



# ArchivesSpace

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## Society of Older Graduates of Columbia records5952778

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Columbia University. Society of Older Graduates of Columbia
<b>Title:</b>	Society of Older Graduates of Columbia records
<b>ID:</b>	5952778
<b>ID:</b>	UA#0103
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1902-1964
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.25 linear feet 1 record carton
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

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## Historical Note

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The move from 49th Street to Morningside Heights in 1897 led to an expansive growth in the number of Columbia alumni associations. With their old stomping grounds gone, nostalgic alumni were looking for ways to stay connected to their Alma Mater in this new, unknown campus. An interclass group, the Society of the Early Eighties for the College and Mines Classes from 1880 to 1884, offered a successful model. Older graduates were looking to start a comparable group and the Society of Older Graduates came together in 1909, thanks to Pierre de Peyster Ricketts, Mines Class of 1871 and a professor of assaying in the School of Mines from 1885 to 1900. The original objective was "to promote and strengthen the bonds of good fellowship between its members; to encourage and maintain mutual understanding and confidence between Columbia and her graduates; to uphold the influence and further the interests of Columbia University." Any member of a College or Mines Class through 1879 was eligible for active membership. College Dean John Howard Van Amringe ("Van Am"), College 1860, was elected the Society's first president. In 1920, with the number of alumni from the early classes dwindling, the Society adjusted its membership policy to include any alumnus 30 years after his graduation. With this 30-years-out change, the Society became the only one of the four started by the men of 49th Street to continue.

In addition to its beloved Annual Dinner, the Society raises funds to support the University. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Society funded what became the College Dean's Fund to support students financially. They created a bequest committee to encourage alumni to include Columbia legacies into their wills. In 1949, the Society introduced the "Great Teacher Awards,"

to be given each year, one to a College and one to an Engineering faculty member. The first awards went to Mark Van Doren and Edwin H. Armstrong. Other winners included Harry J. Carman, James Kip Finch, Dwight C. Miner, and George M. Allen. Over the years, the Society made numerous gifts to the University for the construction of the field house at Baker Field and the Engineering Center, benches on College Walk for the Bicentennial, and more.

By the 1990s, the group was renamed again, Society of Columbia Graduates, and is open to alumni who graduated at least 25 years ago. They continue to preside over the Great Teacher Awards.

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## Summary

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This collection consists of the membership files, dinner records and minutes of the Society of Older Graduates.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in one series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### **Revision Description**

Finding aid published (JR) 2022-12-16

### **Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Accruals**

No additions are expected.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

1997.003.

### **Processing Information**

The collection was processed by Joanna Rios in December 2022.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Materials**

Additional materials related to the Society of Older Graduates can be found in the [Historical subject files \(UA#0002\)](#).

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Columbia University -- : Alumni and alumnae
  - Columbia University. Society of Older Graduates of Columbia
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## Collection Inventory

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<b>Series I: Society of Older Graduates records, 1902-1964</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Agendas, 1935-1951	box 1	folder 1
Bank, 1933-1949	box 1	folder 2
By-Laws and Certification of Incorporation, 1909-1933	box 1	folder 3
By-Laws, 1964	box 1	folder 4
Correspondence, 1931-1935	box 1	folder 5
Correspondence, 1936-1939	box 1	folder 6
Correspondence, 1944-1952	box 1	folder 7
Dean's Fund, 1932-1947	box 1	folder 8
Deceased, 1937-1949	box 1	folder 9
Dinners, 1911-1926	box 1	folder 10
Dinner, 1931	box 1	folder 11
Dinner, 1933	box 1	folder 12
Dinner, 1934-1935	box 1	folder 13
Dinner, 1936	box 1	folder 14
Dinner, 1937	box 1	folder 15
Dinner, 1938	box 1	folder 16
Dinner, 1939	box 1	folder 17
Dinner, 1940	box 1	folder 18
Dinner, 1941	box 1	folder 19
Dinner, 1942	box 1	folder 20

Dinner, 1943	box 1	folder 21
Dinner, 1944	box 1	folder 22
Dinner, 1945	box 1	folder 23
Dinner, 1946	box 1	folder 24
Dinner, 1947	box 1	folder 25
Dinner, 1948	box 1	folder 26
Dinner, 1949	box 1	folder 27
Dinner, 1950	box 1	folder 28
Dinner, 1951	box 1	folder 29
Dinner, 1954	box 1	folder 30
General Correspondence, 1936-1950	box 1	folder 31
General, 1936-1950	box 1	folder 32
Membership, 1915-1925	box 1	folder 33
Membership, 1935-1936	box 1	folder 34
Membership, 1937-1940	box 1	folder 35
Membership, 1938	box 1	folder 36
Memberships, New, 1938-1939	box 1	folder 37
Membership, 1942-1944	box 1	folder 38
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Class of 1913-1915		
Membership, 1945-1946	box 1	folder 39
Membership, 1946-1947	box 1	folder 40
Membership, 1947	box 1	folder 41
Membership, 1950	box 1	folder 42
Membership Reports, 1936-1950	box 1	folder 43
Menus, 1933-1940	box 1	folder 44
Minutes, 1909-1910	box 1	folder 45
Minutes, 1912-1919	box 1	folder 46
Minutes, 1920-1922	box 1	folder 47
Minutes, 1932-1935	box 1	folder 48
Minutes, 1936-1939	box 1	folder 49
Minutes, 1940-1944	box 1	folder 50

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Minutes, 1945-1949	box 1	folder 51
Minutes, 1950-1951	box 1	folder 52
Nominations for Membership, 1937-1938	box 1	folder 53
Notices, 1902-1952	box 1	folder 54
Notices, 1934-1952	box 1	folder 55
Pin Orders, 1940	box 1	folder 56
Publicity, 1935-1950	box 1	folder 57
Statements, 1932-1950	box 1	folder 58
Treasurer's Reports, 1935-1942	box 1	folder 59

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