

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Contemporary Club Records  
1913-1992  
MssCol NYGB 18183**

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## Summary

- Main entry:** Contemporary Club (New York, N.Y.)
- Title:** Contemporary Club records, 1913-1992
- Size:** 1 linear foot (3 boxes)
- Source:** Gift of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2008
- Abstract:** The Contemporary Club was a New York City social club founded in 1913 with the intent of fostering, according to the club's constitution, "the broad and free discussion of ideas and events, and the entertainment of distinguished persons." The collection includes minutes, membership lists, and correspondence detailing the workings of the club from its earliest years through its dissolution in 1992.
- Access:** Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.
- Preferred citation:** Contemporary Club Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

## Historical note

The Contemporary Club was a New York City social club founded in 1913 with the intent of fostering, according to the club's constitution, "the broad and free discussion of ideas and events, and the entertainment of distinguished persons." The founders included R. Stuyveysant Pierrepont, John S. Rogers, John R. Delafield, Richard L. Morris, William Gilman Low, Jr. and Edward S. Harkness, among others. The club was progressive from the beginning, electing women to their board of governors. Early topics included "Birth Control", "Americanism vs. Bolshevism", and "The Psychologist's Rediscovery of Man." The club met regularly until the 1970s when interest began to wane. The last years of the club's existence were plagued by declining membership and struggles to keep the club relevant to the times. The Club held its final meeting in February 1992.

## Scope and content note

The Contemporary Club collection includes minutes, membership lists, and correspondence detailing the workings of the club. Minutes before 1959 are extremely detailed and include all business conducted, members present, new members accepted, the names of speakers, and often a summary of the topic and discussion. Correspondence, primarily from 1971-1992, includes communication from the club's leadership, letters of resignation from members, and exchanges regarding the club's ongoing viability and future. There is also a folder of annotated constitutions and membership lists, all of which date from the 1970s.

## Arrangement note

Boxes one and two contain minutes and correspondence; box three contains the club's gavel.