Cliosophic Society Records, 1789-1941: Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number: AC016
Repository: Princeton University Library. Special Collections.
Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.
Princeton University Archives.
65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size: 51.4 linear feet
89 boxes and 2 oversize folders
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: The Cliosophic Society (1770-1941) was a political, literary, and debating society on the Princeton campus that played an important role in the development of the college and also the intellectual and social development of generations of Princeton students.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.
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The Cliosophic Society was the oldest college literary and debating society in the world until its merger with the second oldest, the American Whig Society, in 1941. It served as a focus for students and alumni at Princeton for almost 200 years, and served as a training ground for many statesmen and orators while they were in college.

The Cliosophic Society traces its roots to a small organization of students known as the Well-Meaning Society founded at the College of New Jersey in 1765 by William Paterson, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Oliver Ellsworth, later Senator from Connecticut, Luther Martin, delegate to the Constitutional Convention, Tapping Reeve, founder of the first law school in the United States, and Robert Ogden. The purpose of this society was to collect "the first young men in point of character and scholarship as its members". However, in 1768 or 1769 the competition with the Plain-Dealing Club, the antecedent of Clio's sister society the American Whig Society, had reached such a fevered pitch that the faculty was obliged to close both organizations. However, the society was reorganized on June 8, 1770, and took the name the Cliosophic Society at that time.

While the Cliosophic Society invoked Clio, the muse of history as its patroness, it was not named after her as some people believe. Rather, it took its name from a speech given by William Paterson delivered at his graduation in 1763 entitled "A Cliosophic Oration". He appears to have created this word himself, meaning "in praise of wisdom" from the Greek words kleio, I praise, and sophos, wisdom.

Whig and Clio quickly came to dominate student life on the campus, the first example of this being the Paper War of 1771, during which the entire student body assembled on a daily basis in order to hear the latest attacks that the literary societies had prepared against each other. The activities of the Society were extensively curtailed during the Revolutionary War, while Nassau Hall was occupied by British and American forces. The society renewed its activities on July 4, 1781 and continued to grow stronger.

In 1802 Nassau Hall burned down, destroying all of Clio's records except for one book of minutes. In addition, the fire forced the society to meet in several different locations during the next few years, settling in 1805 in the building which is now known as Stanhope Hall. The society met in a room on the top floor of that building until 1838, when it moved to a new wood frame building on Cannon Green called Clio Hall. The members used this building until it was demolished to make way for a larger marble building which they occupied in 1892.

Clio's relations with Whig consumed a great deal of its time during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Most of these relations revolved around a series of treaties which the Halls repeatedly drew up, broke, and reaffirmed as if nothing had happened. They signed the first of these treaties in 1799, establishing the groundwork of their relationship for the next hundred and thirty years. This treaty provided that a person could belong only to one of the societies, not to both, and that neither society could induct a freshman until after he had been on campus a specified period of time. One result of the intense rivalry between the societies and their attempts to outdo each other was that in 1820 Clio decided to make itself older than Whig (which had been officially founded in 1769) henceforth acknowledging 1765 as the date of its founding.

One of the promises members had to make when they were initiated was not to reveal the secrets of the Hall to any non-member, especially a Whig. These included the names of the offices and officers of the Society and the traditions which they maintained, such as referring to each other as Brother
and taking fictional names. They took names of all sorts sometimes drawing upon the classical tradition (Aeneas, Odysseus) or a more modern American tradition (Old Knickerbocker, Natty Bumpo), while others seem to have chosen their names so that they would be easy to remember (A,X,Z). Members used these fictional names for all of their dealings within the Society, and the records reflect this, referring to members by fictional name and real name [e.g., Toledo (Bro. Jones)], until this tradition was abandoned in 1862.

The main officers of the Society were the President, who ran the meetings, the Clerk, who handled all the administrative affairs including keeping minutes and handling correspondence, and the Treasurer, who kept the books and handled the Society's financial affairs. Other offices included the Librarian who was responsible for maintaining the Society's library and ascertaining what books and periodicals the members wanted, and the Historian, who prepared a report for the Annual meeting of the Alumni at commencement detailing the Hall's activities during the preceding year. Also, the Court of Appeals was added during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, in order to deal with discipline and attendance problems within the Society.

The Society reached its high point of influence over life in the College during the 1870s and 1880s. During the 1890s, a slow decline in the importance of the Society began and became much more pronounced after 1900. This was mirrored by a parallel decline in the American Whig Society. Whig and Clio declined for many reasons, but the most important of these were probably the rise of other extracurricular activities at Princeton, especially the eating clubs and athletics, the growth of Princeton from a small liberal arts college to a major university, and the development of high-speed transportation, specifically railroads, which gave Princetonians a new easy access to New York and Philadelphia that they had never had before. Princeton was no longer isolated in the New Jersey countryside.

In 1914 Whig and Clio finally decided to eliminate the ban of secrecy that they had maintained for so long, in the hopes that by increasing communication between the Halls they would be able to bolster each other and stop the decline that both Halls were in. However, their efforts failed, and in 1928, under pressure from the University and also the financial strain of each society trying to maintain its own building, Whig and Clio merged. They carried on their activities together in Whig Hall, while Clio Hall was rented to the University, generating revenue for the societies. While Whig and Clio started acting as one society in 1928, carrying on almost all of their activities together on the undergraduate level, they each maintained their own trustees and officers and continued to issue separate diplomas for several years. The merger became official in 1941, when the trustees of both societies agreed to form the American Whig-Cliosophic Society.
The Records of the Cliosophic Society are divided into thirteen series, primarily by the officer or committee who generated the documents. They are:

Series 1: Clerk's Documents, 1792-1940
   Subseries 1A: Final Minutes, 1792-1940 June 8
   Subseries 1B: Rough Minutes, 1819-1920
   Subseries 1C: Correspondence, 1824-1927
   Subseries 1D: Other Materials, 1849-1902

Series 2: Treasurer's Documents, 1810-1931
   Subseries 2A: Treasurer's Accounts, 1810-1931
   Subseries 2B: Treasurer's Books, 1857-1909
   Subseries 2C: Miscellaneous Records, 1894-1908
   Subseries 2D: Fine Books and Fine Lists, 1838-1880
   Subseries 2E: Orders to Treasurer, 1846-1848
   Subseries 2F: Receipt Books, 1845-1879

Series 3: Librarian's Documents, 1858-1899

Series 4: Court of Appeals Documents, 1877-1913
   Subseries 4A: Attendance Rolls, 1888
   Subseries 4B: Excuse Books, 1899 May-1913 May
   Subseries 4C: Record of Debates and Original Speeches, 1884-1905
   Subseries 4D: Record Book, 1877-1890

Series 5: Historian's Documents, 1823-1915

Series 6: Clio Hall Committee, 1887-1896

Series 7: Trustees' Documents, 1929-1938

Series 8: Short-lived Committees, 1894-1921

Series 9: Miscellaneous Documents, 1820-1939

Series 10: General Documents, 1808-1938
   Subseries 10A: Membership Lists, Membership Registers, Class Lists, and Class Registers, 1808-1930
   Subseries 10B: Constitutions and By-laws, 1809-1938
   Subseries 10C: Record Book, 1819-1843

Series 11: Joint Documents with Whig, 1805-1921
   Subseries 11A: Treaties, 1805-1915
   Subseries 11B: Joint Committee Reports, 1827-1921
   Subseries 11C: Addresses to the Societies, 1829-1881
   Subseries 11D: Freshmen Recruiting Information, 1853-1917
   Subseries 11E: Interhall Debating, 1876-1908
   Subseries 11F: Debating Committee, 1890-1919

Series 12: Publications, 1837-1927
   Subseries 12A: Membership catalogues, 1837-1914
   Subseries 12B: Library Catalogues, 1853-1855
   Subseries 12C: Single Publications, 1865-1927

Series 13: Diplomas, 1789-1906

Series 14: Oversize Materials, Joint Documents with Whig, 1882
Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

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Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

The contents of the records were acquired in 1941 in an agreement between Princeton University and the Board of Trustees of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society. An attempt was made at organizing the records in 1975, but this report lacked certain archival necessities for organization.

Appraisal

In the process of organizing the Clio records, several items were purposefully discarded. These included the attendance rolls, which were extremely repetitive, bulky, and uninformative. In addition, several checkbooks were discarded since the transactions were recorded in the treasurer's records. Also, several debate itineraries were discarded, while one was kept as a sample, since the information was recorded in the minutes.

Related Materials

Related Archival Material

Related Princeton University Library manuscript collections most prominently include the Records of the American Whig Society and the Records of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Cliosophic Society Records, Box and Folder Number; University Archives, Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding
Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

<table>
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<th>Subject Headings</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Cliosophic Society (Princeton University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Princeton University -- Societies, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Princeton University -- Students -- Societies and clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• College students -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- Political activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• College students -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- Societies and clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Debates and debating -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- Societies, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Archives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Princeton University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 1: Clerk's Documents, 1792-1940

Arrangement: Arranged according to subseries.

Subseries 1A: Final Minutes, 1792-1940 June 8

Description: This subseries consists of volumes detailing the activities of the society throughout its history. The final minutes were copied from the rough minutes and present a formal account of the proceedings of each meeting including the topics which were debated and any motions which were passed. The clerk changed several times a year during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and at the end of his term each clerk recorded the names of each undergraduate member of the society and the officers elected for the next term, as well as the amount of money in the treasury. Also, from circa 1840 to circa 1870 each clerk began his term with a title page stating his name and fictional name. Some clerks drew artwork on their title pages. Until 1862 each member is referred to both by his last name and by a fictional name which members were required to assume upon entering the society. The minutes also contain transcriptions of the letters from men who accepted honorary membership in the society, along with their signatures, which were cut out of the letters and pasted into the final minutes. The minutes from the twentieth century are much less detailed, reflecting a decline in the activities of the society.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Final Minutes, 1792-1801 Box: 1
Final Minutes, 1802-1811 Box: 2
Final Minutes, 1811-1821 Box: 3
Final Minutes, 1821-1832 Box: 4
Final Minutes, 1832-1840 Box: 5
Final Minutes, 1840-1846 Box: 6
Final Minutes, 1846-1856 Box: 7
Final Minutes, 1856-1862 Box: 8
Final Minutes, 1862-1867 Box: 9
Final Minutes, 1867-1873 Box: 10
Final Minutes, 1873-1879 Box: 11
Final Minutes, 1879-1885 Box: 12
Final Minutes, 1885-1891 Box: 13
Final Minutes, 1891-1897 Box: 14
### Subseries 1B: Rough Minutes, 1819-1920

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>These are the minutes as they were first written, presumably while the meeting was still going on. They are less organized than the final minutes and are not as complete, but they were retained in the collection because they provide a more complete picture of some of the meetings, since they contain details that were expunged from the final minutes. For instance, in many cases they contain motions which were proposed but were defeated and consequently not included in the final minutes. The rough minutes also have the actual letters from men who accepted honorary membership pasted into them, except for the signatures, which were cut out of the letters and pasted into the final minutes. The book in box 39, folder 1, in Series II: Treasurer's Documents, contains rough minutes in the back, but was kept separate from the rest of the documents in this series because it is primarily a treasurer's document.</td>
<td>Box: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement:</strong> Arranged chronologically.</td>
<td>Box: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1910-1920</td>
<td>Box: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1819-1821</td>
<td>Box: 19 Folder: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1827-1829</td>
<td>Box: 19 Folder: 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1829-1832</td>
<td>Box: 19 Folder: 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1832-1836</td>
<td>Box: 20 Folder: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1837-1840</td>
<td>Box: 20 Folder: 2</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1841-1843</td>
<td>Box: 20 Folder: 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1846-1850</td>
<td>Box: 20 Folder: 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1850-1853</td>
<td>Box: 21 Folder: 1</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1853-1857</td>
<td>Box: 21 Folder: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1857-1860</td>
<td>Box: 22 Folder: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1860-1863</td>
<td>Box: 22 Folder: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1863</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 1</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1863-1867</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 2</td>
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Subseries 1C: Correspondence ... (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box: Folder:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1865-1866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1867-1871</td>
<td>24 Folder: 1</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1869-1872</td>
<td>24 Folder: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1871-1873</td>
<td>25 Folder: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1872</td>
<td>25 Folder: 2</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1872-1873, 1876</td>
<td>26 Folder: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1873-1874</td>
<td>26 Folder: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1873-1875</td>
<td>26 Folder: 3</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1875-1878</td>
<td>27 Folder: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1878-1880</td>
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<td>Rough Minutes, 1880-1882</td>
<td>28 Folder: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1886-1888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1888-1890</td>
<td>29 Folder:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1891-1894</td>
<td>30 Folder:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1894-1899</td>
<td>31 Folder:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Minutes, 1900-1910</td>
<td>32 Folder:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subseries 1C: Correspondence, 1824-1927

Description: This subseries contains the letters which were sent to the society. However, letters from honorary members have been left in the minutes where the clerk placed them, and letters to and from committees within the society such as the Clio Hall committee and the Debating committee are in the series which contain the other documents produced by those committees.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence, 1824</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Correspondence, 1844-1849</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 2-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1853</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1855</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1865</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1875</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1889</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1900-1901</td>
<td>Box: 33 Folder: 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries 1D: Other Materials, 1849-1902

Description: These other documents produced by the clerk include several types of lists of members who performed certain Hall activities. Among these materials are the Appointments by Clerk, which is written in a kind of shorthand. One example of this is the notation "Dodd 1.24.D. 2.21.S." which means "Brother Dodd participated in a debate on January twenty-fourth and delivered a speech on February twenty-first". This subseries also contains a Proposition Book, in which, until 1862, members had to write any motions they wanted to propose before they could introduce them on the floor.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

| Appointments by Clerk, 1867-1868 | Box: 34 Folder: 1 |
| Appointments by Clerk, 1868     | Box: 34 Folder: 2 |
| Diplomas Awarded, 1853-1870     | Box: 34 Folder: 3 |
| Obituary Notices, 1854-1869     | Box: 34 Folder: 4 |
| Original Speeches, 1849-1850    | Box: 34 Folder: 5 |
| Original Speeches, 1853-1865    | Box: 34 Folder: 6 |
| Original Speeches, 1875-1901    | Box: 35 Folder: 1 |
| Proposition Book, 1857-1858     | Box: 35 Folder: 2 |
| Record of Debates, 1896-1902    | Box: 35 Folder: 3 |

Series 2: Treasurer's Documents, 1810-1931

Arrangement: Arranged by subseries.

Subseries 2A: Treasurer's Accounts, 1810-1931

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: Treasurer's Accounts (1810-1814, 1858-1931) - general balance sheets for the assets, income and expenditures of the society.

<p>| Treasurer's Account, 1810-1814 | Box: 36 Folder: 1 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 2B: Treasurer's Books, 1857-1909</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description: These are individual accounts showing money paid by and paid to each member of the society. These frequently overlap in starting and ending dates because the treasurers usually tried to keep the entire account for each person in one book, so that seniors and juniors might be at the end of an old book, while a new book had to be started for the freshmen and sophomores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Treasurer's Account, 1858-1871 | Box: 36 Folder: 2 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1871 | Box: 36 Folder: 3 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1871-1876 | Box: 36 Folder: 4 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1876-1883 | Box: 36 Folder: 5 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1883-1884 | Box: 36 Folder: 6 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1883-1894 | Box: 37 Folder: 1 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1894-1911 | Box: 37 Folder: 2 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1911-1918 | Box: 37 Folder: 3 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1919-1920 | Box: 37 Folder: 4 |
| Treasurer's Account, 1922-1931 | Box: 37 Folder: 5 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1857-1869 | Box: 38 Folder: 1 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1866-1875 | Box: 38 Folder: 2 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1875-1876 | Box: 39 Folder: 1 |
| Rough Minutes, 1882-1886 | Box: 39 Folder: 1 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1880-1881 | Box: 39 Folder: 2 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1880-1881 | Box: 39 Folder: 3 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1881-1882 | Box: 39 Folder: 4 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1878-1879 | Box: 40 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1882-1887 | Box: 41 Folder: 1 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1887-1888 | Box: 41 Folder: 2 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1885-1889 | Box: 41 Folder: 3 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1888-1889 | Box: 41 Folder: 4 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1889-1890 | Box: 42 Folder: 1 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1890-1891 | Box: 42 Folder: 2 |
| Treasurer's Book, 1892 | Box: 42 Folder: 3 |
Subseries 2C: Miscellaneous Records, 1894-1908

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: Miscellaneous Records (1894-1908) - This subseries contains several different types of financial records, including the salaries paid to the officers of the society, the pool fund, and the library fund.

Subseries 2D: Fine Books and Fine Lists, 1838-1880

Description: These are lists of the fines incurred by each member of the society. The Fine Lists are free sheets of paper, while the Fine Books are bound volumes.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Subseries 2E: Orders to Treasurer, 1846-1848

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: A record of the bills which the President of the Society ordered the treasurer to pay.
Subseries 2F: Receipt Books, 1845-1879

Description: The receipts for cash transactions of the society were pasted into these books. They were retained in the collection because they provide the only financial information in regard to the Society for certain periods, particularly the 1840s and early 1850s. In addition, since many of the receipts are from the newspapers which the society ordered, they provide some idea of what the members were reading.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Receipt Book, 1845-1847
- Receipt Book, 1852-1855
- Receipt Book, 1853-1863
- Receipt Book, 1870-1879
- Receipt Book, 1873-1879

Box: 52 Folder: 1

Box: 52 Folder: 2

Box: 52 Folder: 3

Box: 52 Folder: 4

Box: 52 Folder: 5

Box: 53

Series 3: Librarian's Documents, 1858-1899

Description: This series contains the records produced by the undergraduate librarian of the society. During much of the nineteenth century the libraries of Whig and Clio were larger and more accessible to students than that of the College. The documents in the series include the financial and administrative records of the librarian, who was responsible for assessing the needs and desires of the members and determining what books and periodicals to order. The society periodically published a list of the holdings of the library, and these can be found in series XI - Publications. In addition, some of the financial records of the library during the periods 1894-1896 and 1900-1902 can be found in series II - Treasurer's Documents, in the subseries Miscellaneous Documents.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

- Librarian's Account, 1878-1881
- Librarian's Book, 1872-1876
- Books Purchased, 1881-1882
- Books Purchased, 1881
- Library Directory, undated
- Library Directory, circa 1860
- Periodical Book, 1858-1868
- Periodical Book, 1873-1878
- Librarian's Report, 1881-1895
- Transfer of Clio Library to University, 1899

Box: 54 Folder: 1

Box: 54 Folder: 2

Box: 54 Folder: 3

Box: 54 Folder: 4

Box: 54 Folder: 5

Box: 55 Folder: 1

Box: 55 Folder: 2

Box: 55 Folder: 3

Box: 55 Folder: 4

Box: 55 Folder: 5
Series 4: Court of Appeals Documents, 1877-1913

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: Series 4: Court of Appeals Documents (1877-1913) - arranged according to subseries. The court of appeals was a committee established by Clio in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and active until the early part of the twentieth century. It was responsible for maintaining order and dealing with discipline problems within the society, such as infractions of the rules of procedure, and in particular, dealing with absences. The subseries are:

Subseries 4A: Attendance Rolls, 1888

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: Attendance Rolls (1888) - The society printed up lists of its members which were used by the officers of the court of appeals to record who was present and who was not at each meeting. Since these were highly repetitive and not very informative, most of the rolls were removed from the collection and only one was retained as an example.

Attendance Rolls, 1888 Box: 56 Folder: 1

Subseries 4B: Excuse Books, 1899 May-1913 May

Description: This subseries contains the books in which a member was required to write the reason that he would be absent from a meeting and a request that he be excused. The court would then read the requests and mark each of them Ap. (Appear) or Ex. (Excused).

Arrangement: arranged chronologically.

Excuse Book, 1899 October-1899 November Box: 56 Folder: 2
Excuse Book, 1899 May-1900 March Box: 56 Folder: 3
Excuse Book, 1899 November-1900 February Box: 56 Folder: 4
Excuse Book, 1900 March-1900 October Box: 56 Folder: 5
Excuse Book, 1900 October-1901 May Box: 56 Folder: 6
Excuse Book, 1901 February-1901 May Box: 56 Folder: 7
Excuse Book, 1901 June-1901 December Box: 56 Folder: 8
Excuse Book, 1901 December-1902 February Box: 57 Folder: 1
Excuse Book, 1902 February-1902 April Box: 57 Folder: 2
Excuse Book, 1902 May-1902 October Box: 57 Folder: 3
Excuse Book, 1902 November-1903 January Box: 57 Folder: 4
Excuse Book, 1912 November-1913 May Box: 57 Folder: 5
Subseries 4C: Record of Debates and Original Speeches, 1884-1905

Description: These are the same types of materials which the clerk kept earlier in the nineteenth century: lists of those who delivered speeches and participated in debates.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Record of Debates, 1884-1889 Box: 57 Folder: 6
- Record of Debates, 1890-1891 Box: 58 Folder: 1
- Record of Debates, 1893-1895 Box: 58 Folder: 2
- Record of Debates, 1896-1902 Box: 58 Folder: 3
- Record of Debates, 1898-1901 Box: 58 Folder: 4
- Record of Debates, 1898-1905 Box: 58 Folder: 5
- Record of Debates, 1901-1902 Box: 58 Folder: 6
- Original Speeches, 1901-1902 Box: 58 Folder: 7

Subseries 4D: Record Book, 1877-1890

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: This book contains the minutes of the court, which consist primarily of the decisions of the cases which came before it.

- Record Book, 1877-1890 Box: 59

Series 5: Historian's Documents, 1823-1915

Description: This series consists of a history of the society up to 1822 and the annual reports presented by the historian every year after that at the annual meeting of the hall. Some annual reports, particularly from 1890 onwards, either were never presented or were never copied into the Historian's records.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- History 1765-1822, 1857 Box: 60
- Annual Reports, 1823-1869 Box: 60
- Annual Reports, 1871-1894, 1904 Box: 61
- Annual Reports, circa 1901-1915 Box: 62

Series 6: Clio Hall Committee, 1887-1896

Description: This series contains the documents produced by the Clio Hall Committee, which was a committee of alumni members of the society responsible for constructing and furnishing
a new building for the society in the 1890s. The majority of the material in this series is correspondence between the members of the committee and the contractors, other alumni of Clio, and among themselves. It also includes the minutes of the committee and their financial records among other items.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

- Bank Books, 1890-1892
- Bonds, 1891 June 4-9
- Building Specifications, 1890-1892
- Construction Lien Wavers, 1891 October-1892 August
- Contents of Cornerstone, 1890
- Contracts, 1890-1891
- Correspondence, 1889 June-1892 February
- Correspondence, 1892 March-1894 September
- Correspondence, undated
- Correspondence Letter Book, circa 1890
- Laying the Cornerstone, 1890 June
- Minutes, 1889-1896
- Opening Ceremony, 1892
- Reports of the Committee, 1891-1895
- Rough Sketches - Blueprints, circa 1890
- Subscription Book, circa 1890
- Subscription Cards and Circular Letters, 1889-1893
- Subscription Lists, 1887-1893

Series 7: Trustees' Documents, 1929-1938

Description: Until the 1920s, the society did not have a board of trustees, but instead depended upon the active involvement of alumni on the faculty and at the annual meetings to provide stability and guidance for the society. By the 1920s it was obvious the society needed permanent guidance, so a board of trustees was organized. The records in this series reflect the period of the society’s history when Whig and Clio merged into one undergraduate body but still maintained two separate graduate boards.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Annual Meeting, 1929-1938
Series 8: Short-lived Committees, 1894-1921

Description: This series contains the documents generated by committees within Clio that did not last more than a few years and produced very little material.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Upperclass Special Division Book, 1894-1895
Box: 66 Folder: 1

Alumni Association, 1900-1901
Box: 66 Folder: 2

Committee on the Welfare of Clio Hall, 1906-1907
Box: 66 Folder: 3

China Famine Relief Fund, 1921
Box: 66 Folder: 4

Series 9: Miscellaneous Documents, 1820-1939

Description: This series contains the documents and other materials, such as ephemera, which did not fit into any other series. Among the documents in the subseries are resolutions passed by the society but not entered in the minutes and a partial key to the Clio Secret Cipher, which was a code for writing letters about Hall matters.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Secret Cipher, circa 1820
Box: 66 Folder: 5

Address before the Society (Anonymous), 1822
Box: 66 Folder: 6

Ribbons, 1890-1892
Box: 66 Folder: 7

Newspaper Clipping, circa 1891
Box: 66 Folder: 8

Application Book, 1897
Box: 66 Folder: 9

Insurance, 1898
Box: 66 Folder: 10

Subscription List for Rewiring Hall, 1904
Box: 66 Folder: 11

Notices to Members, 1913-1914
Box: 66 Folder: 12

Resolutions, 1913-1930
Box: 66 Folder: 13

Description of 1819 Clio Medal, 1916
Box: 66 Folder: 14

Tax Stamps for Pool Table, 1919
Box: 66 Folder: 15

Schedule of Speeches, 1919-1920
Box: 66 Folder: 16

Prospectus, 1926
Box: 66 Folder: 17

Alumni Who Returned for Meeting, 1939
Box: 66 Folder: 18

Letter to the Class of 1941, circa 1939
Box: 66 Folder: 22
Series 10: General Documents, 1808-1938

Arrangement: Arranged according to subseries.

Subseries 10A: Membership Lists, Membership Registers, Class Lists, and Class Registers, 1808-1930

Description: Membership lists are, as the name implies, lists of the members of the society during the specified period. The membership registers fulfill the same purpose, however these volumes contain the signatures of the members themselves, rather than a list prepared by one of the authors. The class lists are lists of members of individual classes prepared by one of the officers, and the class registers bear the same relationship to these as the membership registers bear to the membership lists.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

List of Members Classes of 1766-1824, circa 1824  Box: 67 Folder: 1
List of Honororary & Adopted Graduate Members 1769-1857, circa 1857  Box: 67 Folder: 2
List of Members Classes of 1770-1808, circa 1808  Box: 67 Folder: 3
Register of Members Classes of 1846-1877, circa 1846-1873  Box: 67 Folder: 3
List of Members Classes of 1820-1822, 1818-1819  Box: 67 Folder: 4
Register of New Members Classes of 1822-1848, circa 1820-1846  Box: 67 Folder: 5
List of Honororary & Adopted Graduate Members 1822-1843, 1824-1843  Box: 67 Folder: 6
List of Members Classes of 1840-1848, circa 1840-1846  Box: 67 Folder: 6
List of Members Classes of 1847-1849, circa 1846  Box: 68 Folder: 1
List of Members Classes of 1848-1854, circa 1847-1851  Box: 68 Folder: 2
List of Honororary & Adopted Graduate Members 1850-1866, 1850-1866  Box: 68 Folder: 3
List of Members Classes of 1851-1855, 1850-1852  Box: 68 Folder: 4
List of Members Classes of 1853-1858, circa 1852-1855  Box: 68 Folder: 5
List of Members Classes of 1856-1859, 1855-1856  Box: 68 Folder: 6
List of Members Classes of 1860-1866, circa 1859-1863  Box: 68 Folder: 7
List of Members Classes of 1881-1899, circa 1881-1896  Box: 69 Folder: 1
List of Honororary & Adopted Graduate Members 1873-1904, 1873-1904  Box: 69 Folder: 1
List of Honororary & Adopted Graduate Members 1895-1901, 1895-1901  Box: 69 Folder: 2
List of Honororary & Adopted Graduate Members 1895-circa 1913, circa 1903-1913  Box: 69 Folder: 3
Register of New Members Classes of 1898-1915, circa 1896-1912  Box: 70 Folder: 1
Subseries 10B: Constitutions and By-laws, 1809-1938

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box: 70 Folder:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Members Classes of 1902-1905, circa 1901</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Lists Classes of 1896-1904, 1913</td>
<td>3-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Lists Classes of 1905-1907, 1913</td>
<td>1 Folder: 1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Lists Classes of 1909-1915, 1913</td>
<td>4-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Registers Classes of 1916-1917, 1912-1917</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Members, 1919</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Members, 1927</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Members, 1928</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Members Class of 1932, circa 1930</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description: Constitutions and By-laws (1809-1938) - those volumes which are small enough to fit in a Hollinger box are arranged chronologically in those boxes, while volumes which were too large to fit in boxes are arranged chronologically separately from them. The constitutions and by-laws provided the structure and operating rules of the Society. The minutes record frequent minor amendments to the constitution made during the normal business meetings of the Society. These frequent amendments made it necessary to document the current version of the constitution. This subseries contains these formal recordings of the various versions of the constitution. Two versions of the constitution are in other series and subseries. The first is a constitution from 1824 in the Record Book subseries of General Documents. The second is a simplified constitution which was published in 1923 but was never adopted. Since it was never an active constitution it was put in the Publications series rather than here.

Constitution and By-laws, 1873                                             Box: 72
Constitution and By-laws, 1873                                             Box: 73
Constitution and By-laws, 1877                                             Box: 74
Constitution and By-laws, 1881                                             Box: 75
Constitution and By-laws, 1891                                             Box: 76
Constitution and By-laws, 1895                                             Box: 77
Constitution and By-laws, circa 1902                                       Box: 78
Constitution and By-laws, 1910                                             Box: 79
Constitution and By-laws (fragmentary), 1809                              Box: 80 Folder: 1
Subseries 10C: Record Book, 1819-1843

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.

Description:

- A list of those Clios who received prizes from the college from 1828 to 1837, compiled in 1837.
- A list of the grades and class rank of the members of the class of 1839, compiled in 1839.
- A list of those who received honors from the society from 1782 to 1857, compiled from 1822 to 1857.
- A list of those who were honorably mentioned at the examinations of college from 1807 to 1843 compiled from 1822 to 1843. This list includes all students who received honors and indicates whether they were Whigs or Clios.
- A list of people who made donations of cash or books to the society from 1781 to 1839, compiled from 1819 to 1839.
- A Constitution and By-laws from 1824.
- A treaty, adopted in 1820 and amended in 1823.
- A list of the members of the Society from the classes of 1789 to 1846, compiled from 1825 to 1843. The list of members appears to have extended back to even earlier classes, but the first pages of the book appear to have been lost.

This volume contains several different types of records including:

The source of the information in this book about events prior to 1802 is unknown, since it is believed that almost all the society's records were lost in the fire of that year.

Record Book, 1819-1843  Box: 82

Series 11: Joint Documents with Whig, 1805-1921

Description: This series contains material documenting the activities between Whig and Clio before their de facto merger in 1928. Activities undertaken together between 1928 and 1941, when the merger became official are in the Records of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society, AC #11.

Arrangement: Arranged according to subseries.
Subseries 11A: Treaties, 1805-1915

Description: These documents regulated the relationships between the Halls and deal especially with the subjects of secrecy and recruitment of new members. The 1882 treaty can be found in oversized folder 89.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Treaty, circa 1805-1807  
  Box: 83 Folder: 1
- Treaty (amended 1873), 1871  
  Box: 83 Folder: 2
- Treaty, 1872  
  Box: 83 Folder: 3
- Treaty, circa 1888  
  Box: 83 Folder: 4
- Treaty, 1891  
  Box: 83 Folder: 5
- Treaty, 1896  
  Box: 83 Folder: 6
- Treaty, circa 1902  
  Box: 83 Folder: 7
- Treaty (fragment), 1915  
  Box: 83 Folder: 8
- Treaty of the American Whig and Cliosophic Societies of the College of New Jersey, undated  
  Cabinet: 5 Drawer: 12
  Folder: Oversize Folder 1

Subseries 11B: Joint Committee Reports, 1827-1921

Description: These committees were appointed from time to time by the societies to investigate violations of the treaties between the societies and also to recommend amendments to the treaties. In the twentieth century, these committees also investigated possible changes in the roles of the Halls on the changing campus.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Report of Joint Committee, 1827  
  Box: 83 Folder: 9
- Report of Joint Committee, 1844  
  Box: 83 Folder: 10
- Report of Joint Committee, circa 1846  
  Box: 83 Folder: 11
- Report of Joint Committee, 1914  
  Box: 83 Folder: 12
- Report of Joint Committee Addresses before the societies, 1921  
  Box: 83 Folder: 13

Subseries 11C: Addresses to the Societies, 1829-1881

Description: The societies regularly jointly invited men of prominence to address joint sessions of the Halls. If they were particularly impressed with the speeches, they would request copies of the texts from the speakers and then would have them printed as pamphlets at their own expense. This subseries contains those pamphlets.
Arrangement: arranged chronologically

Belknap, William W, 1871  
Box: 83 Folder: 14

Berrien, John M, 1829  
Box: 83 Folder: 15

Brewster, Benjamin H, 1854  
Box: 83 Folder: 16

Brown, Alexander E, 1846  
Box: 83 Folder: 17

Cattell, William C, 1861  
Box: 83 Folder: 18

Chesnut, James, 1876  
Box: 83 Folder: 19

Coxe, Richard S, 1863  
Box: 83 Folder: 20

Cuyler, Theodore L, 1863  
Box: 83 Folder: 21

Dallas, George M, 1831  
Box: 83 Folder: 22

Dayton, Aaron O, 1839  
Box: 83 Folder: 23

Dayton, William L, 1843  
Box: 83 Folder: 24

Field, Richard S, 1869  
Box: 83 Folder: 25

Gaston, William, 1835  
Box: 83 Folder: 26

Gildersleeve, B. L, 1878  
Box: 83 Folder: 27

Hall, Baynard R, 1852  
Box: 83 Folder: 28

Jacobus, Melancthon W, 1874  
Box: 83 Folder: 29

Johns, John, 1840  
Box: 83 Folder: 30

Kaufman, David S, 1850  
Box: 83 Folder: 31

Kirk, Edward N, 1865  
Box: 83 Folder: 32

McCarter, Thomas N, 1868  
Box: 83 Folder: 33

McIlvaine, J. H, 1859  
Box: 83 Folder: 34

Mansfield, Edward D, 1867  
Box: 84 Folder: 1

Mason, John T, 1850  
Box: 84 Folder: 2

Moffatt, James C, 1857  
Box: 84 Folder: 3

Nixon, John T, 1863  
Box: 84 Folder: 4

Schenck, Noah H, 1867  
Box: 84 Folder: 5

Scott, John M, 1836  
Box: 84 Folder: 6

Southard, Samuel L, 1845  
Box: 84 Folder: 7

Venable, Frank W, 1851  
Box: 84 Folder: 8

Wellford, Beverly R, 1879  
Box: 84 Folder: 9
Subseries 11D: Freshmen Recruiting Information, 1853-1917

Description: This subseries contains the pamphlets and letters which the societies printed up in order to help the freshmen decide which society to join. They did this together so as to avoid electioneering by either society, which was prohibited in their treaties.

Arrangement: arranged chronologically

- Address by George F. Abbay (manuscript) Freshman recruiting information, 1853
- Distribution of Honors between the American Whig and Cliosophic Societies, 1890
- To Entering Students, 1890
- Pamphlets of Information, 1891-1909
- Facts about the American Whig and Cliosophic Societies, 1914-1917
- Recruitment Letter to Freshmen, 1917

Subseries 11E: Interhall Debating, 1876-1908

Description: This subseries contains the programs from the prize debates and oratorical contests between the societies. These contests continued after the societies merged, and more programs can be found in the Records of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society.

Arrangement: arranged alphabetically

- Proposal for Debate Course Interhall Debating, 1900
- Class of 1876 Debate, 1887-1894
- Freshman Debate, 1901
- Junior Orator Contest, 1882, 1892
- Lynde Prize Debate, 1876-1895
- Lynde Prize Debate, 1896-1908

Subseries 11F: Debating Committee, 1890-1919

Description: This interhall committee was responsible for all intercollegiate debating for Princeton. This subseries consists mainly of the programs from the debates and the committee's financial records and correspondence.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series 12: Publications, 1837-1927</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> This series contains the materials published solely by the Cliosophic Society. Materials which were published jointly by Whig and Clio prior to 1928 can be found in Series XI: Joint Documents with Whig.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement:</strong> Arranged according to subseries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subseries 12A: Membership catalogues, 1837-1914**

| Description: This subseries contains the lists of members of the Society which Clio periodically published. They contain all the members of the Society from 1765 to the date of publication. The 1896 catalogue has an index of all the members of the society listed in that catalogue. |
| **Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically. |

| Membership Catalogues, 1837-1914 | Box: 88 Folder: 1-13 |

**Subseries 12B: Library Catalogues, 1853-1855**

| Description: This subseries contains the published lists of what was in the Hall library. The catalogues contain letter and number codes for each book which presumably formed some sort of location guide. |
| **Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically. |

| General Debates Debating Committee, 1890s | Box: 85 Folder: 13 |
| The College Debater, 1894 | Box: 85 Folder: 14 |
| Correspondence, 1915-1918 | Box: 85 Folder: 15-21 |
| Debate Books, 1892-1913 | Box: 85 Folder: 22-23 |
| Debate Books, 1912-1918 | Box: 86 Folder: 1-7 |
| Financial Records, 1916-1917 | Box: 87 Folder: 1 |
| Freshmen Debate, 1913 | Box: 87 Folder: 2 |
| Harvard Debating, 1914 | Box: 87 Folder: 3 |
| Instructions to Judges, circa 1910 | Box: 87 Folder: 4 |
| Newspaper Article on Yale Debate, 1895 | Box: 87 Folder: 5 |
| Programs, 1893-1919 | Box: 87 Folder: 6-20 |
| Promotional Postcards, 1916-1917 | Box: 87 Folder: 21-22 |
Subseries 12C: Single Publications, 1865-1927

Description: This subseries consists of the documents published by the Society for the purposes of commemorating significant events in its history and also for fund-raising.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Centennial Celebration Program, 1865
- Announcement of publication of Centennial Celebration History, 1865
- Centennial Ode of Welcome, 1865
- Centennial Celebration History, 1865
- Clio Hall: The Laying of the Cornerstone, 1890
- Sesquicentennial meeting invitation, 1915
- Sesquicentennial Committee, 1915
- Sesquicentennial Committee Meeting Program, 1915
- Black and White Book, 1923
- Constitution of the American [sic] Cliosophic Society, 1923
- Annual Dinner, 1927

Series 13: Diplomas, 1789-1906

Description: This subseries contains some of the diplomas issued to Clios when they graduated from the college. The diplomas from the eighteenth century are hand written. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Society began to have the diplomas printed.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

- Diplomas, 1789-1859
- Diplomas, 1860-1906

Series 14: Oversize Materials, Joint Documents with Whig, 1882

Arrangement: No arrangement action taken or arrangement information not recorded at the time of processing.
Treaty, 1882

Cabinet: 5 Drawer: 12
Folder: Oversize
Folder 2