



# Holyoke Rotary Club Collection, 1915 – 2015

20 boxes (16 linear ft.)

Collection number: 2015.001

## ABSTRACT

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Chartered in 1916, the Rotary Club of Holyoke has served its community and the world through a variety of activities. The Collection contains materials recording those activities, from granting scholarships to sponsoring the Positively Holyoke concert series, as well as materials related to the club's internal workings. The majority of items are documents, though the collection includes some memorabilia and media.

Terms of Access and Use: The collection is open for research.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

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The Rotary Club was founded in Chicago in 1905 by Paul Harris. The club was named for its meeting location, which rotated among members' offices. Within seven years of its inception, Rotary had grown to an international organization, and today comprises over 34,000 clubs in over 200 countries. Rotary makes use of a classification system for members' occupations, to widen their perspectives by meeting with professionals from varying fields. As the club began when few women worked as professionals in business settings, membership remained exclusively male until 1987, when 1987 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Rotary could not bar women from joining. Individual clubs began accepting women immediately thereafter, and in its next meeting, in 1989, the Rotary Council on Legislation officially voted in the change. Rotary International is made up of individual clubs around the world; these local clubs support service projects of their choosing, as well as Rotary International's global initiatives, like PolioPlus. Individual clubs also donate to the Rotary Foundation, a nonprofit that funds projects. Rotary International has partnerships with a number of other nonprofit organizations, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; individual clubs may also partner with organizations, in their own communities or abroad, to accomplish their service goals.



In 1915 a group of Holyoke citizens submitted applications for charter membership in a new chapter, and in 1916 the Rotary Club of Holyoke was formed. From the original 19 applicants, under the leadership of founding president Isaac Sawyer, the chapter grew to over 100 members. These members included many of the town's most prominent men, from Monsignor Rosario Montcalm to lawyer Louis Oldershaw to Lestoil inventor Jacob Barowsky to newspaper publisher and editor William Dwight. Holyoke community leader and activist Carlos Vega was also a member, joining in 1994. The Holyoke Board of Directors voted to admit female members in 1987, with Ann Burke and Doris Ransford joining that fall; Deborah Buckley, the club's first female president, took office in 1997. The Holyoke club, designated #6533, is in District #7890, which covers northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts and contains 60 clubs. Meetings of the Holyoke chapter are every Tuesday at 12:15 PM.

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION FINDING AID

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Over the years the Rotary Club of Holyoke has supported a variety of causes in the Pioneer Valley and abroad. The club's commitment to educational enterprises is shown in its scholarship programs, various literacy projects, and its welcome of foreign students at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley. A Student Loan Fund was established in 1922. The Foreign Student Program offered international Mount Holyoke students the opportunity to spend time with a local family in the weeks before the fall semester began, giving them a knowledge of American daily life that would not have been gained through their college studies. On October 16 each year the Holyoke Rotary delivers a Webster's dictionary to every third-grade student in Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby as part of their literacy initiative and to support the love of reading and learning. The Holyoke chapter has joined other clubs worldwide in supporting PolioPlus, a program begun in 1985 to end polio worldwide; more recently the chapter has been involved with Pure Water for the World. The club is celebrating its 100th anniversary in the 2015-2016 year.

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

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This The Collection consists mainly of materials created in the 20th century, with the rest from the early 21st century. Many of the items, such as budgets, agendas, and memos, were created for internal Rotary use, either within the Holyoke club or at the district or international level; others, particularly in the Foreign Students Program files, record the club's work in the local community and the wider world.

Rotary International operates using a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30. Most materials in the collection are organized in this manner.

- SERIES 1.       TURBINES (1946-2010)
  
- SERIES 2.       ADMINISTRATIVE  
                  MINUTES, AGENDAS, TREASURERS' REPORTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS  
                  MEMBERSHIP RECORDS (1915-1999)  
                  ELECTIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, LEGAL REPORTS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
  
- SERIES 3.       ACTIVITIES  
                  FOREIGN STUDENTS PROGRAM (1968- 1984)  
                  EDUCATION  
                  DWIGHT AWARD  
                  OTHER ACTIVITIES/FUNDRAISERS
  
- SERIES 4.       PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS (1975-1999) AND CLUB HISTORY
  
- SERIES 5        ROBERT E. BARRETT, JR. (1947-1969)
  
- SERIES 6        MEDIA

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION FINDING AID

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### INFORMATION ON USE

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#### Terms of Access and Use

The collection is open for research.

#### Preferred Citation

*Cite as:* Holyoke Rotary Club Collection #2015.009., Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, Mass.

#### History of the Collection

Donated by The Holyoke Rotary Club at the celebration of their Centennial 2015.

#### Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Liptak, Simmons College 438 Internship, Spring 2016.

#### For Reference Inquiries

Please contact the Curator, Wistariahurst Museum,  
238 Cabot  
Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 322-5660.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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#### Languages:

English

#### Copyright

Certain published materials and maybe held in copyright by the Rotary International

#### Separated Materials

No materials have been separated from this collection. Non-archival bindings and folders, and paper clips have been duly removed from the collection.

### RELATED MATERIALS

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Related materials may also be found in the Holyoke Collection

And the Holyoke Public Library History Room

### SEARCH TERMS

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The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection. Use these headings to search for additional materials on in other repositories, library catalogs, or databases.

Holyoke (Mass.)--History

Holyoke (Mass.)--Social life and customs

Rotary International

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

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### SERIES 1. TURBINES AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS (1 box ,1 linear ft.)

The club's newsletter, the Turbine, was released weekly until 1983-84; from 1984-85 on it was distributed bi-weekly. Issues beginning in May 2013 and continuing to the present are available on the club's website (<http://www.holyokerotary.com/>). The first half of the series consists of spiral-bound volumes by fiscal year, beginning with 1946-47 and ending with 1974-75; these are mostly complete, though there are a few missing issues and a few mis-numbered ones. From 1976 on the newsletters are loose, and as they are not bound more are missing. Most Turbines are legal sized, and the majority were originally folded three times for mailing. The back was printed with the newsletter's title and information about the club, as well as advertisements for local businesses.

Apart from the weekly newsletters, many of the bound volumes also include attendance reports, treasurer's reports, flyers for activities, new member proposals, ballots, visits to meetings by Mount Holyoke College foreign students, and so on. Issues usually give information on the next week's speaker and his or her topic, and provide a brief review of the previous week's program. They also advertise club outings and activities, advise of member illness or travel, and announce birthdays, births, and deaths.

### SERIES 2. ADMINISTRATIVE (1 box of 8 folders (oversized materials); 1.5 linear ft.)

#### SUBSERIES 1: MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDAS

This subseries comprises the minutes and agendas for Board of Directors' meetings and weekly meetings. Board of Directors' minutes and agendas include summaries of items discussed at board meetings and reports from various committees, as well as minutes of special meetings, often held just after adjournment of regular meetings. From 1970-1988, treasurer's reports are included in the body of the minutes of Board of Directors' meetings.

#### SUBSERIES 2: TREASURER'S REPORTS AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

These reports include statements about the Student Loan Fund; financial reports given or distributed at Board of Directors' meetings, including information on the Administrative Account, Rotary Fair Share account, and student scholarships and the Student Loan Fund; budgets; and financial statements prepared by an accounting firm.

Many bound volumes of the Turbine include reports on the Student Loan Fund, and from 1970-1988, treasurer's reports are included in the body of the minutes of Board of Directors' meetings.

#### SUBSERIES 3: ANNUAL REPORTS (1982-1998)

Bound volumes.

#### SUBSERIES 4: MEMBERSHIP (1915-1999)

The subseries contains the membership records of the club, beginning with 19 charter membership applications, filed in 1915. It also includes membership directories from the mid-20th century; three of these are booklets from the 1940s, while six are in small red six-ring binders, allowing pages to be inserted or removed at will. The pages feature a photo of the member, along with his classification, contact information, and wife's (or "Rotary-ann's") name. This series also contains over 130 resolutions, usually issued in commemoration of the life of a deceased Rotarian (only one is for a Rotarian still living at the time—Fred Johnson, who is praised as "Cheerio Fred" for his work organizing gifts for ill or hospitalized clubmates). These resolutions date from 1930 to 2008. And, as

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

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“Attendance is the bulwark of Rotary,” records of club attendance are included in the series. Other attendance reports can be found bound in with issues of the Turbine.

### SUBSERIES 5: ELECTIONS (1996-2004)

The subseries consists of primary and final ballots for officers, and results of elections. Other examples of ballots and results of elections can be found bound in with issues of the Turbine and with the minutes and agendas. Following the fiscal year calendar, “changing of the guard” usually takes place at the last meeting of June.

### SUBSERIES 6: CORRESPONDENCE (1972-2010)

The majority of these letters were maintained by a club official, who from 1999 to 2010 filed them by date and whether they were sent from or received by the club. They include thanks or requests for support from various community organizations, and resignations from Rotary.

### SUBSERIES 7: LEGAL (1975-2009)

Federal, state, and organizational documents are contained in this subseries. They include a record of the chapter’s incorporation in 1975, permits to conduct bazaars or raffles, and IRS information.

### SUBSERIES 8: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL (1994-2009)

These documents reveal the current bureaucratic relationship between Rotary International and individual clubs. They include materials created on the international level, such as secretary’s manuals, and those amended at the local level, including club and district bylaws, and semi-annual reports to Rotary International.

### SERIES 3. ACTIVITIES (1968-2004) (\_\_\_ box; \_\_\_\_\_ linear ft.)

#### SUBSERIES 1: FOREIGN STUDENTS PROGRAM (ca1968-1984)

Through the Foreign Students Program, Rotarians and their families welcomed international students at Mount Holyoke College into their homes in the weeks preceding the fall term. This allowed the students the chance to experience American family life, and exposed the American families to foreign culture. In the late 1960s Holyoke Rotary made a short film about the program; called “New Friends in a New Land,” it was shown to other Rotary Clubs. The collection includes a CD-ROM of the approximately 15-minute film, digitized by the Mount Holyoke College Archives, where the original is held. This series also includes correspondence with and about the foreign students themselves, the majority of whom came from European countries, but who also represented Asia. During the time that the program was active, the foreign students would be invited to a Rotary meeting for lunch; information about these visits can be found in the Turbines. An article on international students from the Winter 1986 Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly is included in the Press and Publications series.

#### SUBSERIES 2: EDUCATION (1974-2004)

Apart from the Foreign Students Program, Holyoke Rotarians have supported a number of educational opportunities for local and international students. These include the Youth Leadership program and Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), the Student Youth Exchange program, and the Student Guest program, in which local high school students were invited to Rotary Club meetings. Applications for these programs are found in this series, as are pamphlets advising traveling students and host families on ways to smooth the process. There are also documents related to a scholarship established in honor of former member Mischa Barowsky. Education in Rotary

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

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is continued past traditional school years with the Group Study Exchange, wherein small groups visit another country to focus on some particular topic in business or industry.

### SUBSERIES 3: DWIGHT AWARD (1993-1998)

The William G. Dwight Distinguished Service to Holyoke Award was inaugurated in 1940 to honor a citizen who has displayed commitment to Holyoke. It was named for William G. Dwight, longtime publisher of the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram, whose family continued to run the paper after his death in 1930. The award was begun under the aegis of the Transcript-Telegram, but when the newspaper ceased publication in 1993, Wayne Alderman suggested to William Dwight, Sr., that the Holyoke Rotary assume responsibility for giving the award. Dwight agreed, and the Rotary Club has sponsored the award ever since. Materials in the subseries include newspaper articles on awardees, programs from the award ceremonies, poems written in awardees' honor by Wayne Alderman, and correspondence concerning the award.

### SUBSERIES 4: OTHER ACTIVITIES/FUNDRAISERS (1974-2015)

To support its service projects, the Rotary Club of Holyoke raises money through a variety of means, from member donations to public events. This subseries contains information relating to several of these events, from art auctions to the Paper City Capers, a series of mystery dinner theater shows. Significant in the subseries are the documents recording Paul Harris Fellowships. Named for the founder of Rotary, Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have displayed the highest service to the community and humanitarian efforts. While most Fellows are Rotarians, the Holyoke chapter has awarded several Fellowships to non-Rotarian citizens.

## SERIES 4—PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS AND CLUB HISTORY

### SUBSERIES 1: PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS (CA1926-1999, BULK 1975-1999)

The majority of the items herein are obituaries of club members, dating from 1982 to 1988. There are also a group of clippings related to the topic of women joining Rotary, both before and after the 1987 Supreme Court decision that prohibited Rotary International from barring women from the organization. Other articles record members' activities outside of the club, while others are of general interest. Most newspaper clippings are from the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram, often abbreviated T-T on the clippings. The subseries includes a few articles from The Rotarian magazine and catalogs, some more general (like the local Dinn Bros. trophy and award company) and others catering specifically to Rotary clubs.

### SUBSERIES 2: CLUB HISTORY (1931-2005)

The chapter's history is told through narratives, awards, and commemorative materials. There is also evidence of the artistic talent that graced Holyoke Rotary, from a circa 1930s songbook used by longtime club pianist Lucille Day to a chapbook written by member Dr. Edward P. Bagg (a.k.a. "E. Poeticus Bagg") to the lyrics to "Rotary Spirit" by Dr. Sam Potsabay. Anniversaries are celebrated with "Golden Days of the Golden Years," for Rotary International's 50th and Holyoke's 40th, and a 2005 certificate from Governor Mitt Romney on Rotary International's centennial.

### SERIES 5—ROBERT E. BARRETT, JR. (1947-1969)

A graduate of Holyoke public schools and Harvard, Robert Barrett was elected president of the Holyoke Rotary in 1935, making him the then-25-year-old the youngest person to head a club. He served as president of the Holyoke Water Power Company, as a trustee for Mount Holyoke College, and on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Wistariahurst Museum 238 Cabot Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 413-322-5660 [www.wistariahurst.org](http://www.wistariahurst.org)

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

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Education. The series mostly consists of correspondence. Of note in it are the nine documents concerning department store founder and Rotarian J.C. Penney's visit to the club in December 1950, and those about the formation of the Special Projects Committee, whose work led to the Foreign Students Program.

### SERIES 6—MEDIA

This series comprises photos, slides, audio cassette tapes, a ¾ inch master broadcast tape, and three display panels documenting club activities. Some of the photos are prints of the slides; individual photos are not labeled or dated. The cassette tapes are recordings of Board of Directors meetings from 1987-89, and the master broadcast tape is the recording of a 1972 Mount Holyoke College student program, possibly a performance by the foreign students. The computer-playable CD-ROM of "New Friends in a New Land" is included in the Foreign Students Program subseries of Activities.

HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION CONTENTS LIST

	Date	Box	Folder
<b>Series 1. <i>Turbines</i> and District Newsletters # boxes; ##.# linear ft.</b>			
Series 1: <i>Turbines</i> and district newsletters			
Bound <i>Turbines</i> .....	1947-1975.....	1	
Loose <i>Turbines</i> , misc. ....	1976-2004.....	2	
District newsletters .....			2

<b>Series 2: Administrative</b>	Date	Box	Folder
Board of Directors' meetings.....	1970-2010.....	3	1-37
Weekly meetings .....	1997-2009.....	3	38-46
Treasurer's Reports and Financial Documents			
Treasurers' Reports .....	1971-2005.....	4	1-3
Student Loan Fund.....	1948-2000.....	4	4
Financial statements prepared by Joseph D. Kalicka & Co. ....	1996.....	4	2
Fair Share Spending Policy.....	2004.....	4	5
Rotary International Fiscal Year Financial Statement Data .....	1996-2000.....	4	6
Annual Reports .....	1982-1998.....	5	1
Membership.....	1915-1999.....	2	2
Charter member applications.....	1915.....	6	2
Membership proposal cards .....	1915-1927.....	6	2
Membership applications.....	1915-1927.....	6	2
Membership directory booklet for 1944-45.....	1944.....	8	1
Membership directory booklet for 1945-46.....	1945.....	8	1
Membership directory booklet for 1947-48.....	1947.....	8	1
Membership directories (6) .....	c. 1950s.....	8	1
Member packets (including applications and terminations).....	1924-1988.....	9	1-12
Past members .....	1979-1999.....	10	1-11
"Holyoke Rotary Former Member's Membership Cards" (red box).....	ca1980s.....	7	2
Membership cards (2 blue and 1 red box of index card size) .....	c. 1950s.....	22	
Membership cards (blue box with gold RI seal) .....	c. 1991.....	7	2



## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION CONTENTS LIST

	Date	Box	Folder
Membership cards (taupe plastic box, 135) .....	c. 1988.....	7 .....	2
Current membership cards			
Attendance reports .....	1996 - c. 2013.....	12 .....	1-8
Make-up cards .....		12 .....	11
Orientation .....		12 .....	14
Committees.....	1992-2005.....	12 .....	15
Membership Changes July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999 .....	1998-1999.....		
Resolutions .....	1930-2008.....	13 .....	1-3
Century Club .....	1981-2008.....	12 .....	16
Elections .....	1996-2004.....	13 .....	4
Correspondence, Internal .....	1972-2010.....	14 .....	1
Correspondence, Internal.....	1997-1998.....	14 .....	2
Correspondence, Internal.....	1998-1999.....	14 .....	3
Correspondence, Received .....	1999-2000.....	14 .....	4
Correspondence, Received.....	2000-2001.....	14 .....	5
Correspondence, Received.....	2001-2002.....	14 .....	6
Correspondence, Sent .....	1999-2000.....	14 .....	7
Correspondence, Sent.....	2000-2001.....	14 .....	8
Correspondence, Sent.....	2001-2002.....	14 .....	9
Correspondence, Sent.....	2002-2003.....	14 .....	10
June-December 2000 .....	2000.....	14 .....	11
Correspondence, Miscellaneous .....	2000-2004.....	14 .....	12
Correspondence, Miscellaneous .....	2007-2010.....	14 .....	13
Legal .....	1975-2009.....	14 .....	14
Rotary International .....	1994-2009.....	14 .....	17

### Series 3: Activities

	Date	Box	Folder
Foreign Students Program .....	ca1968-1984.....	15 .....	1-6
Education.....	1974-2004.....		

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	Date	Box	Folder
Youth Leadership program/RYLA .....		16	1
Group Study Exchange .....		16	2
Barowsky Scholarship letter .....	1996.....	16	3
Student Guest Program .....	1980-2009.....	16	4
Holyoke Street School .....	1974-82.....	16	5
Student Youth Exchange.....	1982-1994.....	16	6
Scholarships.....	1980-1993.....	16	7
Ellen C. Wolchek application packet.....	1989.....	16	7
Anne Davidson application packet.....	1988.....	16	7
Catharine (Kitty) Gretsck application packet.....	1988.....	16	7
Julie Glidden application packet.....	1986, 1989 .....	16	7
Howard LaFranchi application packet .....	1980.....	16	7
Daniel Tonelli application packet.....	1980.....	16	7
Laura Robertson application packet .....	1988.....	16	7
Dwight Award.....	1993-1998.....	17	1
Other activities/fundraisers .....	1974-2015.....	17	2-14

<b>Series 4: Publications, Press, and History</b>	Date	Box	Folder
Articles .....	1975-2007.....	18	1
Obituaries .....	1982-1988.....	18	1
Women in Rotary .....	1984-1987.....	18	1
Members' activities.....	1975-1988.....	18	3
Rotary articles.....	2004-2007.....	18	1
Catalogs and order forms .....		18	2
Club history .....	1931-2000.....	18	3
Books, booklets, and pamphlets.....		18	4
Songs for the Rotary Club .....	ca1930.....	18	4
Songs for the Rotary Club .....	1941.....	18	4
Rotary Songs .....	1984.....	18	4

## HOLYOKE ROTARY CLUB COLLECTION CONTENTS LIST

	Date	Box	Folder
Adventure in Service .....	1947.....	18 .....	4
The Rotarian Golden Anniversary issue .....	1955.....	18 .....	4
Rotary: Fifty Years of Service.....	1955.....	18 .....	4
“Birthday Leavings of the Laureate” poetry by Edward P. Bagg, .....	1937.....	18 .....	3

### Series 5: Robert E. Barrett, Jr.

	Date	Box	Folder
Robert E. Barrett, Jr. ....	1947-1969.....	16 .....	8

### Series 6: Media, Awards, and Memorabilia

#### 4x6 color photographs

“Rotary Past Prez Oct 84” (11) .....	1984.....	19 .....	1
“70th Birthday Pty” (10).....	.....	19 .....	1
“1985 Golf Outing & Past Pres Pty” (10).....	1985.....	19 .....	1

#### Color slides

“Rotary Party Nov 84” (16) .....	1984.....	19	
“1985 Oct 30 Past Pres. Party, Nov 2 Birthday Party” .....	1985.....	19	
“Rotary Some titled #3 July 19, 1984” .....	1984.....	19	

#### Audio cassette tapes

“2/17/89 SAVE Fair Share & Allocations(?)” .....	1989.....	19	
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#### Board of Directors

“BoD 1/9/87 SAVE 2/3” .....	1987.....	19	
“Final Meeting of Bd. Frank Nelen-Pres Stan Prouty-Sec. Stan died shortly after- Lots about Fair Share” “6/16/89—SAVE Fair Share—in 1/3 A” .....	1988-1989.....	19	

Video tape—Student Program .....	1972.....	19	
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Certificates and awards .....	1972-2016.....	19 .....	2
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Presentation boards.....		21	
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Literacy.....			
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1978 Halloween party .....	1978		
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General info about Rotary.....			
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**Date**      **Box**      **Folder**

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