

## **Friends of the Ipswich Public Library Records 2014.01**

### **History**

In 1936, there were several presentations at the Rotary Club that revealed the library was not meeting the demands of the public. Interested citizens, including all the clergymen of the town, were invited by the Trustees of the Ipswich Public Library to form an Advisory Committee for the Library. The Friends of the Library formed as a committee of the Advisory Committee to work toward creating a better library for Ipswich. Its mission statement declared, in part, that its purpose "shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in books; to increase facilities and services of Ipswich Public Library; thus to enrich the cultural opportunities available to the citizens of Ipswich." Within the first two years, they grew to over 150 members, and raised money for books and establishing a building fund. In the third year, a bequest from Miss Elizabeth Rogers Lathrop of Salem raised the possibility of creating a children's wing as a memorial to the Rogers branch of her family, whose ancestral roots were in Ipswich. Four of the Friends board members were invited to be part of the Building Committee with five trustees of the Library, and that committee supervised fundraising and construction of the children's wing in the 1940s. Fundraising by the Friends helped pay for improvements in the children's wing and the main reading room.

The Friends continued to be active in library activities through the 1950s, including the construction of a Young People's room on the second floor in 1955, but around 1959, the record goes silent for a few years. In 1965, correspondence documents plans to revitalize the Friends, and mentions that criticism of some of the library's policies had eroded public support from Ipswich citizens. Specifically, they wanted Trustee meetings open to the public, and some representation on the Board of Trustees for the town. The Trustees voted to invite Friends to participate in meetings and important Library decisions, and Friends enjoyed a renewed interest that has continued to the present day.

In 1967, the Friends helped fund a microfilm project for back issues of the local newspapers. In the early 1970s, the Friends sponsored a summer bookmobile for children, and assisted with volunteer programs inside and outside the library. In the 1980s, the Friends financed children's holiday programs, summer reading programs, films, games, videos and tapes; adult lectures and programs; and the book return box outside the front entrance. The Friends helped with the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in 1994, and the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in 2004.

Today, the Friends coordinate an annual book sale, scholarship program, museum pass program, and sponsor frequent author readings and other educational events at the Library, and continue to help with building maintenance and expansion. Some examples of their more recent efforts are the library expansion and renovation project in 1996-1998, where they supplied new furniture, audiovisual equipment, computers, and interior decorating; and ongoing funding for landscaping around the building, aided by the two garden clubs located in Ipswich.

### Scope and Content/Series Description

6 boxes (2.75 linear feet)

1937-2014

The records are divided into four series: Exhibit Materials, Governance, Correspondence, and Club Activities.

The Exhibit series consists of objects such as bank account passbooks, sample letterhead, and other ephemeral paper. The Governance series contains handwritten and typed constitutions, by-laws, executive board meeting minutes, club meeting minutes, and records from the club treasurer. The Correspondence series consists of letters and postcards that were sent and received by the Friends board members. The Club Activities series contains posters, press releases, press clippings, advertisements, newsletters, and other ephemera that reflect club activities and interests.

*Processed and described by Donna Albino, December 2014.*

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**Container List**

**Series 1**

**Exhibit Materials**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Exhibit Materials	1939-1952
1	2	Exhibit Materials	1971-1997

**Series 2**

**Correspondence**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	1	Correspondence	1936-1937
2	2	Correspondence	1938-1942
2	3	Correspondence	1952-1970
2	4	Correspondence	1971
2	5	Correspondence	1972-1978
2	6	Correspondence	1987-1997
2	7	Correspondence	1998-2009

**Series 3**

**Governance**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	1	Bylaws	1939-2009
3	2	Incorporation	1991
3	3	Research Materials	1937-1940

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	4	Board Minutes	1937-1940
3	5	Board Minutes	1967
3	6	Board Minutes	1968-1970
3	7	Board Minutes	1971-1973
3	8	Board Minutes	1974-1975
3	9	Board Minutes	1976-1980
3	10	Board Minutes	1987-1988
3	11	Board Minutes	1989-1991
3	12	Board Minutes	1992-1993
3	13	Board Minutes	1994-1995
3	14	Board Minutes	1996
3	15	Board Minutes	1997-1998
4	1	Board Minutes	1999-2000
4	2	Board Minutes	2001-2002
4	3	Board Minutes	2003-2004
4	4	Board Minutes	2005-2006
4	5	Board Minutes	2007-2008
4	6	Board Minutes	2009-2010
4	7	Treasurer's Papers	1937-1940
4	8	Treasurer's Book	1939-1940
4	9	Treasurer's Papers	1971-1986
4	10	Treasurer's Books	1975-1979
4	11	Treasurer's Papers	1987-1994
4	12	Treasurer's Papers	1995-1997

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4	13	Treasurer's Papers	1998-2000
4	14	Treasurer's Papers	2001-2005
4	15	Treasurer's Papers	2006-2009
5	1	President's Reports	1971-1997
5	2	125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	1994
5	3	Endowment Committee	2010-2011
5	4	Furnishings Fund	1995-1996
5	5	Furnishings Fund	1997-1998
5	6	Membership Drives	1939-1990
5	7	Membership Drives	1991-2009
5	8	Membership Lists	1938-1960
5	9	Membership Lists	1970-1989
5	10	Membership Lists	1990-1995
5	11	Membership Lists	1996-2012
5	12	Surveys	1955-2005

#### **Series 4**

#### **Club Activities**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	1	Press Releases and Clippings	1938-1970
6	2	Press Releases and Clippings	1971-1989
6	3	Press Releases and Clippings	1990-1993
6	4	Press Releases and Clippings	1994-1999
6	5	Advertisements	2009
6	6	Book Sale	1970-2014

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	7	Scholarship Program	1990-2000
6	8	Children's Room	1966-1971
6	9	Newsletters	1992-1999
6	10	Museum Passes	1995-2011
6	11	Event Posters	1975-1995
6	12	Event Posters	1996-2009