

Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club Records, 1973-2007 (bulk 1994-2006)

Collection Summary

Creator: Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club (Nashville, Tenn.)

Title: Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club Records

Inclusive Dates: 1973-2007 (bulk 1994-2006)

Summary/Abstract: Records of an African-American women's arts appreciation organization spanning the years 1973-2007 and containing yearbooks, minutes, anniversary items and correspondence. Also includes programs, brochures and ephemera related to the arts, literature and African-American culture.

Physical Description/Extent: 3.68 cu. ft (8 boxes)

Series: I. Yearbooks; II. Minutes; III. Anniversary Celebrations; IV. Correspondence; V. Miscellaneous

Accession Number: 2007.028

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom range 5 section 5

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

March 28, 1922	Gaiete de Coeur founded.
April 23, 1923	1 st anniversary celebration in the home of Mrs. H.A. Boyd.
1926	Exhibited at Tennessee State Fair & donated money to the Fisk University Building Fund.
March 28, 1982	60 th anniversary celebration honored last, living, founding member, Mrs. Verna Randals.
April 6, 1997	75 th anniversary celebration.
March 27, 2007	85 th anniversary celebration.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

The Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club was organized on March 28, 1922, by nine young African-American matrons in Nashville, Tennessee. The charter members chose the name Gaiete de Coeur, French for "Gay of Heart." Initially, they pursued excellence in the practical arts with primary emphasis on needlework. Anniversary parties were held with an exhibit of the members' embroidery and handwork.

Over the years, the club has shifted from emphasis on the practical arts to the study of all arts. The club name eventually changed to its current version, Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club, to reflect this shift. Every two years, a theme has been chosen for the meeting programs held September through May. Guests, often from the local arts community, have been invited to speak, representing themselves as an artist and/or

promoting the arts and their organization. Often, a donation has been made to support the endeavors of the artists and organizations.

The club has always participated in Nashville's civic and cultural affairs and the members historically have had strong ties to Fisk and Tennessee State University. The club exhibited at the Tennessee State Fair in 1926. Also, the club has contributed to and supported the Van Vechten Gallery of Fine Arts at Fisk University, Cheekwood Fine Arts Center and the Cross Roads-Africa Project.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The collection consists of records and ephemera from 1973-2007 (bulk 1994-2006) created by club members. Club yearbooks, printed every two years, are found for every year from 1975-2007 except 1999-2001. The years 1979-1981 and 1983-1985 are represented with a copy or draft. Minutes from monthly meetings held during 1975-2007 include meeting related items such as programs, meditations, financial information, guest speaker correspondence and biographical/organizational hand-outs. The collection covers the years 1982-2007 with items from the following anniversary celebrations: 60th, 70th, 71st, 75th, 80th and 85th. A strength of the collection is found in the 75th (1997) and 80th (2002) celebrations with event planning notes, invitation lists, minutes, correspondence, news clippings, photographs, formal invitations and programs. From the 75th anniversary is a guest register and information on guest speaker Wini McQueen. The 80th anniversary includes biographical information and items related to guest speaker Samuel Yette. The collection also includes correspondence spanning the years 1979-2007 and numerous, miscellaneous items from 1973-2006 related to art, poetry, literature and African American culture. Some undated items such as an example of the early emphasis on needlework can be found in a tatted apron and embroidered doily.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization: The collection is organized into five series.

- Series I.** Yearbooks
- Series II.** Minutes
- Series III.** Anniversary Celebrations
- Series IV.** Correspondence
- Series V.** Miscellaneous

Arrangement: Each series is arranged in chronological order.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Some items may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Colbert, Doris
Collins, Leslie M.
McQueen, Wini
Thompson, Frances E
Yette, Samuel F.

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club (Nashville, Tenn.)--Records and correspondence
Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club (Nashville, Tenn.)--History

Subjects:

African Americans--History
African American women--Tennessee--Nashville--Intellectual life
African American women--Societies and clubs--Tennessee--Nashville
Art appreciation--United States--20th century
Clubs--Tennessee--Nashville
Women--Societies and clubs--Tennessee--Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.)--Intellectual Life
Nashville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs

Genre/Document Types:

Brochures
Ephemera
Letters (correspondence)
Membership lists
Minutes
Clippings (information artifacts)
Obituaries
Pamphlets
Photographs
Postcards
Programs
Yearbooks

Related Material

The Special Collection's Division also holds the following women's arts appreciation organizations' records:

Lela Hamilton Women's Music Clubs Collection

Musical Alumnae Club
Records of the Twentieth Century Club
Vendredi Musicale
Women's Musicale

Administrative Information

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Preferred Citation: Gaiete de Coeur Art and Study Club Records, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated to the Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library by Jane Fort, on May 22, 2007 (Acc. # 2007.028). Jane Fort was Vice-President of Gaiete de Coeur Art & Study Club from 2005-2007.

Ownership and Custodial History: In possession of various members of the organization.

Processing Information: Processed by Ben Melton in 2008.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Electronic Location and Access: Finding Aid is available on the website.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Yearbooks, 1975-2007, 1 cubic foot

Yearbooks were printed every two years and given to all members. Yearbooks included a listing of officers, committees, meeting information (e.g. dates, program theme, hostess), club roster with addresses/phone numbers, Constitution and By-Laws and historical facts. Handwritten notes, loose items and miscellaneous inserts were removed from many yearbooks and filed with the yearbook.

Yearbooks are arranged chronologically.

Box 1. (10 folders)

f. 1	Yearbook	1975-1978
f. 2	Yearbook	1977-1981
f. 3	Yearbook	1980-1983
f. 4	Yearbook	1983-1985
f. 5	Yearbook	1985-1987
f. 6	Yearbook	1987-1989
f. 7	Yearbook	1989-1991
f. 8	Yearbooks	1991-1993
f. 9	Yearbook	1991-1993
f. 10	Yearbooks	1993-1995

Box 2. (6 folders)

f. 11	Yearbook	1993-1995
f. 12	Yearbooks	1995-1997
f. 13	Yearbooks	1997-1999
f. 14	Yearbooks	2001-2003
f. 15	Yearbook	2003-2005
f. 16	Yearbooks	2005-2007

Series II. Minutes, 1975-2007, 1 cubic foot

Minutes were kept at each monthly meeting and read during the following months meeting. The minutes often included a brief description of topics discussed such as the treasurer's report and new and old business. The minutes sometimes included detailed information on the program guest speaker. This series also includes meeting related correspondence, programs, guest speaker bios and hand-outs.

Minutes are arranged chronologically. Items related to the minutes and respective meetings are housed in the same folder, e.g. meditations, financial information, speaker related items (correspondence, biographical/organizational hand-outs).

Box 3. (18 folders)

f. 17	Minutes	1975-1980
f. 18	Minutes	1980-1990
f. 19	Minutes	1994-1995
f. 20	Minutes	1995-1996
f. 21	Minutes	Sept. 1996-Dec. 1996
f. 22	Minutes	Jan. 1997-Dec. 1997
f. 23	Minutes	1996-1997
f. 24	Minutes	2001-2002
f. 25	Minutes	2002-2003
f. 26	Minutes	Sept. 2003
f. 27	Minutes	Oct. 2003-Dec. 2003
f. 28	Minutes	Feb. 2004-May 2004
f. 29	Minutes	Sept. 2004-Oct. 2004
f. 30	Minutes	Nov. 2004-Dec. 2004
f. 31	Minutes	Feb. 2005
f. 32	Minutes	Mar. 2005
f. 33	Minutes	Apr. 2005
f. 34	Minutes	May 2005

Box 4. (10 folders)

f. 35	Minutes	Sept. 2005-Oct. 2005
f. 36	Minutes	Nov. 2005
f. 37	Minutes	Nov. 2005
f. 38	Minutes	Nov. 2005
f. 39	Minutes	Dec. 2005, Feb. 2006
f. 40	Minutes	Mar. 2006
f. 41	Minutes	Apr. 2006-May 2006
f. 42	Minutes	Sept. 2006-Oct. 2006
f. 43	Minutes	Nov. 2006-Dec. 2006, Feb. 2007-Mar. 2007
f. 44	Minutes	Apr. 2007

Series III, Anniversary Celebrations, 3/28/82-3/27/07, 0.84 cubic feet

Anniversary celebrations were held to recognize important dates in the clubs history. Guests were invited to attend the luncheon or dinner held at a selected venue with a special guest speaker. The event was recognized by local media outlets and photographs were made to commemorate the event. The 75th and 80th anniversaries are strongly represented with event planning notes, invitation lists, minutes, correspondence, news clippings, photographs, formal invitations & event programs, a guest register (75th) and information on guest speakers, Wini McQueen and Samuel Yette, respectively.

Anniversary celebrations are arranged chronologically. News clippings are separated and housed in a flat box (Box 8). A separation notice is used to guide researchers to the clippings.

Box 5. (14 folders)

f. 45	Anniversary Celebration-60 th	Mar. 28, 1982
f. 46	Anniversary Celebration-70 th	1992
f. 47	Anniversary Celebration-71 st	Mar. 1993-Apr. 1993
f. 48	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Jan. 1997-May 1997
f. 49	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Feb. 1997
f. 50	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Feb. 1997-Apr. 1997
f. 51	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Feb. 1997-Apr. 1997
f. 52	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Mar. 1997-Apr. 1997
f. 53	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Apr. 6, 1997
f. 54	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Apr. 6, 1997
f. 55	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Apr. 6, 1997
f. 56	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Apr. 6, 1997
f. 57	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Apr. 1997-May 1997
f. 58	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	undated

Box 6. (11 folders)

f. 59	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	Nov. 2001-Dec. 2001
f. 60	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	Jan. 2002-Apr. 2002
f. 61	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	2001-2002
f. 62	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	Mar. 22, 2002-Mar. 27, 2002
f. 63	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	Apr. 12, 2002-Apr. 17, 2002
f. 64	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	2002
f. 65	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	2002
f. 66	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	1986-2002
f. 67	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	Apr. 14, 2002
f. 68	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	undated
f. 69	Anniversary Celebration-85 th	Mar. 27, 2007

Box 8. (2 folders)

f. 87	Anniversary Celebration-75 th	Apr. 1997-May 1997
f. 88	Anniversary Celebration-80 th	Apr. 2002-May 2002

Series IV. Correspondence, 1979-2007, 3 folders

Some correspondence examples found in the collection include thank-you notes, sympathy cards, letters of recognition, letters reflecting charitable donations and invitations to become a member of Gaiete de Coeur. Correspondence with guest speakers is included here unless it relates to a previously filed meeting in the minutes or anniversary celebration series. Printed email and facsimiles are also filed in correspondence.

Correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Box 6. (3 folders)

f. 70	Correspondence	1979-1989
f. 71	Correspondence	1990-1999
f. 72	Correspondence	2000-2007

Series V. Miscellaneous, 1973-2006, 0.84 cubic feet

Miscellaneous items related to art, poetry, literature and African American culture are located in series V. Also included are copies/drafts of the Constitution and By-Laws, financial information, brochures/information from local organizations, funeral programs, news clippings and photographs. Two undated examples of the early emphasis on needlework can be found in a tatted apron and embroidered doily.

Events are represented with an invitation and program held at Tennessee State University in 1974 honoring Miss Frances E. Thompson and an art show brochure from 1979 for the works of Doris Colbert exhibited at Fisk University's Carl Van Vechten Gallery. From 1992, there is a copy of a program dedicating the Arna Bontemps African-American Museum and Cultural Arts Center in Alexandria, Louisiana

Prominent African-Americans connected to Fisk University are celebrated with a collection of seven postcards from 1993-94. There are some African-American artist/history items related to and designed by Gaiete de Coeur honorary member and longtime Fisk University faculty member, Dr. Leslie M. Collins. Also, a comprehensive look at the history and contributions of African Americans can be found in two copies of "Black Legacy Calendar" printed in 1979 by Universal Life Insurance Company.

Miscellaneous is arranged chronologically. Many items are undated and filed at the end of the collection. News clippings are separated and housed in a flat box (Box 8). A separation notice is used to guide researchers to the clippings.

Box 6. (3 folders)

f. 73	Miscellaneous	1974-1979
f. 74	Miscellaneous	1990-1995
f. 75	Miscellaneous	1991-1997

Box 7. (11 folders)

f. 76	Miscellaneous	1996-2001
f. 77	Miscellaneous	1997
f. 78	Miscellaneous	2002-2006
f. 79	Miscellaneous	undated
f. 80	Miscellaneous	undated
f. 81	Miscellaneous	undated
f. 83	Miscellaneous	undated
f. 84	Miscellaneous	undated
f. 85	Miscellaneous	undated
f. 86	Miscellaneous	undated

Box 8. (2 folders)

f. 89	Miscellaneous	1973-1997
f. 90	Miscellaneous	2001-2006