

U DLC

Hull Literary Club

1879-1982

Historical background:

The records of this club held in the Brynmor Jones Library go back to 1879, the year of its foundation. The first meeting was held in the council room of the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society at the instigation of William Andrews, an antiquarian scholar and lover of literature, who became the club's first secretary. The first president was Dr Evan Fraser and the first council included J Wildridge, a local historical writer of some note. The stated objectives of the club were to encourage local research and protect and support the interests of local authors, and to form a library of works about Hull and its district. The subscription was five shillings per annum.

The inaugural dinner of the club took place in January 1880 and its first ordinary meeting a month later at rented rooms at 9 Savile Street. From thereon meetings were held regularly, sometimes as often as weekly, and they took the format of papers followed by discussion on literature and topics of local interest. The pace of activity slowed after the initial burst, the club moved to rooms at the Station Hotel for nearly forty years and it began holding yearly Christmas festivities which included storytelling and songs. By the mid-1880s there were 150 members including J A Spender (at that time on the staff of the Eastern Morning News) and the Reverend (later archdeacon) Malet Lambert. Each meeting saw about thirty members in attendance and papers were delivered exclusively by members, many being subsequently published.

The heyday of the club was the 1920s and 1930s when membership rose above 220 and included Redwood Anderson and Noble Wood. The club's journal was renamed Humberside from 1921-2 and it is the main vehicle for publishing papers by members. Writers and poets who have been part of the club's more recent membership include Lionel Rosen, Kenneth Hibbert, Philip Larkin and Alan Plater.

Custodial History:

U DLC/1- 18 Deposited 24 March 1980

U DLC/19-37 Deposited by Mrs AB Nicholson, 3 April 1981

U DLC/38-42 Presented May, 1981

U DLC/43 Presented by Dr PA Larkin, May 1981

U DLC/44 Purchased in March 2019

Description:

The archive comprises a complete series of the club's minute books 1879-1979 and miscellaneous items including lectures and addresses, a volume of press cuttings, copies of the club's first magazine, a small number of letters, the menu for the 50th Jubilee dinner and programmes of Christmas festivities.

Extent: (9 boxes) 1.5 linear metres

Related Material: U DSL Hull Subscription Library (1775 - 1970)

Access Conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Hull Literary Club

U DLC/1	Minute Book 1 volume	1879-1882
U DLC/2	Minute Book 1 volume	1882-1888
U DLC/3	Minute Book 1 volume	1888-1892
U DLC/4	Minute Book 1 volume	1892-1898
U DLC/5	Minute Book 1 volume	1898-1902
U DLC/6	Minute Book 1 volume	1902-1905
U DLC/7	Minute Book 1 volume	1906-1910
U DLC/8	Minute Book 1 volume	1910-1918
U DLC/9	Minute Book 1 volume	1918-1927
U DLC/10	Minute Book 1 volume	1928-1936
U DLC/11	Minute Book 1 volume	1936-1950
U DLC/12	Minute Book 1 volume	1950-1955
U DLC/13	Minute Book 1 volume	1955-1960
U DLC/14	Minute Book 1 volume	1960-1964
U DLC/15	Minute Book 1 volume	1964-1968
U DLC/16	Minute Book 1 volume	1968-1972
U DLC/17	Minute Book 1 volume	1972-1976
U DLC/18	Minute Book 1 volume	1976- 1979

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U DLC/19	Volume of press cuttings on the Hull Literary Club Indexed. Also contains various invitations to, and programmes of, lectures, outings, dinners and conversaciones 1 volume	1890-1913
U DLC/20	`Remarks on the Gryphon, Heraldic and Mythological', by Robert Brown junior F.S.A. [Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries?] Reprinted from `The Archaeologia', Volume XLVIII 1 item	1885
U DLC/21	`The Evolution of Drama', by Sidney W. Clarke A lecture delivered to the Hull Literary Club 1 item	3 Nov 1890
U DLC/22	`Education and Science', by C. C. Graham Presidential address to the Hull Literary Club 1 item	1891
U DLC/23	`A Modern Literary Fraud: The Johnson Mss.', by J. R. Boyle. A paper read to the Hull Literary Club 1 item	19 Dec 1892
U DLC/24	Hull Literary Club Magazine 1 item	1897-1898
U DLC/25	Hull Literary Club Magazine. Volume II, Part II 1 item	1900-1901
U DLC/26	Hull Literary Club Magazine. Volume III, Part II 1 item	1905-1906
U DLC/27	Rules and articles of `The Covenant of the League of the Merry Men of Letters and the Official Commentary Thereon' 1 item	Dec 1920
U DLC/28	`The Story of the Hull Literary Club', by Alfred Jordan 1 item	1937
U DLC/29	Proposals for membership 4 items	1879-1890
U DLC/30	Letter from Editor, 'The Sunday at Home' Returning rejected manuscript 1 item	5 Feb 1889
U DLC/31	Letter: Secretary, Hull and East Riding Women's Liberal Association to Sydney Clarke. Thanks for the Club's resolution that provision for girls should be made in the Hymer's College Scheme 1 item	6 Feb 1889

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U DLC/32	Letter from Henry Rose, Preston Asking for 250 copies of his lecture on education 1 item	19 Feb 1889
U DLC/33	Letter: Arthur B. Chamberlain, 'Hull Daily Mail' to Mr. Andrews Returning rejected copy, being a press cutting from the 'Eastern Morning News'. Suggests it would be more equitable to send copy in the first instance to all the evening papers 1 item	1 Oct 1889
U DLC/34	Letter from William Smith, Morley Thanks for nomination as an honorary member of the Club 1 item	15 Feb 1890
U DLC/35	Letter: F.C. Manley to William Andrews Resigning from the Club 1 item	31 Oct 1891
U DLC/36	Poem: 'The Hull Literary Club', by Alfred Jordan Manuscript 1 item	early 20th cent.
U DLC/37	Poem. 'An Invitation' To Christmas dinner. Printed 1 item	early 20th cent.
U DLC/38	Programmes of the Club's Christmas festivities 38 items	1893-1977
U DLC/39	Menu for 50th Jubilee Dinner 1 item	29 Oct 1929
U DLC/40	Invitation to the Lit(tle) C(l)ub's Party 1 item	16 Jan 1937
U DLC/41	Menu for complimentary dinner to honour Mr. H. Shoosmith 1 item	10 Apr 1967
U DLC/42	Menu for inaugural dinner to celebrate the one hundredth session 1 item	9 Oct 1978
U DLC/43	Programmes of the Club's Christmas festivities 20 items	1955-1982

U DLC/44	<p>The Oxford Book of Modern Verse 1892-1935</p> <p>On the inside it contains the following inscription: “Presented to Frank Noble Wood by members of the Literary Club with affection and respect to commemorate 35 years as Bard of the Records.”</p> <p>There then follows signatures by more than 25 members of the Literary Club including Samuel Nicholson, Lionel Rosen, Philip Larkin, H. Shoosmith, Cadifor Evans and Kenneth Downs.</p> <p>1 volume</p>	1952
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