Guide to the Shen Yo Scrapbook

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Guide to the Shen Yo Scrapbook 1924/1935

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Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: Shen Yo Scrapbook
Dates: 1924-1935
Identification: MS-0486
Creator: Shen Yo Sorority, 1921-
Physical Description: 0.92 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
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Biographical Information:
Named for the Chinese poet, the Shen Yo sorority held its first meeting 21 December 1921 at the home of Elsie Corrin, and was the first sorority at San Diego State College. The group initially consisted of twelve members who sought to provide “inspiration of achievement” and find “joy in friendship” by forming the sorority. Their colors were Chinese red and blue. By the 1930s, Shen Yo consisted of over eighty members and included an alumni chapter. The sorority held numerous dances, parties, teas, bridge games, and dinners.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.
Corporate Name:
Greek letter societies -- California -- San Diego -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
San Diego State University -- Students -- Social life and customs -- 20th century -- Sources
Topical Term:
Women college students -- California -- San Diego -- Societies and clubs
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Related Materials:
Phi Sigma Nu Collection
Scope and Contents

The *Shen Yo Scrapbook* (1924-1935) documents the sorority’s activities and those of its members, and appears to have been compiled by the sorority, not an individual member. The scrapbook includes invitations, news clippings, dance cards, place cards, photographs, programs, notes, and various sorority documents pasted onto the scrapbook’s pages that record sorority events. These events include dinners, teas, pajama sprees, a wheelbarrow race, bridge games, beach parties, dances, and more. The scrapbook also contains numerous news articles, such as wedding and theater announcements, about various sorority sisters, many of whom were active in local performing arts. Highlights include hand-painted Art Deco place cards, and orders to rushees during rush week.