1975

Library Club Layout Description, annotated, circa 1972

Warning Sign, circa 1976

Two Political Cartoon Reproductions

Folder 08

Bills and Budget proposals of Historical value, circa 1921/1925/1973-1974.

Folder 09

Material to be moved to other files; mainly fliers and lecture invitations from 1987-2000.

Fliers

Lecture invitations

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Container Holdings

Container 01 - 'A Random Box'

- Folder 01: Various - Photographs and Miscellaneous
- Folder 02: J. Baldwin Sample Correspondence
- Folder 03: Patron Inquiries and Librarian Replies, circa 1980-1981
- Folder 04: Internal Correspondence - Librarian and Library Board, circa 1981
- Folder 05: Spiral Notebook
- Folder 06: Bibliographic Collection Building and Cataloging
- Folder 07: Early 20th century Cataloging and Cartoons
- Folder 08: Bills and Budget Proposals of Historical Value
- Folder 09: Material for other Files, circa 1987-2000

Container 02 - 'Junk Files'

- Materials to be shredded and burned; followed by voodoo ritual and a small catered reception.

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Note

While the material in 'A Random Box' has been weeded down from a significant amount of dreck that originally made up the collection, some material was retained despite the fact that it might not fit at all into the Explorers Club Archival Collection. This was mainly due to the fact that as this project was completed as part of a Library School Assignment, there was a fear on the part of the archivist trainee that there might not be much of a collection left to arrange if he became overzealous in his disposing of materials. That said, there is much material that can be eliminated to tighten up this collection. However that can only be left in the hands of the Explorers Club head Archivist. This note is only to suggest materials that the Archivist Trainee included but felt could be safely eliminated without damage to either the Club collection or the Space/Time Continuum:

1. Eliminate completely Folder 03 through Folder 05 and Folder 08
2. Folder 06 contains a 1957 correspondence document that concerned attempts of the club to acquire a collection; this may be of use to the club archive and probably should be saved. These documents make up the second part of the Document Packet in Folder 06 that is listed in this Finding Aid. All other materials in this folder can be eliminated.
3. All Classification and Cataloging Material in Folder 07 (In fact, aside from the Political Cartoons, and the letter from 1926, I would advise that the rest of the file be junked regardless of the age of materials; its not that they aren't interesting mainly due to age but its more that they don't seem to fit with the mission of the Archive. Given that, despite interest, they just take up precious space.)
4. As for the remaining folders, I would suggest that Folder 02 be treated in the same manner as Folder 09; split into the individual members files rather than remain separate as a file.
5. Folder 01 appears to be the only folder that can be left intact although I would suggest moving some of the materials included there into the individual members files; even doing that would leave a large amount of material available for a specific folder.
6. Eliminate 'Junk Files' box by any means necessary; spare no cost and show no regret. In Pax Vobiscum¹.

¹Latin for "Peace Be With You"