

*Amateurs des Belles Lettres Collection: MC Literary Societies
(AR113)*

Finding Aid

Monmouth College Archives

Hewes Library
Monmouth, Illinois
2013

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Literary Societies: Amateurs des Belles Lettres Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Literary Societies: Amateurs des Belles Lettres Collection

Creator: The Amateurs des Belles Lettres Society of Monmouth College

Dates: 1858-1927

Extent: .75 Linear feet (2 boxes)

Language(s): English, German

Repository: Monmouth College Archives, Monmouth, Illinois

Abstract: The Literary Societies: Amateurs des Belles Lettres collection includes the minutes, roll books, and event programs of the Amateurs des Belles Lettres society from 1858-1925, the entirety of the group's existence on campus.

Administrative Information

Cite as: Literary Societies: Amateurs des Belles Lettres Collection, Monmouth College Archives, Monmouth, Illinois

Provenance: Various (unknown)

Processed by: Ryan Cameron

Separations: See Inter-Societal Collection (AR112)

Access: Obtained by completing a Request for Research Materials Form at the Hewes Library Circulation Desk. Materials are generally pulled once daily during the school year.

Ownership: The Literary Societies: Amateurs des Belles Lettres Collection is/are the physical property of the Monmouth College Archives. Copyright may belong to authors or their legal heirs or assigns. Researchers assume full responsibility for conforming with laws of privacy, copyright and literary rights which may be involved with use of materials from the Monmouth College Archives.

Historical/Biographical Background

Founded not long after the first literary groups on campus, Philadelphian and Eccritean, the Amateurs des Belles Lettres was the first of what would eventually become two groups for women on Monmouth College's campus (the Aletheorian Society would come into existence some five years after the other three groups). The group, also known as Amantes des Belles Lettres in some publications, and often shortened to A.B.L. , was known to compete with both

the male groups and the other female group on campus, as well as with literary societies at other colleges and universities in the area. A.B.L. gave the women on Monmouth College a voice in an educational institution not often seen in the mid-1800's, and continued strong until the popularity of the literary societies in America died out in the early 1900's in favor of collegiate fraternities and sororities.

Container List

Box 1 (AR113 .001)

Folders: *Amateur des Belles Lettres - Program - 1866-1913

- 1 Program for "The First Annual Contest Between the A.B.L. And Aletheorian Societies" march 31 1863 (R) (P)
- 3 Programs for "A.B.L. Musicale"
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting" Sept. 28
- 1 Program for "Open Meeting of A.B.L. Society" Sept. 28
- 1 program for "A.B.L. Droit Et Avant" Mar 29 1866
- 1 Program for "The Annual Exhibition of the A.B.L. Society" March 29 1867
- 1 mini-invitation, in envelope, reads "A.B.L. society at home 4:00PM Oct 5 1911 society hall"
- 1 Program REPAIRED on cardboard for "A.B.L. Annual Exhibition" march 29 1867
- 1 Program for "The Annual Exhibition of the A.B.L. Society" Sept 18 1879
- 1 scan of program for "A.B.L. Lyceum,"
- 1 scan of the outside of a program for "A.B.L. Doughnut Night"
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open meeting" Sept 22 1898 (R)
- 1 Program for indeterminate A.B.L. event, Sept. 24 1896
- 1 hand-painted menu/program for A.B.L. event, 1912

- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting" Sept. 19 1889 (R)
- 2 Program for "Dedicatory Exercises of the A.B.L." May 7 1909
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Doughnut Night" Jan 12 1912
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Public Meeting," Oct 11 1904
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting," Sept 28 1897
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting" Oct 3 1901
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Declamation Contest" Mar 19 1897
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting," Sept 22 1892
- 1 program for "A.B.L. Lyceum" 1788? (more plausibly 1888)
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting," Sept 26 1882
- 1 Program for "A.B.L. Open Meeting," Sept 18 1883
- 1 Scanned copy of a program for "The sixth annual exhibition of the A.B.L." March 25 1864

*Amateur des Belles Lettres - Secretaries Book - 1873-1875

- 1 Roll Ledger, 1873-74 (R)

*Amateur des Belles Lettres - Roll Book - 1875-1888

- 1 Roll ledger, 1875-1888 (R)

*Amateur des Belles Lettres - Misc. Records

- 1 scanned copy of an A.B.L. Graduation Diploma (M) **
- 1 A.B.L. Program Card showing Division 1 & 2 wins and losses
- 1 Handwritten note showing the order of speaking for the night of Jan. 27
- 1 Handwritten note showing the order of speaking for the night of Jan. 20
- 1 large sheet of paper, dated 1861, which appears to list members of A.B.L.

- 1 handwritten outline of a program for the night of May 22
- 1 sheet of handwritten paper, one side in German, corrected in pen, the other in cursive English
- 1 sheet of handwritten ledger paper, one side featuring A.B.L. minutes, the other a program outline
- 1 handwritten secretary's note with question and answer
- 1 handwritten note, seems to feature questions
- 1 member list for "Classic Course" dated 1860, typed

*Amateur des Belles Lettres - Program - 1860

- 1 Program for "The Third Annual Exhibition of the A.B.L." march 30, 1860

*Amateur des Belles Lettres - Constitution & By-Laws 1857-1906

- 2 Copy of "A.B.L. Constitution and By-Laws" 1857
- 4 Copy of "A.B.L. Constitution and By-Laws" 1906

*Amateur des Belles Lettres - Books & Misc.

- 1 A.B.L. Librarian's Book, 1872-1873
- 1 A.B.L. Roll Book, 1858-1922 **
- 1 A.B.L. Treasury Book, 1902-1912
- 1 A.B.L. Corresponding Secretary's Book, 1877-1896

Box 2 (AR113 .002)

*Secretary's Books

- 1 A.B.L. Secretary's Book, 1875-1882
- 1 A.B.L. Secretary's Book, 1887-1891
- 1 A.B.L. Secretary's Book, 1891-1896
- 1 A.B.L. Secretary's Book, 1896-1899
- 1 A.B.L. Secretary's Book, 1899-1903