
Guide to the American Bonsai Association, Sacramento records

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Guide to the American Bonsai Association, Sacramento records

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Sacramento, CA

Processed by:

Jennifer Janes

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Encoded by:

Sean Heyliger

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Descriptive Summary

Title: American Bonsai Association, Sacramento records

Dates: 1958—2007

Collection number: MS0022

Creator: American Bonsai Association, Sacramento

Collection Size: 2.5 linear feet(4 boxes)

Repository: Center for Sacramento History

Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento (ABAS) contains scrapbooks, club meeting minutes, board meeting minutes, membership rosters, newsletters, reports, correspondence, color photographs, and show ribbons. Founded in the spring of 1958, the American Bonsai Association, Sacramento (ABAS) club is dedicated to providing opportunities, resources and inspiration to promote the living art of bonsai. The documents and ephemera collected by the organization demonstrate the organizational history of the club, its participation in shows, and the types of events it hosted.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], American Bonsai Association, Sacramento records, MS0022, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information

A committee of members from the American Bonsai Association, Sacramento Chapter collected board meeting minutes, chapter minutes, photographs, and other organization related materials in scrapbooks as the archives for the club. These archives were kept by the club and donated to The Center for Sacramento History in 2009 (accession #2011-004).

Processing Information

American Bonsai Association, Sacramento records processed by Jennifer Janes, 2011. Finding Aid prepared by Jennifer Janes.

Biography / Administrative History

The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento (ABAS) is a regional organization dedicated to providing opportunities, resources and inspiration to promote the living art of bonsai. The club has been in operation in the Sacramento area since 1958, and continues to promote the art of bonsai today. The American Bonsai Association is a member club of the Golden State Bonsai Federation, which is an organization dedicated to the promotion of services and activities which promote the

art of bonsai throughout California.

In the spring of 1958, a Sacramento resident Richard Geisreiter taught a class called the "Art of Creating Bonsai" at the Sacramento YMCA. The class was popular, and the participants in the class decided to start a club dedicated to the art of Bonsai. Richard Geisreiter and fifteen participants from his class at the YMCA became the charter members for the American Bonsai Association. An organizational meeting took place among the charter members at Mr. Geisreiter's house in the spring, and the charter members exhibited at the California State Fair the following September. The club received sixth place in their first exhibition.

Following the 1958 State Fair, the charter members began drafting a Constitution and by-laws, which allowed the first new members to join. The club continued to recruit new members, and elected Mr. Marvin Blanchard as the first club president. Club meetings were originally supposed to take place bi-monthly, but interest by new members in the club was so great that the club increased meetings to once a month. The new club held their meetings at the Shepherd Garden and Arts Center at 3330 McKinley Boulevard in McKinley Park.

The ABAS participated in a number of other activities to promote the living art of bonsai. In 1961, the club began hosting paid programs to drive up membership. The club developed a speakers' series, which brought in outside guests to lecture and demonstrate new techniques for sculpting bonsai. Notable guests included Mr. Fuji Yoshimura and his assistant Toshio Saburemaru. Club members also took an annual bus trip to visit gardens or other organizations also interested in the art of bonsai.

Participation in expositions and garden shows was an important part of ABAS history since competition was believed to be an important part of learning the art of bonsai. The club regularly selected members to exhibit on the club's behalf at garden shows, fairs, and exhibitions. The ABAS participates in the annual California State Fair and Exposition, and often received high marks on their entries. The club also hosted bonsai shows at the Shepherd Art and Garden Center, which enabled a larger portion of the club members to showcase their bonsai plants.

The club continues to regularly meet at the Shepherd Arts and Garden Center in Sacramento's McKinley Park. The club also continues to produce a monthly newsletter called *The Bent Twig*, and participates in the California State Fair. General meetings are held every fourth Tuesday at seven o'clock in the evening.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection is divided into six series: scrapbooks, photographs, ephemera, newsletters, reports, and artifacts. These series hold materials from 1958 to 2007, and are held in four boxes.

Box 1 contains the scrapbook series, which is the largest series in the collection. The scrapbook series contains materials from 1958 to 2004, and is arranged chronologically. The scrapbook series has minutes from general club meetings, minutes from Board of Director meetings, membership rosters, various types of correspondence, information about club demonstrations, trips, and shows, and newsletters prior to 1997. The scrapbooks also contain club by-laws, and are present in the club record whenever revision was necessary. These scrapbooks were compiled by the Archives Committee of the Sacramento Club of the American Bonsai Association, and were kept as the administrative records for the club. The materials in this series were originally kept in binders with archival sleeves, but the storage facility where they were kept flooded. There was significant water and mold damage to some of the materials, particularly those found in scrapbooks 1 through 5. A number of the documents were fused together, and required humidification. For documents with irreparable mold damage, the papers were photocopied on archival paper and the originals were destroyed.

Box 2 contains the photograph series, which spans various dates from 1958 to the late 1990s. This series contains photographs from club shows, events, trips, and meetings, and are arranged chronologically when the dates are known. Many of the photographs demonstrate the quality of the bonsai plants that the club displayed at fairs and garden shows. Photographs originally pasted on non-archival paper were removed for preservation purposes. Three additional photo albums, kept in their original binding, are located in Box 4.

Box 3 contains the ephemera series and the newsletter series. The ephemera series contains various materials from club events, including event flyers and certificates from participation in fairs and expositions. The materials are from various dates, ranging from 1958 to 2007. The newsletter series contains issues of the club's monthly newsletter, *The Bent Twig*, from 1997 to 2007 and is arranged chronologically. Although the club printed a newsletter prior to 1997, it was not until this point that the newsletter had a name and was sent to members at a regularly scheduled time. After 1997, the newsletter maintained a standard template for relating information about club news and events, and was distributed on a monthly basis.

Box 4 contains the report series and the oversized photo albums. The report series contains an organizational history entitled "Golden State Bonsai Federation Historical Research Committee Report, 1977-1980." The report outlines the history of the Sacramento Club, and includes copies of various rosters, meeting minutes, and correspondence from 1958 to 1980. The report is kept in its original binding.

The artifacts series contains 10 ribbons from the club's participation in state fairs and expositions. Since its formation in 1958, the Sacramento Club of the American Bonsai Association participated in numerous shows, fairs, and expositions with their bonsai plants. The ribbons in the artifacts series are a small fraction of the awards given to the club throughout its existence.

Arrangement

Series 1. Scrapbooks Series 2. Photographs Series 3. Ephemera Series 4. Newsletters Series 5. Reports Series 6. Artifacts

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Bonsai--California

Bonsai--History

Sacramento (Calif.)--History

Series 1. Scrapbooks

Physical Description: 24 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

The scrapbook series contains materials from 1958 to 2004, and is arranged chronologically. The scrapbook series has minutes from general club meetings, minutes from Board of Director meetings, membership rosters, various types of correspondence, information about club demonstrations, trips, and shows, and newsletters prior to 1997. The scrapbooks also contain club by-laws, and are present in the club record whenever revision was necessary. These scrapbooks were compiled by the Archives Committee of the Sacramento Club of the American Bonsai Association, and were kept as the administrative records for the club.

Box 1:1	Scrapbook 1: February 1958 - February 1962
Box 1:2	Scrapbook 1: April 1962 - October 1963
Box 1:3	Scrapbook 1: January 1964 - December 1964
Box 1:4	Scrapbook 2 January 1965 - October 1966
Box 1:5	Scrapbook 2 November 1966 - January 1968
Box 1:6	Scrapbook 2 February 1968 - December 1968
Box 1:7	Scrapbook 3 January 1969 - June 1971
Box 1:8	Scrapbook 3 July 1971 - December 1973
Box 1:9	Scrapbook 4 January 1974 - September 1975
Box 1:10	Scrapbook 4 October 1975 - November 1977
Box 1:11	Scrapbook 4 October 1977 - December 1978
Box 1:12	Scrapbook 5 January 1979 - October 1979
Box 1:13	Scrapbook 5 November 1979 - June 1980
Box 1:14	Scrapbook 5 July 1980 - October 1980
Box 1:15	Scrapbook 6 February 1981 -October 1982
Box 1:16	Scrapbook 6 November 1982 - December 1983
Box 1:17	Scrapbook 7 January 1984 - December 1987
Box 1:18	Scrapbook 7 January 1988 - December 1989
Box 1:19	Scrapbook 8 January 1990 - August 1990
Box 1:20	Scrapbook 8 September 1990 - December 1995
Box 1:21	Scrapbook 9 January 1996 - April 1997
Box 1:22	Scrapbook 9 May 1997 - May 1998
Box 1:23	Scrapbook 10 July 1999 - March 2002
Box 1:24	Scrapbook 11 2003-2007

Series 2. Photographs

Physical Description: 8 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

The photographs series contains photographs from club shows, events, trips, and meetings, and are arranged chronologically when the dates are known. Many of the photographs demonstrate the quality of the bonsai plants that the club displayed at fairs and garden shows. Photographs originally pasted on non-archival paper were removed for preservation purposes. Three additional photo albums, kept in their original binding, are located in Box 4.

Box 2:1
Box 2:2
Box 2:3
Box 2:4
Box 2:5
Box 2:6
Box 2:7
Box 2:8
Box 4
Box 4
Box 4
Box 3:1

Photo Album 1 1978 - Spring 1980

Photo Album 1 1980

Photo Album 2 undated

Photo Album 2 undated

Photo Album 2 undated

Photo Album 3 Spring Show and Sale 1994

Other Photos undated

Other Photos undated

Photo Album (white): Annual Spring Bonsai Show April 1973

Photo Album (blue): Photographs from club events, demonstrations undated

Photo Album (brown): Photographs from club events, demonstrations undated

Series 3. Ephemera 1959 - 2007

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

The ephemera series contains various materials from club events, including event flyers and certificates from participation in fairs and expositions. The materials are from various dates, ranging from 1958 to 2007.

Series 4. Newsletters

Physical Description: 3 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

The newsletter series contains issues of the club's monthly newsletter, The Bent Twig, from 1997 to 2007 and is arranged chronologically. Although the club printed a newsletter prior to 1997, it was not until this point that the newsletter had a name and was sent to members at a regularly scheduled time. After 1997, the newsletter maintained a standard template for relating information about club news and events, and was distributed on a monthly basis.

The Bent Twig November 1997 - December 2001

The Bent Twig January 2002 - December 2004

The Bent Twig January 2005 - March 2007

Box 3
Box 4

Series 5. Reports Golden State Bonsai Federation Historical Research Committee Report 1977-1980

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

The report series contains an organizational history entitled "Golden State Bonsai Federation Historical Research Committee Report, 1977-1980." The report outlines the history of the Sacramento Club, and includes copies of various rosters, meeting minutes, and correspondence from 1958 to 1980. The report is kept in its original binding.

Series 6. Artifacts

Physical Description: 10 ribbons

Series Scope and Content Summary

The artifacts series contains 10 ribbons from the club's participation in state fairs and expositions. Since its formation in 1958, the Sacramento Club of the American Bonsai Association participated in numerous shows, fairs, and expositions with their bonsai plants.

Box 4	Fifth Award, California State Fair & Exposition 1958
Box 4	Third Premium Award, Floriculture, California State Fair and Exposition 1963
Box 4	Third Premium Award, Floriculture, California State Fair and Exposition 1964
Box 4	Fourth Premium Award, Floriculture, California State Fair & Exposition 1965-09-01
Box 4	Second Award, Model Garden, Sacramento County Fair 5/23/1967
Box 4	Award of Merit, Model Gardens, Sacramento County Fair May 23-28, 1967
Box 4	First Premium Award, Floriculture, California State Fair and Exposition 8/30/1967
Box 4	Third Premium Award, Bonsai, California Exposition 1968
Box 4	Fifth Premium Award, Bonsai, California Exposition 1968
Box 4	First Place Award, California State Fair Outdoor Gardens 1971