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The Contemporary Records (1897-2018)

By Ellen Callahan
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History

The Contemporary was founded on March 17, 1897, by a group of prosperous, educated, and civic minded women of Trenton, NJ. The club's purpose was to "create an organized center of thought and action among women in Trenton, and stimulate an interest in science, literature, art, social and ethical culture that will render the members helpful to one another and useful to society." Very quickly, the addition of charitable contributions and looking to the general welfare of citizens became and continues to be a major focus of the club.

To put its founding in historical context, The Contemporary was part of a larger movement of the late 19th century known as the Progressive Era (1890s-1920s) when, in reaction to social challenges brought on by industrialization, urbanization, and immigration, a movement of social and political reform became widespread throughout the country. As part of this, women's clubs were formed across the nation and eventually came together under the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) which was founded in 1890 to promote civic improvements through volunteer service and affiliated state organizations.

Interestingly, The Contemporary did not become affiliated with the GFWC until 1900 when it joined the New Jersey Federation of Women's Club (NJFWC). According to *Historical Highlights of The Contemporary* by Virginia A. Hepburn (club president from 1966-1970) this delay was due to a division between club members regarding women's suffrage. Evidence of this is found in the minutes of the regular meetings of The Contemporary. On October 5, 1897, the president announced that The Contemporary had been invited to join the NJFWC and a motion to do so was made and carried. However, on November 2nd of that year, the President deferred action on joining "on account of the rumor that the Fed [sic] had come out in favor of Woman's Suffrage." Members who had attended a meeting of the NJFWC were told that this was not the case, and it was decided

to further postpone action. On December 7th it was decided to indefinitely postpone joining. Finally, in January of 1900, the Contemporary became affiliated with the NJFWC.

Governance of the club was regulated by a constitution and by-laws which set out election for officers, establishments of departments and committees and criteria for membership. Division into specific departments has been an important strategy of the club, used to allow full engagement of all members according to their talents and interests. These divisions changed over the years and included departments of: Art, Conservation and Gardening, Drama, Evening Membership, Home and Garden, Junior Contemporary, Literature, Music, Public Affairs and Education, Social Services/Welfare, and Victorian Museum.

Committees also played an important part in management of club affairs, delegating important tasks to specified members. As with departments, these changed over the years but included: Finance & Auditing, Historian/Scrapbook, Hospitality, House, Membership, Nominating, Printing, Program, Rental, and Ways & Means.

In general, the club year ran from autumn of one year to spring of the next culminating in an annual meeting in May. After joining the NJFWC, activities and meetings were closely affiliated with that state-wide organization. Members of The Contemporary sent representatives to NJFWC meetings, reporting on the Trenton club's activities and, in turn, keeping The Contemporary members informed of state-wide initiatives.

From 1916 to 1922, the club sponsored and ran the local settlement house which was established to help assimilate new immigrants into the country. In 1922, it became apparent that immigrant women needed to work to support their families and to do this, they needed daycare. In 1922, the Carolyn Stokes¹ Day Nursery was opened on Taylor Street in Trenton, through the generosity of W. J. B. Stokes and under the governance of The Contemporary's Social Services Department. From 1922 to 1952, the nursery was supervised by a board of managers made up entirely of members of that department. In 1952, it was agreed that management needed to expand to the community at-large, so a new board was established. However, The Contemporary continued their interest in and support of the school which relocated to a larger campus in 1965.

As the activities and membership of the club grew, the need for a club house became apparent. After several years of fund-raising and searching for suitable location, a Victorian townhouse at 176 West State Street was finally purchased in 1912. Ten years later, an auditorium was added to the back of the building. This included a stage, dressing rooms and seating for 300 people. In 1971, the townhouse was open for tours as The Contemporary Victorian Museum. The building was certified as a New Jersey State Historical Site and listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a "significant resource" in the State House Historic District.

¹ Carolyn Stokes Blanchard and her mother Mary Johnson Stokes were members of The Contemporary and interested in the settlement house and the idea of creating the nursery. This interest led to the Stokes' family's generous gift to fund the nursery and name it in honor of Carolyn who, along with her husband Harold, died in the 1918 flu epidemic.

In the interest of attracting more young women to the club, The Junior Contemporary Club was organized on January 29, 1957, and officially recognized by the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs in April of that year². Its purpose was "to create an organized center of thought and action among young women in Trenton," as well as to foster interest "in the social, economic, educational, cultural and civic conditions of the community." Membership to The Junior was opened to young women between the ages of 18 to 35. Like the main membership, the Juniors were governed by an executive board, divided into various departments, and scheduled programs and activities throughout the year. The Junior Club continued to function until the spring of 1982 when they voted to disband due to dwindling membership.

The Evening Membership Department (EMD) became a singularly important division beginning in 1958. Born out of a need to provide a structure for working women or for those with small children who could not easily participate in the general clubs' activities during the day, the EMD had its own board, separate meetings, projects, and programs. The EMD continued as a separate department until the spring of 2015.

Over the decades of its existence, the club's activities have evolved as society changed. During its earliest years, club members lobbied for better sanitation, regulation and inspection of milk and meat suppliers, public education, child labor laws and institutions devoted to the better welfare of girls. The club has sponsored educational lectures as well as entertainments such as concerts and plays. During both world wars, the club was involved in efforts to support soldiers and their families, specifically focusing on Fort Dix. In addition, the club has made special efforts to support Trenton as a historic place, deserving of greater attention. Beginning in 1986, The Contemporary began the "Four Views of Trenton" guided bus tours of the city, and this tradition continues.

The 21st century has seen many changes in the club. Because of declining membership, The Contemporary withdrew its membership from NJSFWC/GFWC in May of 2014 after 114 years of affiliation. Perhaps the most significant change came in 2015 when, faced with rising costs and dwindling income, club members voted to sell the club house and auditorium on West State to the New Jersey Education Association, whose headquarters is directly adjacent to the townhouse. Most of the antiques and Victorian clothing were sold at auction and the bulk of the club's archival records were transferred to Trentoniana. The remainder of the archival records were transferred to Trentoniana in June of 2019.

Despite a smaller group and no club house, members of The Contemporary continue to meet regularly and are active in the Trenton area. They are affiliated with the New Jersey State Historic

² In May of 1920 and again in November of that year, the minutes of the board note the possibility of creating a Junior Club or League of the Contemporary Juniors. In the 1920-1921 report of the president (published in the 1921-1922 yearbook) Mrs. Joseph Middleton reported that those attempts had led to the creation of the Trenton Junior League. At The Contemporary, a Young Matrons Committee was formed to entertain members' children. By the following club year, the Young Matrons had become the Junior Department. This Department continued until its duties were assumed by the Education Committee in the 1931/1932 club year.

District as well as the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. During their 2016-2017 club year, The Contemporary made financial donations to the Trenton Rescue Mission, Mercer County K9 Unit, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, and the Capital City Philharmonic Orchestra. They also provided goods and services to the Mount Carmel Guild, Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, and the Capital Health Center.

Bibliography

85th Anniversary History, G. C. Kuronya, President, ca. 1982

History and Highlights of The Contemporary, Virginia A. Hepburn, President, 1966-1970, ca. 1982

History of the Evening Membership Department of The Contemporary, Trenton, New Jersey, 1958-1991, Mrs. Paul Miller, Mrs. Stanley Stein and Mrs. E. Richard Weasner, ca. 1991

History, Mission, Service ~ A 115-year Summary of The Contemporary, author unknown, ca. 2013

The History and Development of the Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery, by Yvonne Knight, ca. 1972.

Scope and Contents Notes

This collection consists of papers, publications, reports, photographs, scrapbooks, and some artifacts of The Contemporary from its founding in 1897 until club year 2017/2018. The collection consists of 66 boxes, 10 wrapped ledgers and 14 wrapped scrapbooks for a total of 40.60 cubic feet. The material is divided into 20 series as outlined in the chart below.

The Contemporary collection provides information about the history of women's clubs in general and, of course, The Contemporary in particular. It also provides some insight into the activities of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs which steered the focus of many of The Contemporary's projects. The records document changes in the role of women in society and their importance in civic activity and charitable services spanning from the late 19th century up to the early 21st. The activities and charities supported also provide insight into the socioeconomic changes taking place in New Jersey's capital and the surrounding area.

Series List

Series #	Series	Container	c.f.
I	Minutes	Boxes 1 - 11, folder 1-12	5.3
II	Constitutions and By-Laws	Box 11, folders 13-15	.20
III	History	Box 30, folders 1-4	.04
IV	Yearbooks	Boxes 12 - 13	1
V	Bulletins	Boxes 14 - 16	1.5

Series #	Series	Container	c.f.
VI	Officer's Books	Boxes 17-19.5	1.75
VII	Treasurer's Records:		
	Reports	Box 20 (Ledgers 1-4)	.5
	Ledgers	Wrapped (Ledgers 5-14)	1.25
	Binder	Box 31, folder 5	.02
VIII	Membership Records	Boxes 21-25	2
IX	Reports (including CIP)	Boxes 26-27	1
X	Departmental/Committee Records	Box 30, folders 9-14 Box 31, folders 1-4	.35
XI	Junior Club	Box 28	.5
XII	Carolyn Stokes Nursery	Box 30, folders 5-8	.04
XIII	Guest Books	Box 29	.10
XIV	Victorian Museum	Box 31, folders 6-11 Box 32, folders 1-6	.10
XV	Awards	Box 33	.30
XVI	Sheet Music	Box 34	.5
XVII	Miscellaneous	Box 32, folders 7-24	.15
XVIII	Artifacts	Box 35 - etchings Box 36 - gavel, gavel block, chandelier prisms Box 37 - plaque of donors to Victorian Museum	.75
XIX	Textiles and Shoes	Boxes 38-44	2
XX	Scrapbooks	Boxes 45-65 & 14 wrapped scrapbooks	20.5

Provenance

Accessions 2015.002 and 2019.015 gifts of The Contemporary, as well as papers of Violet Cox, former Chair of the Contemporary Victorian Museum, and member of the Ewing Historical Society (EHS) which were donated by EHS sometime after 2019 and have been accessioned as 2021.015. Also includes material donated prior to 2015 but not accessioned at that time.

Processing Notes

During processing every attempt was made to maintain the order of material within each series as outlined by the original inventories. When this was not possible (as with the scrapbooks and miscellaneous files) material was arranged and inventoried in the most useful way for researchers to use the records. Although there are no usage restrictions, researchers should note that some of the oldest material is fragile and should be handled with care. In particular, the older scrapbooks and press books in the last series are especially fragile. Notes on books that were dismantled for conservation purposes can be found in the series container list. Finally, the series of Bulletins and Yearbooks contained many duplicates. Copies with unique handwritten notes were kept, in addition to a clean copy. The remainder have been offered back to the donor.

Series Descriptions and Container List

Series I. Minutes

The first series covers the period from 1897 to 2013 and consists of minutes from the four major entities of the club: Board of Trustees, General/Regular Meetings, Evening Membership Department, and the Junior Department. The earliest minutes were kept in separate hardbound books, but over time, they were separate documents that were filed together by club year, and sub-group. Reports filed by club year are arranged as follows: Board, General/Regular, Evening Membership Department, and the Junior Department. The minutes provide information about the early creation of the club, its major departments and committees and their activities throughout most of its history. This includes departmental reports, financial reports, discussions on changes in the constitution and by-laws, policy, and administrative issues. Researchers should note that there are some gaps in the minutes. This is most obvious in the minutes of the 1960s which were separate documents but included continuous pagination. It appears that the minutes of the annual meetings of the general club (held in May) are missing in those years.

Box 1

1. Board: the officers, March 13, 1897 - April 30, 1901
2. Board: September 24, 1901 - April 26, 1907
3. Board: May 6, 1907 - December 24, 1911
4. Board: February 3, 1912 - May 3, 1920
5. Board: May 24, 1920- May 3, 1926

Box 2

1. Board: May 3, 1926 -March 3, 1930
2. Board: March 31, 1930 - December 2, 1935
3. Board: January 6, 1936 - October 1, 1945

Box 3

1. Board: November 5, 1945 - March 1, 1953
2. Board: April 6, 1953 - December 1, 1958
3. Board: January 5, 1959 - April 3, 1961
4. Board: June 6, 1960 - April 3, 1961 [draft minutes; finals can be found in folder 3]

Box 4

1. Board: May 1 & 2, 1961 [unnumbered]; June 12, 1961 [pages 1-3]
2. Board: October 1, 1962 - June 3, 1963 [pages 36-64]
3. Board: September 30, 1963 - June 1, 1964 [pages 65-100]
4. Board: October 5, 1964 - June 7, 1965 [pages 101-133]
5. Board: October 4, 1965 - June 6, 1966 [pages 134-165]

Series I. Minutes (cont'd)

Box 4 (cont.)

6. Board: October 4, 1966 - June 5, 1967 [pages 166-199]
7. Board: September 11, 1967 - June 10, 1968 [pages 200-237]
8. Board: October 7, 1968 - June 9, 1969 [pages 238 - 274]
9. Board: July 30, 1969 - June 8, 1970 [pages 275-310; 1-4] [Board Minutes continued in Box 6]
10. Regular: March 13, 1897 - May 5, 1908
11. Regular: October 6, 1908 - November 9, 1920

Box 5

1. Regular: December 7, 1920 - January 2, 1929
2. Regular: February 4, 1930 - May 2, 1939
3. Regular: October 19, 1954 - April 11, 1961
4. EMD: May 27, 1958 - November 24, 1959
5. Regular: November 1, 1960 - April 11, 1961 [draft minutes; finals can be found in folder 3]
6. Minutes of the Annual Meeting: May 2, 1961
7. EMD: May 1960 - September 1961
8. General: October 9, 1962 - April 2, 1963 [pages 18-35]
9. EMD: January 30, 1962 - May 28, 1963
10. General: October 15, 1963 - April 7, 1964 [pages 38-57]
11. EMD: September 24, 1963 - May 20, 1964
12. General and Annual Meeting: October 6, 1964 - May 4, 1965 [pages 60-79]
13. EMD: September 22, 1964 - March 23, 1965
14. General: October 12, 1965 - April 5, 1966 [pages 80-93]; EMD: November 23, 1965 [Only surviving minutes for the EMD's 1965-1966 club year.]
15. General: October 12, 1966 - April 4, 1967 [pages 96-113]
16. General: October 3, 1967 - April 2, 1968 [pages 116-135]
17. EMD: May 22, 1967 - May 28, 1968
18. General: October 15, 1968 - April 15, 1969 [pages 141-162]
19. EMD: September 24, 1968 - April 29, 1969

Box 6

1. General: October 14, 1969 - April 7, 1970 [pages 166-187]
2. EMD: September 23, 1969 - May 26, 1970
3. Board: October 5, 1970 - June 7, 1971
4. General: October 13, 1970 - April 13, 1971
5. EMD Board: September 1970 - April 13, 1971; EMD General: September 22, 1970 - April 27, 1971
6. Board: October 4, 1971 - June 5, 1972
7. General: October 12, 1971 - April 4, 1972

Series I. Minutes (cont'd)

Box 6 (cont.)

8. EMD Board: June 1, 1971 - March 14, 1972; EMD General: May 25, 1971 - May 24, 1972
9. Board: October 2, 1972 - June 4, 1973
10. General: October 3, 1972 - 3 April 1973
11. EMD Board: June 20, 1972 - March 22, 1973; EMD General: September 27, 1972 - April 24, 1973
12. Junior Board: September 25, 1972 - January 9, 1973
13. Board: October 1, 1973 - June 3, 1974
14. General: October 9, 1973 - April 2, 1974
15. EMD Board: June 17, 1973 - March 1974; EMD General: May 1973 - May 29, 1974
16. Board: October 7, 1974 - June 2, 1975
17. General: October 8, 1974 - April 8, 1975
18. EMD Board: June 10, 1974 - March 12, 1975; EMD General: September 24, 1974- April 22, 1975
19. Board: October 6, 1975 - June 7, 1976
20. General: October 7, 1975 - April 6, 1976
21. EMD Board: June 9, 1975 - March 11, 1976; EMD General: September 25, 1975 - May 26, 1976
22. Board: October 4, 1976 - June 6, 1977
23. General: October 5, 1976 - April 5, 1977
24. EMD Board: June 8, 1976 - March 3, 1977; September 28, 1976 - April 26, 1977
25. Board: October 3, 1977 - June 5, 1978
26. General: October 4, 1977 - April 4, 1978
27. EMD Board: June 7, 1977 - April 20, 1978; EMD General: May 22, 1977 - April 25, 1978
28. Junior: June 1977 - April 1978
29. Board: October 2, 1978 - June 4, 1979
30. General: October 3, 1978 - April 3, 1979
31. EMD Board: June 6, 1978 - February 13, 1979; EMD General: May 23, 1978 - March 27, 1979
32. Junior: June 1978 - May 1979
33. Board: October 1, 1979 - June 2, 1980
34. General: October 2, 1979 - April 1, 1980
35. EMD Board: June 11, 1979 - June 17, 1980; EMD General: September 25, 1979 - May 27, 1980
36. Junior: June 1979 - April 1980

Series I. Minutes (cont'd)

Box 7

1. Board: October 6, 1980 - June 1, 1981
2. General: October 7, 1980 - April 7, 1981
3. EMD Board: June 17, 1980; EMD General: September 23, 1980 - April 28, 1981
4. Junior: June 1980 - August 1981
5. Board: September 8, 1981 - June 7, 1982
6. General: October 6, 1981 - April 13, 1982
7. EMD Board: June 17, 1981 - March 3, 1982; EMD General: May 27, 1981 - April 13, 1982
8. Board: September 7, 1982 - June 6, 1983
9. General: October 5, 1982 - April 5, 1983
10. EMD Board: September 9, 1982 - March 14, 1983; EMD General: May 27, 1982 - April 12, 1983
11. Board: September 6, 1983 - June 4, 1984
12. General: October 4, 1983 - May 8, 1984
13. EMD Board: June 15, 1983 - June 5, 1984; EMD General: May 25, 1983 - May 23, 1984
14. Board: September 10, 1984 - June 3, 1985
15. General: October 2, 1984 - April 2, 1985
16. EMD Board: June 5, 1984 - March 19, 1985; EMD General: September 11, 1984 - May 21, 1985
17. Board: September 9, 1985 - June 2, 1986
18. General: October 1, 1985 - April 1, 1986
19. EMD Board: June 5, 1985 - March 5, 1986; EMD General: May 21, 1985 - April 8, 1986
20. Board: September 8, 1986 - June 1, 1987
21. General: October 7, 1986 - April 7, 1987
22. EMD Board: June 3, 1986 - March 3, 1987; EMD General: May 21, 1986 - April 14, 1987
23. Board: October 5, 1987 - June 6, 1988
24. General: October 6, 1987 - April 5, 1988
25. EMD Board: June 10, 1987 - March 1, 1988; EMD General: May 19, 1987 - April 12, 1988

Box 8

1. Board: September 12, 1988 - June 5, 1989
2. General: October 4, 1988 - April 4, 1989
3. EMD Board: June 8, 1988 - March 13, 1989; EMD General: May 24, 1988 - May 22, 1989
4. Board: September 11, 1989 - June 4, 1990
5. General: October 3, 1989 - April 3, 1990
6. EMD Board: May 1, 1989 - March 12, 1990; EMD General: September 12, 1989 - May 15, 1990
7. Board: September 17, 1990 - May 6, 1991
8. General: October 2, 1990 - April 2, 1991

Series I. Minutes (cont'd)

Box 8 (cont'd)

9. EMD Board: June 5, 1990 - March 11, 1991; EMD General: May 15, 1990 - May 21, 1991
10. EMD Board: May 28, 1991 - January 28, 1992; EMD General: September 10, 1991 - May 19, 1992
11. Board: April 27, 1993, May 25, 1993 [Club Year 1992 - 1993]
12. EMD Board: June 9 - November 16, 1992; EMD General: September 15, 1992 - May 18, 1993
13. EMD Board: June 2, 1993; EMD General: September 14, 1993 - May 19, 1994
14. Board: September 28, 1993 - April 25, 1994
15. General: January 11 - May 3, 1994 [Club Year 1993-1994]
16. Board: September 27, 1994 - May 31, 1995
17. General: October 4, 1994 - May 2, 1995
18. EMD Board: June 2, 1994 - January 5, 1995; EMD General: September 13, 1994 - April 11, 1995

Box 9

1. Board: September 26, 1995 - June 25, 1996
2. General: October 3, 1995 - April 30, 1996
3. Board: October 1, 1996 - May 27, 1997
4. General: October 1, 1996 - May 13, 1997
5. Board: September 30, 1997 - April 28, 1998
6. General: October 7, 1997 - April 7, 1998
7. EMD: May 20, 1997 - May 19, 1998
8. Board: September 29, 1998 - May 25, 1999
9. General: October 6, 1998 - April 6, 1999
10. EMD: May 26, 1998 - May 1999
11. Board: September 7, 1999 - May 2, 2000
12. General: October 5, 1999 - April 11, 2000
13. EMD: September 14, 1999 - May 16, 2000

Box 10

1. Board: September 12, 2000 - May 22, 2001
2. General: October 3, 2000 - March 20, 2001
3. EMD: September 12, 2000 - May 22, 2001
4. Board: September 25, 2001 - June 4, 2002
5. General: October 2, 2001 - March 5, 2002
6. EMD: June 11, 2001 - May 14, 2002
7. Board: September 24, 2002 - May 27, 2003
8. General: October 1, 2002 - March 4, 2003

Series I. Minutes (cont'd)

Box 10 (cont'd)

9. EMD: June 5, 2002 - May 13, 2003
10. Board: September 30, 2003 - May 25, 2004
11. General: October 7, 2003 - May 18, 2004
12. EMD: May 13, 2003 - May 26, 2004
13. Board: September 28, 2004 - August 30, 2005
14. General: October 5, 2004 - May 17, 2005
15. EMD: June 2, 2004 - May 10, 2005
16. Board: October 25, 2005 - August 29, 2006
17. General: November 1, 2005 - May 16, 2006 [includes calendar year 2006 annual report to the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs]
18. EMD Board: June 7, 2005 - March 7, 2006
19. EMD General: September 13, 2005 - May 18, 2006

Box 11

1. Board: September 26, 2006 - August 28, 2007
2. General: October 3, 2006 - May 15, 2007
3. EMD Board: June 14, 2006 - March 20, 2007
4. EMD General: September 12, 2006 - February 10, 2007
5. Board: September 25, 2007 - April 29, 2008
6. General: October 2, 2007 - April 8, 2008 [includes calendar year 2007 annual report to the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs]
7. Board and General: May 20, 2008 - April 2009
8. Board and General: May 19, 2009 - April 6, 2010
9. Board: April 27, 2010 - August 31, 2010
10. Board and General: September 28, 2010 - May 31, 2011
11. Board and General: September 6, 2011 - April 28, 2012
12. Board and General: September 19, 2012 - April 2, 2013

Series II. Constitutions and By-laws

This series consist of the constitution and by-laws of The Contemporary from its inception in 1897 to 1974. The 1897 handwritten copies are assumed to be the originals. The remainder are printed pamphlets that sometimes include handwritten notations of revisions.

Box 11 [cont'd]

13. 1897 [includes signatures of charter members]
14. 1897 [includes membership roll]
15. 1910-1927; 1936-1974

Series III. Histories

Includes four histories compiled by club members from about 1982 to 1991. Histories of the club are sometimes included in the Yearbooks. A history of the Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery is filed in series **XII** with other material relating directly to the Nursery.

Series III. Histories (cont'd)

Box 30

1. *History and Highlights of The Contemporary* by Virginia A. Hepburn, president, 1966-1970, ca. 1982 [2 copies].
2. *85th Anniversary History*, by G. C. Kuronya, President, 1982
3. *History, Mission, Service ~ A 115 year Summary of the Contemporary*, author unknown, ca. 2013
4. *History of the Evening Membership Department of the Contemporary, Trenton, New Jersey, 1958-1991* by, Mrs. Paul Miller, Mrs. Stanley Stein and Mrs. E. Richard Weasner, ca. 1991.

Series IV. Yearbooks

The yearbooks date from 1897 to club year 2017/2018. For club year 1897-1898, there are 3 separate publications: Constitution and By-laws which include a list of officers and members; Calendar of Lecture Courses; and Calendar of Works which provided a list of club member activities including papers to be presented and discussion topics. The only publication found for 1898 is the Constitutions and By-Laws which again, includes a list of officers and members. Nothing was found for club year 1899/1900 or 2005/2006. From club year 1900/1901 to 1904/1905 the collection includes separate publications for the Constitutions and By-Laws, officers, and members etc. and a calendar of club activities. Beginning in 1905 all this information is combined into one booklet. The content of the Yearbook varies over the decades but in general, they provide a calendar of planned activities, lists of officers, chairs of departments and committees, extracts or complete reprints of the by-laws and constitution, information about the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs, and contact information of members.

Box 12

1897 – 1949/1950

Box 13

1950/1951 – 2017/2018

Series V. The Contemporary Bulletin / The Contemporary

The first part of this series consists of copies of *The Contemporary Bulletin*, Volume 1, No. 1 published October of 1926 to Vol. 81 No. 5 for May-June 2008. There are some gaps in the collection, most notably there are no copies of Volumes 4 through 7 which would cover club years

Series V. The Contemporary Bulletin / The Contemporary (cont'd)

1929-1930 to 1933-1934. The second part of the series consist of copies of *The Contemporary* (successor to The Contemporary Bulletin) covering September 2008 to June 2010. Although the content of the Bulletin varies over the years, in general this publication provides a listing of upcoming club meetings and events. By about 1966, the bulletin was also used as a venue for the president to address the membership.

Box 14

1. Vol. 1: Nos. 1-8, 1926-1927
Vol. 2: Nos. 1-8, 1927-1928
2. Vol. 3: Nos. 1-8, 1928-1929
Vol. 8: Nos. 1-4 & 6-8, 1934-1935
3. Vol. 9: Nos. 2-3 & 5-8, 1935-1936
Vol. 10, No. 8, May 1937
Vol. 11, No. 8, May 1938
Vol. 12: Nos. 2-7, 1938-1939
4. Vol. 13: Nos. 1-8, 1939-1940
Vol. 14: Nos. 1-8, 1940-1941
5. Vol. 15: Nos. 1-8, 1941-1942
Vol. 16: Nos. 1-8, 1942-1943
6. Vol. 17: Nos. 1-3, 1943
Vol. 18: Nos. 1-4 & 6-7, 1944-1945
7. Vol. 19: Nos. 1-8, 1945-1946
Vol. 20: Nos. 1-8, 1946-1947
8. Vol. 21, Nos. 1-8, 1947-1948
Vol. 22: Nos. 4-8, 1949
9. Vol. 23: Nos. 1-8, 1949-1950
Vol. 24: Nos. 1-4 & 6-8, 1950-1951
10. Vol. 25: Nos. 1-8, 1951-1952
Vol. 26: Nos. 1-8, 1952-1953

Series V. The Contemporary Bulletin / The Contemporary (cont'd)

Box 14 (cont'd)

11. Vol. 27: Nos. 1-8, 1953-1954
Vol. 28: Nos. 4-8, 1955

12. Vol. 29: Nos. 1-2 & 4-6, 1955-1956
Vol. 30: Nos. 1-8, 1956-1957

13. Vol. 31: Nos. 1-8, 1957-1958
Vol. 32: Nos. 1-8, 1958-1959

14. Vol. 33: Nos. 1-8, 1959-1960
Vol. 34: Nos. 6-8, 1961

15. Vol. 25: Nos. 1-8, 1961-1962
Vol. 26: Nos. 1-8, 1962-1963

16. Vol. 37: Nos. 1-8, 1963-1964
Vol. 38: Nos. 1-8, 1964-1965

17. Vol. 39: Nos. 1-8, 1965-1966
Vol. 40: Nos. 1-8, 1966-1967

18. Vol. 41: Nos. 1-8, 1967-1968
Vol. 42: Nos. 1-8, 1968-1969

19. Vol. 43: Nos. 1-8, 1969-1970
Vol. 44: Nos. 1-8, 1970-1971

20. Vol. 45: Nos. 1-8, 1971-1972

Box 15

1. Vol. 46: Nos. 1-8, 1972-1973
Vol. 47: Nos. 1-8, 1973-1974

2. Vol. 48: Nos. 1-8, 1974-1975
Vol. 49: Nos. 1-8, 1975-1976

3. Vol. 50: Nos. 1-8, 1976-1977
Vol. 51: Nos. 1-8, 1977-1978

Series V. The Contemporary Bulletin / The Contemporary (cont'd)

Box 15 (cont'd)

4. Vol. 52: Nos. 1-8, 1978-1979
Vol. 53: Nos. 1-8, 1979-1980

5. Vol. 54: Nos. 1-8, 1980-1981
Vol. 55: Nos. 1-7, 1981-1982

6. Vol. 56: Nos. 1-8, 1982-1983
Vol. 57: Nos. 1-7, 1983-1984

7. Vol. 58: Nos. 1-5, 1984-1985
Vol. 59: Nos. 1-5, 1985-1986

8. Vol. 60: Nos. 1-5, 1986-1987
Vol. 61: Nos. 1-5, 1987-1988

9. Vol. 62: Nos. 1-5, 1988-1989
Vol. 63: Nos. 1-5, 1989-1990

10. Vol. 64: Nos. 1-5, 1990-1991
Vol. 65: Nos. 1-5, 1991-1992

11. Vol. 66: Nos. 1-7, 1992-1993
Vol. 67: Nos. 1-7, 1993-1994

12. Vol. 68: Nos. 1-7, 1994-1995
Vol. 69: Nos. 1-7, 1995-1996

13. Vol. 70: Nos. 1-8, 1996-1997
Vol. 71: Nos. 1-7, 1997-1998

14. Vol. 72: Nos. 1-7, 1998-1999
Vol. 73: Nos. 1-7, 1999-2000

15. Vol. 74: Nos. 1-7, 2000-2001
Vol. 75: Nos. 1-5, 2001-2002

Box 16

1. Vol. 76: Nos. 3-7, 2002-2003
Vol. 77: Nos. 1-7, 2003-2004

Series V. The Contemporary Bulletin / The Contemporary (cont'd)

Box 16 (cont'd)

2. Vol. 78: Nos. 2-6, 2004-2005
Vol. 79: Nos. 1-3 & 5, 2005-2006
3. Vol. 80: Nos. 1-5, 2006-2007
Vol. 81: Nos. 1-5, 2007-2008
4. *The Contemporary*, September 2008 - May 2009
5. *The Contemporary*, September 2009 - June 2010

Series V. Officers' Books

This series consist of material kept in three-ring binders, presumably by club officers to keep important information at hand during meetings. As such, the books duplicate information found in other series, but may also fill in possible gaps in those series. In general, these binders include copies of meeting agendas, correspondence, publications, calendars, budget and financial reports and meeting minutes. Included are books of the President of the Board of Trustees (1976/1977 to 1979-1980; 2013-2014 to 2015-2016); Federation & General Club Chairman (1993-1994 & 1995-1996); and Evening Membership Department Chairman (1995-1995 to 2000-2001). This material has been removed from the binders and placed in folders.

Box 17

1. Board of Trustees President's Book, 1976-1977
2. Board of Trustees Presidents Book, 1977-1978
3. Board of Trustees President's Book, 1978-1979 to 1979-1980
4. Board of Trustees President's Book, 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 [14 folders]
5. Federation & General Club Chairman's Book, 1993-1994 & 1995-1996

Box 18

1. Evening Membership Department Chairman's Book, 1994-1995 [3 folders]
2. Evening Membership Department Book, 1995-1996 [2 folders]
3. Evening Membership Department Chairman's Book, 1996-1997

Box 19

1. Evening Membership Department Chairman's Book, 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 [3 folders]
2. Evening Membership Department Chairman's Book, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 [3 folders]

Box 19.5

1. Evening Membership Department Chairman's Book, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 [6 folders]

Series VI. Treasurer's Records

This series consists of 13 ledgers kept by The Contemporary's treasurers from March 1897 to May 1985 and a binder containing information, reports, and membership reports for the period 1960 to 1990. For identification purposes, the ledgers have been assigned book numbers. **Book 1** is an account of dues paid from the foundation of the club in March of 1897 to June of 1925. **Books 2, 3** and **5-13** are the general accounts of monies received and spent by the club between May 18, 1897, to August 16, 1993 with a gap for the period between May 25, 1926 and April 30, 1929. Income came from dues, program fees, rental fees for the auditorium and eventually, admission fees to the Victorian Museum. Expenditures included general administrative fees for printing, postage, programs as well as upkeep of the club building and auditorium. Beginning with **Book 8**, ledgers also include a "recapitulation" of previous accounts written in the back. These appear to be audits of previous accounts which were reviewed and approved by the Chair and other officers. **Book 8** also includes an accounting for the Reserve Fund covering the period February 3, 1948, to April 28, 1949 showing deposits and expenditures for funds used for charitable gifts and scholarships.

Book 4 is a check register covering the period September 7, 1910 - February 15, 1912. **Book 14** is an accounting of The Contemporary Philanthropic Fund from April 27, 1967, to May 1, 1985. Recipients of charitable contributions included: American Cancer Society - Trenton Chapter, Carolyn Stokes Nursery, Greater Trenton Symphony Association, New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, State House Historic District Association, Trenton Emergency and Rescue Squad. Finally, the binder which has been disbound and foldered includes reports, budgets, 1988-1990; new members 1960-1990 and members removed 4/1964 - 4/1990.

Box 20

1. Dues: March 1897 - June 1925
2. Accounts: March 18, 1897 - May 1, 1915
3. Accounts: May 1, 1915 - May 24, 1926 [first page provides a summary of funds and expense from 3/1897 - 5/1923]
4. Check Register: September 7, 1910 - February 15, 1912

Wrapped Ledgers

5. Accounts: May 1, 1929 - November 29, 1932
6. Accounts: December 1, 1932 - March 30, 1937
7. Accounts: April 6, 1937 - August 1, 1941
8. Accounts: August 6, 1941 - December 14, 1948
Recapitulation for May 1, 1948 - April 30, 1949
Reserve Fund Account, 2/3/1948 - April 28, 1949
9. December 14, 1948 - September 27, 1955
Recapitulations for May 1949 - April 1950 through May 1955 - April 1956
10. October 1, 1955 - April 24, 1962
Recapitulations for May 1955 - April 1956 (copy) through May 1961 - April 1962

Series VI. Treasurer's Records (cont'd)

Wrapped Ledgers (cont'd)

11. May 1, 1962 - January 25, 1972
Recapitulations for May 1862 - April 1963 through May 1970 - April 1971
12. February 1, 1972 - April 28, 1982
Recapitulations for May 1971 - April 1972 through May 1975 - April 1976
13. May 1, 1982 - August 16, 1993
14. The Contemporary Philanthropic Fund, April 27, 1967 - May 1, 1985

Box 31

5. Treasurer's Binder, 1988-1990 (reports, budgets, new members (1960-1990), members removed (April 1964 - 4/1990))

Series VII. Membership Records

The membership records come in a variety of forms and were used for a variety of purposes. The Member Books (ca. 1897-1952 and 1952-1964), and membership cards (1897-1990s) were used to provide comprehensive lists of members and generally included addresses, phone numbers, and date joined. Roll Books (1897-1928), include similar information, a member number and track payment of dues. Proposed Member books (1898-1962) track candidates for membership through their applications to join including their names, names of their sponsor and those who endorsed them as well as a date of acceptance. All the above sub-series tend to also include notes on resignation or death dates of members. The "qualifications" book (which appears to have been used only in 1906) and the 1926 and 1929 Members Survey cards were used to provide information on an individual's interests and/or abilities. Researchers should note that for any given year, the quickest way to find membership is reviewing the member list in the Yearbooks.

Box 21

1. Member Book: 1897-1952 (semi alphabetical by surname; within this, chronologically by admission date); 1952-1964 (chronological)
2. Proposed Members: 1898-1914 (semi-alpha by surname, includes table of contents in front)
3. Proposed Members: 1922-1923 (chronological by date applied)
4. Proposed Members: 1924-1930 (chronological by date accepted)
5. Proposed Members: 1930-1962 (chronological by date applied)
6. Qualifications, 1906 (alphabetical by surname)

Box 22

Roll Books (chronological by club year, and within that, alphabetical by surname):

1. 1897/1898 to 1907/1908
2. 1908/1909 to 1916/1917
3. 1917/1918 to 1924/1925

Series VII. Membership Records (cont'd)

Box 22 (cont'd)

4. 1925/1926 to 1927/1928

Box 23 [2 drawer wooden card catalog]

“Past Members, 1897-present,” 1897-ca. 1957 (alphabetical by surname)

Box 24 [card index box]

Membership cards, ca. 1950s-1990s (several alphabetized sets)

Box 25 [card index box]

Members Survey, 1926 and 1929 (Both years are interfiled and arranged alphabetical by surname)

Series IX. Reports

This series consist of various reports found foldered, in binders or in the case of the Community Improvement Plans (CIP) in the form of scrapbooks. These include an incomplete set of reports of the club presidents dating from the club years 1921-1922 through 1998-1999, and then club year 2000-2001 to calendar 2007; reports of all the departments that were found filed together either by month or by club year and reports that had been housed in 3 binders (one for each club year) that were labeled “Work Book.” There are also some scattered reports from the Recording Secretary, the Evening Membership Department, and the General Club. Finally, **Box 27** contains reports of various Community Improvement Programs that were undertaken by the club. Researchers should note that the minutes in this collection (**Series I.**) are likely to have the most comprehensive collection of all reports.

Box 26

1. Presidents’: 1921-1923, 1923-1924, 1926-1927
2. Presidents’: 1929-1920, 1930-1931, 1934-1935, 1935-1936
3. Presidents’: September 1949, 1949-1950
4. Presidents’: 1953-1954, 1954-1955, October 1955, 1955-1956
5. Presidents’: 1960-1962
6. Presidents’: 1979-1980, 1980-1981, 1983-1984, 1984-1985, 1985-1986, 1987-1988, 1989-1990
- 7a. Presidents’: 1990-1991, 1996-1997, 1998-1999
- 7b. Presidents’: 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, calendar years 2006 [including department reports] and 2007
8. Department Annual Reports: 1940-1941
9. Department Reports: January-May 1948
10. Department Reports: November 1948-May 1949

Series IX. Reports (cont'd)

Box 26 (cont'd)

11. Department Reports: Recording Secretary, 1951-1959
12. Department Reports: "Work Book," 1965-1966
13. Department Reports: "Work Book," 1966-1967
14. Department Reports: "Work Book," 1967-1968
15. Department Reports: 1968-1969
16. Department Reports - Evening Membership Department Annual Reports: 1985-1986 to 1998-1999 [with gaps]
17. General Club Annual Reports: 1985-1986, 1991-1992 to 1995-1996

Box 27

1. Junior Contemporary Club 1960-1962 CIP report (raising money for nursery equipment for Delaware Valley Rehabilitation Center and launching community-wide volunteer aide services.)
2. The Contemporary 1967-1968 State Home for Girls Project, CIP Report (mentoring girls placed in the home).
3. The Contemporary 1970-1972 "Contemporary Club Ushers in Victorian Trenton," CIP report (program to help establish The Contemporary Victorian Museum.)
4. Junior Contemporary Club 1972-1974 CIP report (aiding the Trenton Opportunity School, a local day care center.)
5. The Contemporary 1978-1979 "Up with Trenton," CIP report. (effort to support community-wide restoration and preservation activities in Trenton)
6. The Contemporary 1980-1982 CIP report (continuation of the "Up with Trenton" project.)

Series X Departmental/Committee Records

This series consist of miscellaneous materials created by the Evening Membership Department, the Parliamentary Law Class (a short-lived program) and the Social Services/Welfare Committee. These folders are housed with other mixed series in boxes 30 and 31 as identified below.

Box 30

9. Civics Committee Minutes, 1907/1908 – 1912/1913
10. Evening Membership Department membership booklet, 1976 & 1984
11. Evening Membership Department Newsletter, September, October 1979; February 1980 (Vols I, II and V)
12. Evening Membership Department Standing Rules, revision 3, 1996 (missing page 3) and amended 2001
13. "Easy Menu Delights" [Evening Membership Department cookbook], 1978-1979 club year [as recorded in the history of the EMD]

Series X Departmental/Committee Records (cont'd)

Box 30 (cont'd)

14. Membership Committee Reports, 1966-1980

Box 31

1. Parliamentary Law Class, Constitution, By-laws, minutes 10/10/1899 - 3/13/1900
2. Social Services Department [became Welfare Department], minutes, 3/1940 - 6/1942
3. Welfare Department "Meetings" [includes record of members, attendance, and minutes], 1965-1966 [name reverted to Social Services Department]
4. Social Services Department Minutes, 1972-1973 to 1973-1974

Series XI. Junior Club

This series consist of reports, correspondence yearbooks and other materials produced by the Junior Department and its successor, the Junior Contemporary Club. Because the Junior Club was overseen by the general club, information about its activities will also be found in minutes of the board and minutes of the general club. Reports of the Junior Club's activities in the Community Improvement Programs (CIP) can be found in **Series X** (reports). Scrapbooks produced by the Junior Club are found in that series inventoried as 23b, 24a, 24b, 24c, 25b, 27b, 29b, 32a, 33a, 33b, 34b, 34c, 35b, 39b, and 51.

Box 28

1. Annual Reports, 1920s-1931 [Junior Department]
2. Correspondence regarding formation of the Junior Contemporary Club, January-February 1957
3. President's Annual Reports, 1958-1959 to 1968-1969
4. Reports to General Club, 1959-1961
5. Yearbooks, 1959-1960 to 1981-1982 [with gaps]
6. "Prospective Handbook," 1963-1964 to 1975-1977 [with gaps]
7. Press Releases, 1966-1967
8. Press Releases, 1967-1968
9. Press Releases, 1968-1969
10. Membership Reports, 1965-1966 to 1979-1980
11. 1979 Club Questionnaire and attachments, 1978-1979
12. 1980 Club Questionnaire and attachments, 1979-1980
13. "Kaleidoscope," newsletter, April 1973 to January 1974
14. Club information (location, officers, meeting dates, etc.) gathered by Trenton Public Library, 1975 & 1976 [copy]
15. "Famous People from Long Ago: A booklet dedicated to the stimulation of PATROTISM in the children of our club members." No date

XII. Carolyn Stokes Nursery

This series includes a published history of the Nursery, a folder of information about the nursery and the Stokes family, as well as clippings and photographs. Because the Nursery was a central concern of The Contemporary, researchers will find information about it throughout the rest of this collection.

Box 30

5. "The History and Development of the Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery," by Yvonne Knight, ca. 1972
[copy 1]
6. "The History and Development of the Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery," by Yvonne Knight, ca. 1972
[copy 2]
7. Notes, History and information about the Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery and Stokes Family, ca. 1924-2009
8. Clippings and photographs, ca. 1952-1965

XIII. Guestbooks

This series consist of guest books signed by visitors to The Contemporary Club from 1954 to 2014. There are gaps and overlaps in the various volumes that indicate that different books may have been used for different purposes. For instance, it is likely that the books in folder 2, which are identical, have similar labeling and begin on December 10th of 1970, were used exclusively for visitors to the Victorian Museum which officially opened on that day. Also, a book commemorating the Centennial Year of the Club in 1996 was begun in December of that year.

Box 29

1. 10/1954 - 12/1969; 3/1970 - 9/1995
2. 12/1970 - 7/1982; 11/1982 - 12/1995
3. 1/1996 - 10/1996, 10/5/1997, 4/1999 - 3/2004; 12/1997 - 12/1998
4. 4/2013 -7/2014

XIV. Victorian Museum

As has been discussed in the history of The Contemporary, the clubhouse was open for tours as The Contemporary Victorian Museum in 1971. While there is information about the Museum throughout this collection's records, this series includes material exclusively related to it including photographs, brochures and background notes for hostesses providing tours in the museum. There is also a relatively large collection of photographs of clothing once on display at the museum and various descriptions of those clothes. Researchers should note that the bulk of the clothes and other artifacts used to decorate the house were sold at auction before the townhouse was sold. There are also a few pieces of clothes and shoes that are described below in the **Textiles and Shoes** series. Miscellaneous folder 10 includes a 1972-1974 report on the Museum

XIV. Victorian Museum (cont'd)

Box 31

6. The Contemporary Victorian 25th Anniversary, 1970-1995 [photo album]
7. The Contemporary Victorian Museum brochures, events and information leaflets, ca.1970-2000s
8. "Back Ground [sic] Notes.... Hostesses for The Contemporary Victorian Museum," ca. 1970
9. Grant Application to the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission for restoration of the Museum, 1974
10. Miscellaneous, undated, 1972-1974; 1997-1998
11. Violet Cox memorabilia (Accession 2021.015)

Box 32

1. The Contemporary Victorian Museum Transcript of 2/18/1989 meeting with Elizabeth Brown who provided descriptions of clothing that had been collected
2. The Contemporary Victorian Museum Rough draft and transcripts of 2/18/1989 meeting with Elizabeth Brown who provided descriptions of clothing that had been collected
3. Photographs of clothing with corresponding inventory sheets, ca. 1989
4. Photographs of Victorian clothing, ca. 1989
5. Clothing inventory sheets, ca. 1989
6. Other Descriptions of clothing once exhibited at the museum, ca 1970s-1980s

Series XV. Awards, Certificates of Merit, Proclamations and Letters of Congratulations

This series includes various awards and certificates received by The Contemporary between 1910 and 2012. Among these is the 1910 certificate of membership to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a 1945 Meritorious Service award in USO [United Service Organizations] War Work; the 1971 designation by the NJ Historic Preservation Office of The Contemporary Victorian Mansion as a Certified State Historic Site and a 1997 letter of congratulations from President Bill Clinton on the club's 100th anniversary. For preservation purposes, the material is stored by document size, and within this, arranged chronologically.

Box 33

Size A (up to 9"x12") undated; 1946-2012

Size B (up to 14"x17") 1910-ca. 1979

Size C (up to 11"x18") 1987-2004

Award for Preserving 176 West State Street, 2007 [plaque]

Series XVI. Sheet Music

This series [found in **Box 34**] consist of sheet music used by the club members during entertainments. The bulk of these are Christian songs (Christmas and Easter predominantly) as well

Series XVI. Sheet Music (cont'd)

as some folk music and popular Broadway musicals. The material dates roughly from the 1930s to the 1960s.

Series XVII. Miscellaneous

Consists of a variety of materials found in the collection including photographs, brochures, loose clippings, etc.

Box 32

7. Dorothea Dix in New Jersey, Play by Violet Cox (no date)
8. Event Programs 1926, 1940, 1945, 1965, 1966
9. Correspondence and clippings regarding "Days of my Youth" presentation of Dr. Thomas E. Robinson, former president of Glassboro State College [now Rowan University]
10. "Old Photos of Contemporary Women," 1940s, 1954 & 1964
11. Photographs of The Contemporary Clubhouse, ca. 1950s
12. "Premiere Tour of Historic Trenton, December 27, 1975"
13. "Stokes Story", "Today's Rider Faculty" and "The Roebling Family" [photo album], 1977-1979
14. The Contemporary informational flyers and handouts, ca. 1997
15. Brochures, invitations, and information collected re: the club by Trentoniana, 1970s-1980s
16. Chronology of events, May 1974 – May 1975
17. "Misc. Clippings 1920s"
18. Loose clippings, ca. 1956-2007
19. NJSFWC [New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs] Profile, 1994-1996 [brochure]
20. New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs – Communication Supplement, 2006-2008
21. *Reaching Out: A Story of the General Federation of Women's Clubs*, by Mary Jean Houde, 1989
22. Notes from John Cunningham's *New Jersey: A Mirror on America*, 1978
23. Four Views of Trenton – brochures and fund-raising correspondence, 1987-1997
24. Lillie A. Williams: A Quintessential Pioneer for Psychological Advancement and Social Change by Sherri Lynn Bauerle, The College of New Jersey, no date. [Lillie A. Williams was a founding member of The Contemporary.]

Series XVIII. Artifacts

This series includes a few artifacts of the clubhouse/museum. Of particular interest are 3 printing blocks of the etching of the clubhouse's front door done by George A. Bradshaw (1880 - 1968), a Trenton artist known for his illustrations and etchings. This etching was used on the cover of The Contemporary's Yearbook beginning in the 1955-1956 club year. The etching was contributed to

Series XVIII. Artifacts (cont'd)

the club through his wife Mary Passon Bradshaw, who was a member of the club and served as chair of the Art Department in the 1940s.

Series XVIII. Artifacts (cont'd)

Box	Description
[on display in Trentoniana Room]	1909 corporate seal
35	Bradshaw etching printing blocks Printing block for etching of club house's fireplace which was used in brochures about the museum
36	Gavel and gavel bloc Chandelier prisms
37	Plaque "The Contemporary Victorian Townhouse Museum Contributors" Names in order listed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary G. Roebling • Marion Tomilson • Becky Hammell • Sylvia Nill • Hilda Kline • Alice Enerle • Helen Solon • Irene Lyons • Gregg Pressman • WJB Stokes 2nd • Donald Rice • Rusling Family • Marion Schunder

Series XI Textiles and Shoes

This series consists of the few items of Victorian clothing and textiles not sold at auction when the clubhouse was sold. It also contains two club banners.

Box	Contents
38	3 single baby shoes including "#141 Shoes-Baby, Color blue;" 1 pair child's shoes (#142 Shoes-Child Color-black, 2 straps-black velvet bows;" and 1 pair pink silk heels
39	Pair brown heeled women's shoes Pair black heeled women's shows

Series XI Textiles and Shoes (cont'd)

Box	Contents
40	Women's shoes: cream colored with strap (# 143) & pink with bows
41	High button shoes made of canvas
42	Black heels, parasol
43	Linens, White Dress
44	Club banners (2)

Series XX. Scrapbooks

This series consists of 112 scrapbooks and pressbooks spanning the years from 1897 to 2014. The pressbooks consists of newspaper clippings that report on the activities and accomplishments of The Contemporary. The Scrapbooks may include clippings as well, but also include printed programs, notices, photographs, decorative embellishments and often copies of the Yearbooks or the Bulletins. These books not only provided a way to document the history of the clubs, but eventually became part of a competition held by the State Federation of Women's Club's in which women's clubs throughout the state submitted their books which were judged on form and content. In many years, several books were produced by different divisions of the organization including the general club, the club historian, the Evening Membership Department, the Art Department, and the Junior Club. When the first set of these books were received by Trenton Free Public Library, they were assigned SB (scrapbook) numbers and shelved with the Trentoniana's general collection of scrapbooks. It was subsequently decided that these books should be physically stored with the larger collection of The Contemporary's records. To inventory them and provide access, the books were arranged in date order and assigned numbers more easily. In cases where more than one book was produced by the membership in a club year, the general club's book came first, then departmental books and finally the Junior Club's book. Since some books were added after the initial arrangement, a, b, and c designations have been added to avoid the need to renumber the entire series.

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
001a	Press Book	“The Contemporary”	1897-1911	very acidic	45
001b	Press Book		1911-1928	[SB342]	46
002a	Press Book		1926-1927	many loose clippings	46
002b	Press Book		1930-1936	Many loose clippings, all pages are loose	60
002c	General Club Press Books		1936-1942	[SB350]	46
003	Press Book		1942-1943		46
004a	Contemporary Club History	“History of The Contemporary”	1942-1943		46
004b		“The Contemporary, Original Cartoons Drawn expressly for this book. Art Department, Mrs. G. A. Bradshaw, Chairman.”	ca. 1942-1943	This scrap book has been digitized. Includes artwork of: Altman, A. R. Bradshaw, G. A. Bradshaw, Mary Bradshaw, R. G. Brown, Villa H. Courtney, Pauline Haeberle, Alice Schulman, S Storve, E. M. Wesner, G. K.	46
005	Press Book		1943-1944		46
006	Press Books: Fine Arts		1943-1944		47

³ Based on inventory sent by creator; information in quotes was found on item

⁴ SB numbers in brackets are “scrapbook” numbers that were previously assigned to the volume; see series note.

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type³	Title	Date span	Notes⁴	Box No.
007	Contemporary Club History	“History of The Contemporary Club”	1944-1945		47
008	Press Book, Contemporary Club History		1945-1946		47
009	Contemporary Club Press Book	“50th”	1946-1947		47
010	Press Book, Contemporary Club History	“A History of The Contemporary”	1947-1948		47
011	Contemporary Club Press Book		1948-1950		47
012	Press Book , Contemporary Club History		1950-1952		Wrapped # 12
013	Contemporary Club Press Book		1952-1954		47
014	Press Book, Contemporary Club History		1953-1954		47
015	Press Book, Contemporary Club Fine Arts		1953-1954		47
016	Contemporary General Club’s Press Books		1954-1955		48
017	Contemporary Club Press Book		1954-1955		48

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
018	Contemporary Club Press Book		1955-1956		48
019	Contemporary General Club's Press Books		1957-1958		60
020	Contemporary Club Press Book		1957	No cover, stored in folder	48
021	Press Book, Contemporary Club History	"This is our Story"	1959-1960		61
022	Contemporary Club Press Book		1959-1960		48
023a	Contemporary General Club's Press Books		1959-1962		61
023b	Press Book	[Junior Press Book]	1960-1961	material removed from 3-ring binder	61
024a	Contemporary Club Jr. Scrapbook		1961-1962	Because material was coming loose, we took pictures of sample pages and then dismantled the book, placing material folders in order they were in book. Glue staining indicates that some material came loose and was either lost or tucked into other pages of this book.	61
024b	Contemporary Club Jr. Scrapbook			[wooden cover]	Wrapped #24b
024c	Contemporary Club Jr. Press Book		1961-1962		62

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
025a	Contemporary Club's Press Books	"The Contemporary Club, Trenton, NJ"	1962-1963	[SB340]	48
025b	Press Book	[Junior Press Book]	1962-1963	material removed from 3-ring binder	62
026	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks	"Contemporary Scrap Book 1962-1964"	1962-1964	[SB343]	48
027a	Contemporary General Club's Press Books	"The American Home Department"	1963-1964		48
027b		[Junior Press Book]	1963-1964		62
028	Contemporary Club Press Book		1964-1965		49
029a	Contemporary General Club's Press Books	American Home Department	1964-1965		49
029b	Junior Press Book	Junior Press Book	1964-1965		62
030	Contemporary Club Press Book	"Contemporary Club Scrap Book"	1965-1966		49
031	Contemporary General Club's Press Books	"American Home Department"	1965-1966		49
032a	Contemporary Club Jr. Press Book	"1965-1966 JCC Scrap Book"	1965-1966	Many loose items	49
032b	Contemporary Club Scrap Book		1966-1967	Fragile	Wrapped 32b
032c	Contemporary Club Scrap Book		1967-1968 & 1968-1969	Fragile	Wrapped 32c

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
033a	Press Book, Contemporary Junior Club	“1966-1968 JCC Scrap Book”	1966-1967		49
033b	Contemporary Club Jr.’s Press Book	Jr. Press Book	1966-1967	material removed from 3-ring binder	62
034a	Contemporary Club Press Book		1966-1970		50
034b	Contemporary Club Jr.’s Press Book	Contemporary Club Jr.’s Press Book	1967-1968	material removed from 3-ring binder	63
034c	Contemporary Club Jr.’s Press Book	Jr. Press Book	1968-1969	material removed from 3-ring binder	63
035a	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks	“Happenings of EMD”	1969-1971	[SB344]	63
035b	Contemporary Club Jr.’s Press Book		1970-1971	material removed from 3-ring binder	64
036	Contemporary General Club’s combined/Joint (General & EMD) Press Books	“Diamond Jubilee 75th Anniversary”	1970-1972		50
037	Contemporary General Club’s Press Books		1971-1972		50
038	Press Books	[EMD]	1972-1975		50
039a	Contemporary General Club’s Press Books		1973-1974		50

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
39b	Junior	“Not to Merely Exist”	1973-1974		50
39c	EMD Scrapbooks		1973-1974 & 1974-1975		Wrapped 39c
040	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks		1975-1976	[SB345]	50
041	EMD Scrapbooks	“The Contemporary 1976-1977 Carolyn Myers Publicity Chairman”	1976-1977		60
042	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks	“E.M. D’s Story”	1976-1977	[SB343]	51
043	Contemporary General Club’s Press Books		1977-1978		51
044	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks		1977-1978	[SB347]	51
045	Contemporary General Club’s combined/Joint (General & EMD) Press Books	[Club house restoration]	1977-1978		51
046	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks	“Trenton E.M.D. With a Song in My Heart”	1978-1979	[SB348]	51
047	Contemporary General Club’s Press Books		1979-1980		52
048	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks	“Trenton E.M.D. Tip Toe through the Tulips”	1979-1980	[SB349]	52

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
049a	Contemporary General Club's Press Books		1980-1981		52
049b	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks		1980-1981	wrapped	Wrapped 49b
050a	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks		1981-1982	wrapped	Wrapped 50a
050b	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary"	1981-1982	Put together by the PR chair; looks like a press book.	52
051	Junior Contemporary Club		1981-1982	material removed from 3-ring binder	64
052a	Contemporary General Club's Press Books		1982-1983		52
052b	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks		1982-1983	Wrapped	Wrapped 52b
053	Contemporary General Club's Press Books		1983-1984		52
054	EMD Scrapbooks	"25 years of Community Service"	1983-1984	material removed from 3-ring binder	64
055	EMD Scrapbooks		1984-1985	material removed from 3-ring binder	65

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
056	EMD Scrapbooks	“The Contemporary Fourth District Evening Membership Department, Theme: The power of Love, Presented to Mrs. Richard Harding EMD Chairman 1986”	1986	This seems to be a presentation designed specifically for Mrs. Harding. Lots of loose material but others holding fast.	52
057	EMD Scrapbooks	“The Trenton E*M*D 4th District”	1986-1987		53
058	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks	“The EMD Scrapbook of The Contemporary Club”	1987-1988		53
059	Contemporary Club’s Press Books		1987-1992	[SB341]; material removed from 3-ring binder	65
060	EMD Scrapbooks	“The EMD Scrapbook of The Contemporary Club”	1988-1989	Lots of loose material, first page of table of contents is missing.	53
061	EMD Scrapbooks		1989-1990		53
062	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbook	“EMD”	1990-1991		54
063	Contemporary General Club’s EMD Scrapbooks	“The Contemporary of Trenton, EMD, 1991-1992”	1991-1992		54
064	EMD Scrapbooks	“EMD”	1993-1994		54
065	EMD Scrapbooks	“EMD”	1994-1995		55
066	EMD Scrapbooks	“EMD”	1995-1996		55
067a	EMD Scrapbooks	“EMD 1996-1997”	1996-1997		55
067b		“The Contemporary Centennial, 1897-1997”	1996-1997		55
068	EMD Scrapbooks	“EMD”	1997-1998		56

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type ³	Title	Date span	Notes ⁴	Box No.
069	General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary, 1998-1999"	1998-1999		56
070	EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary of Trenton EMD, 1998-1999"	1998-1999		56
071	Contemporary General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary, 1999-2000"	1999-2000		56
072	EMD Scrapbooks	"EMD"	1999-2000		57
073	General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary, 2000-2001"	2000-2001		57
074a	General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary, 2001-2002"	2001-2002		57
074b	EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary EMD, 2001-2002"	2001-2002		Wrapped 74b
075a	General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary Trenton, NJ 2002-2003 History Book"	2002-2003		Wrapped 75a
075b	EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary EMD, 2002-2003"	2002-2003	Loose Binding	Wrapped 75b
076	EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary EMD"	2003-0004	Loose Binding	Wrapped 76
077	General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary, Trenton, NJ, 2003-2004 History Book"	2003-2004		Wrapped 77
078	EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary EMD, 2004-2005"	2004-2005		Wrapped 78
079	EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary EMD, 2005-20006"	2005-2006		57
080	Contemporary General Club's Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary" [History Book]	2006-2007		58

Assigned Book No.	Book -Type³	Title	Date span	Notes⁴	Box No.
081	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary of Trenton, EMD March 2007-Feb 2008"	2007-2008		58
082	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary of Trenton, EMD March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009"	2008-2009		58
083	Contemporary General Club's EMD Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary of Trenton EMD March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010"	2009-2010		58
084	General and EMD Combined Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary General Club and EMD March 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011"	2010-2011		59
085	General and EMD Combined Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary General Club and EMD June 1, 2011 – July 1, 2012"	2011-2012		59
086	General and EMD Combined Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary General Club and EMD, July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013"	2012-2013		59
087	General and EMD Combined Scrapbooks	"The Contemporary General Club and EMD, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014"	2013-2014		59