



Holyoke Canoe Club Collection, 1888 - 1993

15 boxes (10.5 linear ft.)

Collection number: 2016.010

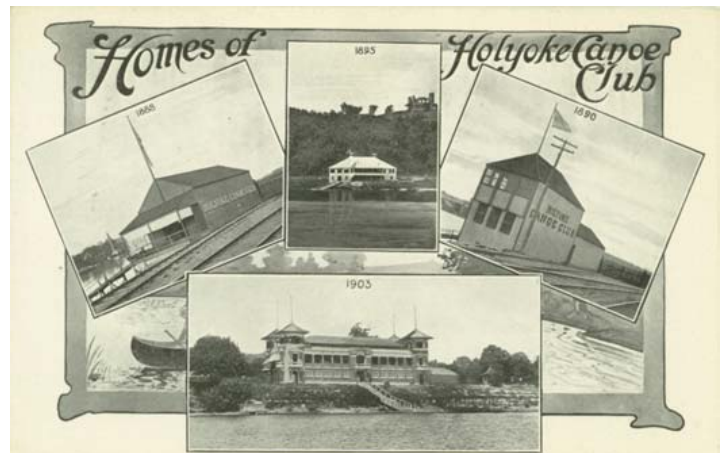
ABSTRACT

This collection contains materials related to the history of the Holyoke Canoe Club. The club became a premier social spot for residents of Holyoke and its surrounding communities over its 120+ year history. The first series of this collection contains documents relating to the actions of the club's executive committee in the 20th century. The second series contains membership applications, letters of resignation, and related materials from the 20th century, concentrated mostly around the year 1920. The third series contains club financial documents, including ledgers, purser's reports, insurance information, and loose receipts, spanning from the late 19th century until the 1980s. The fourth series contains newspaper clippings and scans related to club activities and events, as well as photographs of the club and club events from the early 1900s through the 1980s. The newspaper clippings focus heavily on tennis tournaments and former commodore Thomas Auld, and the photographs focus heavily on events and flooding in the 1980s. The fifth series contains various correspondence within the executive board, between the executive board and members, and between the executive board and outside agencies from the 20th century. The sixth and final series contains ephemera from throughout the club's history, including club by-laws, novelty items such as license plates, blank forms, and notes. The range of documents available through this collection shows the history of the Holyoke Canoe Club through financial, secretarial, photographic, and enrollment lenses.

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

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Holyoke Canoe Club was founded on November 20th, 1885 by twelve local men with the intention of promoting canoeing on the Connecticut River. The first clubhouse was built in Holyoke, just upstream from the city's dam. The wooden structure was designed only to serve as a hold for a few canoes and to house a handful of lockers. As club membership rose, the facility became inadequate for the needs of its members, and a new clubhouse was built on the bank of the river near Kenilworth Castle. This new building was opened in 1895, and was more fitting for the club's growing clientele, providing spaces for up to 60 canoes. The club



began to expand its role into that of a private club for prominent locals. A parlor, meeting hall, and chart room were all included in the new design. In 1903, the club further upstream to Smith's Ferry, near its present location. An even larger clubhouse was built, with a dining hall, meeting hall, boat repair room, lockers, and towers overlooking the river. Over time, the club's rooms would be redesigned, and the club itself would be moved a few hundred feet on its plot of land, but it has roughly stayed in its present location for over a century.

By the 1920s, tennis and volleyball courts were added to the grounds, and tournaments became commonplace. The courts became a crucial part of the Canoe Club, going through several major expansions and upgrades from their beginning through the late 1970s. With the dissolution of the Holyoke Yacht Club in 1921, the Canoe Club ushered in the end of an era of canoeing and established a power boat committee. More change came in 1950 and 1963 respectively, when a pool and pool house were added to the grounds.

Originally an institution biased against Catholics and the lower classes, the Canoe Club expanded and lifted its exclusions of certain groups of people. As time passed, the club became less selective in its choice of members. The cap on the total number of members was gradually lifted, from a few hundred at the turn of the century, to the many hundreds who enjoy it today.



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SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection of six series contains club records spanning from its conception in 1888 until the early 1990s. The collection includes financial books, photographs, an abundance of membership applications, and correspondence from and to the club, as well as miscellaneous memorabilia and notes. This extensive array of club documents offers insight into the complex social web created by the booming mill town of Holyoke, and shows the changing legacy of a local institution.

The Collection has been arranged in the following six series:

SERIES 1. MEETING MINUTES, REPORTS, AND OTHER RECORDS (1900-1991)

SERIES 2. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (1919-1989)

SERIES 3. CLUB FINANCES (1888-1991)

SERIES 4. PHOTOGRAPHS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS (1903-1987)

SERIES 5. CLUB CORRESPONDENCE (1903-1993)

SERIES 6. EPHEMERA (1898-1993)

INFORMATION ON USE

Terms of Access and Use

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Preferred Citation

Cite as: Holyoke Canoe Club Collection #2016.010., Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, Mass.

History of the Collection

Donated by the Executive Committee of the Holyoke Canoe Club, 2016.

Processing Information

Processed by Joseph Maspo, Emmanuel College, Internship, Summer 2016.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages:

English

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.



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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES 1. Meeting Minutes, Reports, and Other Records (4 BOXES OF 23 FOLDERS; 2 LINEAR FT.)

This series contains meeting minutes, club reports, and other miscellaneous records. Roughly half of this series is composed of loose meeting minutes and related reports from the 1960s and 1970s. There are also documents relating to the tennis committee in the mid 1920s and the hiring of a tennis pro in 1987. This series also contains books of secretary's records from 1900-1950, and gate, pool, and locker rental logs from the 1970s and 1980s.

SERIES 2. Membership Information (2 BOXES OF 25 FOLDERS; 1 LINEAR FT.)

This series contains materials relating to the changing membership of the club. Most of this series is made up of letters of reinstatement, applications, and correspondence related to membership. The series has a large date range, but most material is from the late 1910s and early 1920s. The series also contains lists of members and board members from various years, as well as club brochures from the 1970s.

SERIES 3. Club Finances (5 BOXES OF 32 FOLDERS; 4 LINEAR FT.)

This series contains ledgers from across the club's history, providing financial information ranging from the club's beginnings in 1885 until the 1970s. About half of this series is composed of folders of various loose receipts from the 1920s and 1960s. The other half of this series takes the form of ledger books from the first part of the 20th century and loose pages from ledgers in the second half of the 20th century.

SERIES 4. Photographs and Newspaper Clippings (1 BOX OF 8 FOLDERS; .5 LINEAR FT.)

This series contains newspaper articles and photographs ranging from the turn of the 20th century up until the late 1980s. The photographs show the tennis courts, pool, grounds and members throughout the club's history. Notable contents include sheets of member photos made for a "yearbook" in the 1970s and film pieces showing flood damage to the grounds in the 1980s. The newspaper articles focus heavily on club tennis matches and boating on the Connecticut River in the mid 20th century, although there are articles reaching as far back as 1903.

SERIES 5. Club Correspondence (1 BOX OF 18 FOLDERS; .5 LINEAR FT.)

This series contains various correspondence between the Canoe Club and members, the government, and other businesses. Most of the club to member correspondence comes in the form of mailing cards and newsletters, the majority from the 1920s, 1980s, and 1990s. There are also letters relating to tennis court upkeep and swimming lessons. Notably, there is a large folder dedicated to the club's record setting dogwood tree and related tree upkeep.

SERIES 6. Ephemera (2 BOXES OF 14 FOLDERS; 2.5 LINEAR FT.)

This series contains miscellaneous materials from the collection. Included in the series are draft memos, blueprints of the club's pool house, novelty centennial license plates, and assorted club improvement documents ranging from the late 1890s to the late 1980s. Also included in the collection are over 240 addressograph plates, and club by-laws from the 1910s, '20s, '70s, and '80s. This series is the most far reaching in variety of content.



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CONTENTS LIST

Series 1. Meeting Minutes, Reports, and Other Records: 4 boxes; 2 linear ft.	Dates	Box	Folder
Secretary's record (1 item)	1900-1950	1	1
Book of meeting minutes, application information, and related (1 item)	1929-1939	1	2
Pool log (1 item)	1966-1973	2	1
Pool log and related permits (4 items)	1973-1991	2	2
Gate and locker payment log (1 item)	1977-1989	2	3
Purser's reports and related (~20 items)	1922	3	1
Committee reports (~5 items)	1922	3	2
Minutes and lists of member changes (~40 items)	1922	3	3
Minutes (~100 items)	1923-1927	3	4
"Records of the Holyoke Canoe Club Tennis Committee" (1 item)	1925-1929	3	5
Minutes and club reports (~40 items)	1960-1961	3	6
Minutes and club reports (~40 items)	1962	3	7
Minutes, club reports, and attachments (~40 items)	1963	3	8
Minutes, club reports, and attachments (~40 items)	1964	3	9
Minutes, club reports, and related (~60 items)	1965	3	10
Minutes (~80 items)	1966-1969	3	11
Minutes (~25 items)	1970	4	1
"Annual Report" (2 items)	1971-1972	4	2
Minutes, reports, and attachments (~20 items)	1975	4	3
Minutes, reports, and attachments (~40 items)	1976-1977	4	4
Minutes, reports, and attachments (~40 items)	1978-1979	4	5
Miscellaneous minutes (5 items)	1985-1990	4	6
Tennis pro contract and reports (~10 items)	1987-1991	4	7

Series 2. Membership Information: 2 boxes; 1 linear ft.	Dates	Box	Folder
Member and board member lists (~15 items)	20 th century	5	1
Miscellaneous applications (some blank) (~30 items)	n.d	5	2
Letters of reinstatement and related (~15 items)	1915-1917	5	3
Membership applications (~80 items)	1915-1917	5	4
Resignations and member correspondence (~10 items)	1918	5	5
Membership applications (~80 items)	1918-1919	5	6
Miscellaneous membership (~5 items)	1919	5	7
Resignations and related (~30 items)	1919	5	8
Resignations and related (~30 items)	1920	5	9
Letters of reinstatement and applications (~10 items)	1920	5	10
Various membership correspondence (~20 items)	1920	5	11
Various membership correspondence (~25 items)	1921	5	12
Letters of reinstatement and applications (~15 items)	1921	5	13
Resignations and related (~70 items)	1921	5	14
Membership acceptances and application correspondence (~20 items)	1922	5	15
Membership correspondence (~40 items)	1922	6	1
Letters of resignation (~60 items)	1922	6	2
Membership applications (~100 items)	1920-1922	6	3
Membership applications (~40 items)	1923-1927	6	4
Membership forms (~40 items)	1970s	6	5
Club brochures (~20 items)	1970s	6	6
Letters of resignation (~5 items)	1977	6	7
Leave of absence member sheets (~25 items)	1985-1986	6	8
Resigned member information sheets (~25 items)	1986	6	9
Membership applications (~40 items)	1989	6	10



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Series 3. Club Finances: 5 boxes; 4 linear ft.	Dates	Box	Folder
Finance book (1 item)	1888-1899	7	1
Membership ledger (1 item)	1899-1903	7	2
Finance Book (1 item)	1915-1945	7	3
Member payment book (1 item)	1914-1916	7	4
Member payment book (1 item)	1916-1922	8	1
Member payment book (1 item)	1922-1934	8	2
Member payment book (1 item)	1934-1949	8	3
Hadley Falls Trust Co receipts (~15 items)	1918	9	1
Receipts (~15 items)	1918	9	2
Insurance information, workman's compensation, and related (~25 items)	1919-1980	9	3
Receipts (~40 items)	Jan-June 1919	9	4
Receipts (~50 items)	July-Dec 1919	9	5
Tax receipts (~15 items)	1919	9	6
Miscellaneous receipts and financials (~25 items)	1914-1923	9	7
Loose receipts (~60 items)	Dec 1921-May 1922	9	8
Loose receipts (~40 items)	June 1922	9	9
Loose receipts (~40 items)	July-August 1922	9	10
Loose receipts (~40 items)	Sept-Dec 1922	9	11
Payroll receipts (~40 items)	April -Nov 1922	9	12
"Notes Payable-Paid" (out of binding, part 1 of 2)	1950-1953	10	1
"Notes Payable-Paid" (out of binding, part 2 of 2)	1950-1953	10	2
Ledger (out of binding, 1 item)	1957-1967	10	3
Ledger (out of binding, 1 item)	1968-1974	10	4
Ledger (out of binding, 1 item)	1975-1979	10	5
Tennis expenses and related (~15 items)	1970s	10	6
"Receipts and Disbursements" disbursements (out of binding, part 1 of 4)	1980-1983	10	7
"Receipts and Disbursements" disbursements (out of binding, part 2 of 4)	1984-1988	10	8
"Receipts and Disbursements" disbursements (out of binding, part 3 of 4)	1989-1991	11	1
"Receipts and Disbursements" receipts (out of binding, part 4 of 4)	1981	11	2
"Holyoke Canoe Club General Ledges" (out of binding, 1 item)	1982-1983	11	3
Miscellaneous income (~5 items)	1980s	11	4
Miscellaneous finances (~5 items)	1960-1984	11	5
Series 4. Photographs and Newspaper Clippings: 1 box; .5 linear ft.	Dates	Box	Folder
July 4 th picnic photographs (~20 items)	1985	12	1
July 4 th picnic photographs (~10 items)	1987	12	2
Flood and ice damage photos (~30 items)	1907-1987	12	3
Assorted photos and postcards (71 items)	20 th century	12	4
Club yearbook portraits (10 items)	1970s	12	5
Assorted photos (14 items)	1980s	12	6
Board of Directors photos (2 items)	20 th century	12	7
Newspaper clippings and scans (46 items)	20 th century	12	8



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Series 5. Club Correspondence: 1 box; .5 linear ft.	Dates	Box	Folder
Mailing cards and inserts (~35 items)	1903-1907	13	1
Mailing cards and inserts (~70 items)	1908-1922	13	2
Tax correspondence (~10 items)	1920	13	3
Miscellaneous correspondence (~5 items)	1921	13	4
Mailings and information for members (~30 items)	1921	13	5
Committee correspondence and lists (~10 items)	1921	13	6
Informational mailings (~15 items)	1922	13	7
Treasury Department correspondence and related (~5 items)	1921-1922	13	8
Various correspondence (~40 items)	1922	13	9
Correspondence (~35 items)	1967-1972	13	10
Information for members, social agendas (~15 items)	1976	13	11
Miscellaneous correspondence (~10 items)	1977-1978	13	12
Dogwood tree correspondence and related (~40 items)	1983-1990	13	13
Newsletters (42 items)	1981-1988	13	14
Swim lesson correspondence (~15 items)	1990-1992	13	15
Newsletters (10 items)	1990-1992	13	16
Miscellaneous correspondence (~20 items)	20 th century	13	17
Tennis court upkeep and related (~10 items)	1993	13	18

Series 6. Ephemera: 2 boxes; 2.5 linear ft.	Dates	Box	Folder
Massachusetts House of Representatives congratulatory certificate (1 item)	1988	14	1
Miscellaneous resumes (2 items)	1980s	14	2
Miscellaneous Tennis court upgrade documents (~5 items)	1977-1978	14	3
Draft memos, miscellaneous notes (~15 items)	20 th century	14	4
Miscellaneous blank forms and cards (~30 items)	20 th century	14	5
Centennial front license plates (3 items)	1988	14	6
Miscellaneous (~10 items)	20 th century	14	7
By-laws and rules (16 items)	1912, 1916, 1922	14	8
By-laws and rules (21 items)	1977	14	9
By-laws and related (~20 items)	1975, 1980)	14	10
New building specifications (1 item)	1915	14	11
Miscellaneous club improvement documents (~5 items)	1898-1916	14	12
Projects information (~15 items)	1987	14	13
Zoning petition documents (~5 items)	1976	14	14
Addressograph plates (~240 items)	mid 20 th century	15	
Pool house blueprints (4 items) (Map Case 5, Drawer 4)	1963		

SEARCH TERMS

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.

Subjects

- City planning -- Massachusetts -- Holyoke
- Holyoke (Mass.) -- Newspapers
- Holyoke (Mass.) -- History
- Holyoke (Mass.) -- Social life and customs
- Social classes -- Massachusetts -- Holyoke -- History