Finding Aid to the Gamut Club Collection MS.548

Finding aid prepared by James Foster, Anna Liza Posas
Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
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2008
Title: Gamut Club Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS.548
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 25.0 folder[3 boxes] 25 folders, 4 guest registers
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1906-1932
Date (inclusive): 1906 - 1947
Abstract: The Gamut Club was founded in 1904 by L.E. Behymer and a group of Los Angeles musicians. The membership of this musical society was exclusively male and its objective, as described by their librarian Ben F. Field in 1918, was “brotherhood, assistance to the musical fraternity, and the uplifting of the art”. The collection consists of ephemera, institutional records, and Gamut Club guest registers. Much of the collection is related to Charles Clifton Draa who served on the Gamut Club’s reception committee and executive board from 1917-1932. Some of the materials also belonged to Lummis. There is also one folder of personal papers belonging to Draa that are unrelated to Gamut Club activities.
creator: Draa, Charles Clifton
creator: Gamut Club (Los Angeles, Calif.).
creator: Lummis, Charles Fletcher, 1859-1928.
Access
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org. An item-level inventory is available from library staff.
Use
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Preferred citation
Gamut Club Collection, 1906-1947, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; MS.548; [folder number] [folder title][date].
Processing history
Braun Research Library staff. Revised by James Foster and Anna Liza Posas, 2008. Processing of collection and publication of finding aid made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).
Custodial history
Some material in this collection originally came from the manuscript collections of Charles F. Lummis (MS.1) and the Newspaper Clippings Collection (MS.100) held at the Braun Research Library. It is unknown when the personal papers of Charles C. Draa were donated to the Library.
Related Archival Materials
The Huntington Library’s Collection of Panoramic Photographs, 1851-1947 (ID#photPAN), The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, Ca. MS.1 Charles Fletcher Lummis Manuscript Collection, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center MS.7 Frederick Webb Hodge Manuscript Collection, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center Gamut Club photographs, OP.658 and OP. 661, Braun Research Library Photographic Archives
Historical note
The Gamut Club was founded in 1904 by L.E. Behymer and a group of Los Angeles musicians. The membership of this musical society was exclusively male and its objective, as described by their librarian Ben F. Field in 1918, was “brotherhood, assistance to the musical fraternity, and the uplifting of the art”. Shortly afterwards, the Club broadened the scope of its activities by including other types of artists such as writers, painters, sculptors, filmmakers, and actors. According to the 1912 Gamut Club yearbook, the Club continued to expand its society by adding “business and professional men of artistic tastes and talents”. The Gamet Club building was located on 1044 South Hope Street in Los Angeles and built to meet the needs of their artistic clientele. Their building included a 668 seat theatre, music and banquet room, and artists studios. Charles Fletcher Lummis was a member of the Gamut Club and in 1924 they held a fiesta in his honor. The Club described Lummis as “our most distinguished member”.
Arrangement
The collection is arranged by type of the material. Ephemera are in folders 1-11, institutional records in folders 12-24, and the personal papers of Charles Draa are in folder 25. The guest registers are numbered S1-S4 and arranged chronologically.

Scope and contents

The collection consists of ephemera, institutional records, and Gamut Club guest registers. Much of the collection is related to Charles Clifton Draa who served on the Gamut Club’s reception committee and executive board from 1917-1932. Some of the materials also belonged to Lummis. There is also one folder of personal papers belonging to Draa that are unrelated to Gamut Club activities.

Ephemera material consists of invitations, announcements, and programs to Gamut Club hosted events. Events include recitals, birthday celebrations, special dinners, plays, meetings, the Los Angeles Grand Opera Association night, and “Ladies’ Night” where “every good Gamuteer is expected to bring a Lady or Ladies”. There is also a program for California a “scenic allegory” by G. Carl Bronson which doubles as the Club’s 1912 yearbook providing brief information about the Club and a list of its officers, directors, committees, and members. Another ephemera item is a booklet written on the Club’s history by their librarian, Ben F. Field, circa 1918. Institutional records include correspondence and files of the “Citizen Auditorium Committee”; Draa correspondence; Lummis correspondence and personal papers; list of Club members; resolutions; notes; newspaper articles; and printed lyrics and music to the Club’s anthem, “We Are the Gamuteers”, written by Draa. Within the newspaper material is The Damn It Club Occasional “published by the Wives, Sweethearts, and Sisters of the Gamut Club Members”. “Called ‘Damn It” because it is what we so often think when we are not allowed to enjoy the ‘Music,’ ‘Art’, and ‘Literature’ which our Husband, Lovers and Brothers so enthusiastically extol.” The clipping includes twenty-four caricatures and opinions of the Club’s executive board and members, including Draa and Lummis.

Gamut club guest registers are from 1906-1923 and have hand written signatures, drawings, and sayings from Club members, guests, and visitors.

Material throughout this collection includes images and names of the Club’s building, members, and guest musicians (both male and female). The personal papers of Draa relate to his involvement to the “Al Malaikah Temple” and the “Imperial Council, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine”, 1925-1947. They include a photograph with Draa and members of the Imperial council, membership documents, a play manuscript, and correspondence.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Business records
Clubs -- California -- Los Angeles
Correspondence
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- Sources
Music -- Societies, etc.
Programs
Registers
Yearbooks

Invitations and announcements, circa 1916-1920
Programs to Gamut club events, 1911-1927
Gamut Club Yearbooks, “Sylvan Gambol” June 29-30, 1912
Eighteenth birthday dinner program, April 5, 1922
Fiesta in honor of Charles Fletcher Lummis program, May 7, 1924
Los Angeles Grand Opera Association Night, commemorative paper fans, October 8, 1924
First Annual Gamut Club Festival program - January 30, 1925
Banquet Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce banquet for Crown Prince and Princess of Sweden, July 22, 1926
Twenty-fifth birthday program, April 3, 1929 (printed on silver paper)
Twenty-fifth birthday program, April 3, 1929 (printed on white paper)
Twenty-eighth birthday program, April 13, 1932
"Citizen’s Auditorium Committee" correspondence, 1923
Correspondence regarding Los Angeles Grand Opera Association Night, 1929
Charles F. Lummis correspondence and personal papers, 1911-1923
Correspondence between Charles Draa and Ernestine Schumann Heink, 1929
Charles C. Draa correspondence, 1928-1931
The Gamut Club- it’s past, present, and future” by Ben F. Field, 1918
Members list [no date]
"We are the Gamuteers" music and lyrics by Charles C. Draa, 1919
"Damn It Club Occasional" newspaper clipping, 1919
Newspaper clippings, 1914-1918
Resolution on death of Harrison Gray Otis descreed by Gamut Club, [no date]
“Young Artist’s Contest” notes, 1924
Gamut Club letterhead stationary
Charles C. Draa personal papers, circa 1925-1947
Guest registers, 1906-1923