
Guide to the

IRVING BOOK REVIEW CLUB RECORDS 1953-1998

.5 linear ft.

Accession Number: 9899-82

Collection Number: 25

**Prepared by Kevin Kendro
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CITATION: Irving Book Review Club Records, 1953-1998, Collection 25, Box number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

The organizational meeting of the Irving Book Review Club was held on February 13, 1953. Four organizers were present at the meeting in which it was agreed that the club would meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Meetings would be held in members' homes, and the club year would run from October through May. Membership was limited to forty. Officers would be elected at the April meeting and installed at the May meeting. The first official club meeting was held on February 23, 1953. Although, membership was limited to forty, the club had forty-three charter members.

The club selected Mrs. Mary Paul of Dallas as their reviewer. Mrs. Paul was well known throughout the north Texas area for her book reviews. Among her many civic and social activities, Mrs. Paul served as president of the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs and president of the Women's Council of Dallas County. She had book review clubs named for her in Dallas and Sherman, Texas, and regularly reviewed books for clubs in Temple, Odessa, Abilene, and Gainesville. Mrs. Paul was the permanent monthly book reviewer for the Irving Book Review Club into the late 1970s. She continued to periodically review books for the club into the late 1980s, giving the review on the club's thirty-third anniversary in 1986. After decades of activity in civic and social life, Mrs. Paul died in 1994.

In 1957, the club membership limit was raised to fifty and the following year to sixty. The club soon outgrew meeting in members' homes and moved their meetings to the Garden and Arts Center. The membership limit was raised to one hundred in the early 1970s and at the business meeting in 1993 a membership limit of 150 was agreed upon.

During the mid-1970s, the club ceased its luncheon format and began an informal social hour serving coffee and pastries before the review. Through the years, the club has altered its meeting time and date but has remained an active group. The club has not had a permanent

reviewer since Mrs. Paul gave up the position. Today, reviews are done by a variety of area book reviewers.

Source:

The Irving Book Review Club Records, 1953-1998, Collection 25, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Series Description

Series I. Scrapbooks, 1953-1998. (bulk 1953-1992) .3 linear ft. (two scrapbook boxes) Scrapbooks left intact. Material includes newspaper clippings, yearbooks, and photographs. This series contains three yearbooks, 1996-1998, which were loose in the collection. These have been placed in box number two.

Series II. Minutes, 1983-1997. .17 linear ft. (four folders). Arranged chronologically. Material includes minutes from club meetings from February 1983 through May 1997. Rough drafts of the minutes from August 1992 through May 1996 are included in this series.

Series III. Treasurer's Reports, .03 linear ft. (one folder). Arranged chronologically. Material includes sporadic treasurer's reports from 1995-1998. Included here is one piece of correspondence from the City of Irving to the club.

Scope and Content Note

The Irving Book Review Club Records consist of two scrapbooks, meeting minutes, and treasurers' reports covering the years 1953-1998. The collection is arranged in three series and is contained in 2 scrapbook boxes and a half manuscript box.

Series I consists of two scrapbooks spanning the years 1953-1992. The volumes contain newspaper clippings primarily pertaining to meeting announcements; yearbooks; and photos taken at club meetings. Very few of the subjects in the photos are identified. The pages of volume one are somewhat brittle, but the scrapbooks have been left intact so that the club may use them when needed. Included in box two, with scrapbook two, are three yearbooks, which were loose in the collection. These yearbooks are from the years 1996-1998.

Series II is made up of minutes from the Irving Book Review Club meetings from February 1983 through May 1997. The minutes are typed or hand-written on 5½"x 8" paper. Generally, the minutes are one page in length. The minutes were contained in a three-ring binder. Several of the pages had torn loose. As a preservation measure, the minutes have been removed from the binder and placed in acid-free folders. Also included in this series is a steno pad containing the rough drafts of the minutes from August 1992 through May 1996.

Series III consists of monthly treasurer's reports from 1994-1998. These records were received in a three-ring binder. The reports have been removed from the binder and placed in an acid-free folder. The record for 1994 consists of the September report only. The April report from 1995 is missing. The October report from 1996 is missing, and the May, September, October, and November reports from 1997 are missing. The 1998 record consists only of January and February. These records were in generally reverse chronological order

when received. The processor has placed them in chronological order. The binder also contained one letter from the City of Irving to the club.

The Irving Book Review club is still active, so additional records may be accessioned in the future. If so, updates will be added to this finding aid.

Provenance Statement

The Irving Book Review Club Records, accession number 9899-82, was donated to the Irving Archives by Mrs. Catie Morgan, on behalf of the Irving Book Review Club, on August 9, 1999. Prior to their donation to the Archives, the records were kept in club members' homes.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Irving Book Review Club Records must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Container List

Series I. Scrapbooks, 1953-1992

Box 1

Vol. 1 Scrapbook, 1953-1980

Contains newspaper clippings, yearbooks, and photographs taken at meetings.

Box 2

Vol. 2 Scrapbook, 1980-1992

Contains newspaper clippings, yearbooks, and photographs taken at meetings. Also included in this box are three yearbooks which were loose in the collection, 1996-1998.

Series II. Minutes, 1983-1997

Box 3

Folder

- 1 Minutes-February 7, 1983-May 9, 1988
- 2 Minutes-October 3, 1988-May 11, 1992
- 3 Minutes-August 27, 1992-May 5, 1997
- 4 Minutes, rough drafts-August 27, 1992-May 6, 1996

Series III. Treasurer's Reports

5 Treasurer's Reports, 1995-1998

Also includes one piece of correspondence, February 11, 1993, from the city to the club reminding them to lock the cabinet before they leave the Garden and Arts Center.