

Guide to the Yale Dames Records

RU 1065



compiled by Daniel Hartwig

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Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
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CALL NUMBER: RU 1065

CREATOR: Yale Dames (New Haven , Conn.)

TITLE: Yale Dames records

DATES: 1942-1972

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5.25 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The records consist of meeting minutes, correspondence, directories, member lists, and historical material documenting the activities of the Yale Dames.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ru.1065>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ru.1065>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Yale Dames Records (RU 1065). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

Yale University records are arranged and described at the accession level by the creating office. The University Archives creates collection level descriptive records, but typically does no further arrangement and description at the accession level.

Associated Materials

Women Affiliated With Yale Records (RU 73). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

In 1926, Mrs. Wilbur Cross, wife of the dean of the graduate school, and Mrs. Robert Corwin, also a faculty wife, began taking an active interest in the group. They were assisted by Mrs. Avery Cross. Meetings were often held in the Cross home and the membership grew substantially. It was at this time that other faculty wives were invited to be sponsors and were soon to add many activities.

In 1930, Professor Edgar Furniss became dean of the graduate school. Dean and Mrs. Furniss became interested in the Dames and made available for their meetings the women's lounge in the graduate school. The organization grew rapidly and was soon had to move its meetings to the faculty lounge.

As a rule, meetings were held in the afternoons followed by tea. Dames prepared the tea and food and faculty wives and sponsored were asked to pour. Many activities were planned, including plays, picnics, and dances. Special interest groups were formed, assuming responsibility for a series of programs in which the members participated. By 1936, evening meetings were held in addition to the afternoon meetings. The high spot of each year's program was the big dinner meeting at which a prominent person was invited to speak. Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was one such guest.

During the war, as registration dropped, the Dames became a very small organization. It was decided that Dames return to the small home meetings and the sponsor group would disband. Following the war, wives of Yale's undergraduates were invited to join the organization. Teas became large evening meetings with a program in Strathcona auditorium followed by refreshments in the tower where the crowd spilled over into several rooms. Meetings continued to be held in Strathcona hall until 1955 when they returned to the graduate school.

Membership declined in the late 1960s, as the women's movement led many women away from traditionally sex-determined roles. The organization changed its name to Women Affiliated with Yale (WAY) in 1977 and opened its membership to all women connected with the university except undergraduates.

Scope and Contents

The records consist of meeting minutes, correspondence, directories, member lists, and historical material documenting the activities of the Yale Dames.

General note

Forms part of Yale Record Group 40 (YRG 40), Records of Yale clubs, societies, and organizations.

Arrangement

The records are arranged by accession.

Collection Contents

Accession 19ND-A-478: Yale Dames records, 1947-1972

Non-permanent bills, receipts and checks were destroyed in 2020.

Dames' Data		
b. 1, f. 1	1947-1951	
b. 1, f. 2	1952-1956	
b. 1, f. 3	1957-1961	
b. 1, f. 4	1961-1962	
b. 1, f. 5	1962-1963	
b. 1, f. 6	1969-1970	
b. 1, f. 7	Dames' Data master copies	1963
b. 1, f. 8	Dames' Data prints, masters, constitution and by-laws	1961-1962
b. 2, f. 9	Editor's annual reports	1947-1962
	A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
Executive Board: minutes		
b. 2, f. 10	1960-1962	
b. 2, f. 11	1963-1965	
b. 2, f. 12	1966-1968	
b. 2, f. 13	1969-1970	
b. 2, f. 14	Miscellaneous correspondence and flyers	1966-1973
b. 2, f. 15	Armbands	undated
Members lists		
b. 2, f. 16	1965-1967	
b. 3, f. 17	1967-1968	
b. 3, f. 18	Directories	1964-1973
b. 3, f. 19	Treasurer's book	1944-1956

Accession 2008-A-097: Yale Dames historical material, 1942-1964

b.1	Historical material, including history, minutes, directory, a list of officers, etc.	1942-1964
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

College teachers' spouses -- Social networks
Universities and colleges -- Employees --
Societies, etc.
Women -- Societies and clubs

Corporate Bodies

Yale Dames (New Haven , Conn.)
Yale University -- Societies, etc.