

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS

AFC 15

Inventory prepared by Claire James – February 2005
Inventory revised by Robin Keirstead – May 2007

WESTERN ARCHIVES
THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FONDS DESCRIPTION	4
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS	6
Series 1 Club History	
Series 2 Meetings	
Series 3 Annual Banquet	
Series 4 Correspondence	
Series 5 Artifacts	

THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1947 - 2002; predominant 1947 - 1967

Extent and Material

4 cm of textual records

2 volumes

2 artifacts

Administrative History

The Chiron Club was formed in 1947 by a group of academics from the Faculty of Medicine, which was then located on South Street opposite Victoria Hospital, and a group from the University's main campus. There were initially fifteen members. It was believed that a common point of contact and informal communication was needed at the time and the Chiron Club was intended to serve this function.

Membership was limited to approximately 25 members, as the group could be no larger than could be accommodated in members' living rooms. During the Club's existence over forty academics were members at one time or another. When members temporarily left the Club, such as due to a sabbatical leave, they were "pasteurized" and were therefore able to return to the Club without having to be re-elected.

The Chiron Club met monthly from September to April. At the end of each meeting a Chairman and a Speaker were elected for the following meeting. Meetings were usually held at the home of the Chairman, who acted as host and provided refreshments. The Speaker would present a paper at the meeting for discussion by the other members. The papers and discussions were always lively, entertaining, and informative, especially as the membership spanned many fields and a remarkable range of experience. The meetings also provided an informal atmosphere for discussion of current issues in and around the University. As the University President, Dr. G. Edward Hall, was sometimes a guest at these meetings, it is likely that the Chiron's had some informal influence on policy and actions taken at the University. At the final regular meeting of the academic year, usually in March, the Secretary was elected for the coming academic year, usually chosen from among those absent from the meeting. The academic year usually concluded with an Annual Banquet held in April. The Banquet Committee was elected at a meeting several months earlier, again often composed of those absent from that particular meeting. The Annual Banquet provided an opportunity for such entertainment as singing, contests and skits. The Chiron Club served as a great social and intellectual outlet for some twenty years, ceasing activities in 1968. In many ways it also served as an informal precursor of the Faculty Association and the University Club.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of materials related to the activities of the Chiron Club. Records include minutes, lists of members, reports, annual banquet materials, correspondence, an election book, and gavel used at meetings. It also includes two brief histories of the Club prepared by Dr. R. G. E. Murray.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1 Club History
- Series 2 Meetings
- Series 3 Annual Banquet
- Series 4 Correspondence
- Series 5 Artifacts

As the contents of the fonds were not arranged in any particular order when received, they were arranged by the archivist to reflect the activities of the Club.

Finding Aids

File lists available.

Custodial History

These records were in the custody of Drs. R. G. E. Murray and Robert L. Noble, two of the founding members of the Chiron Club, until 1990. At that time, Dr. Murray took custody of all the material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The University of Western Ontario acquired the fonds from Dr. R. G. E. Murray on July 22, 2002.

Notes

1. Robert L. Noble, one of the founding members of the Chiron Club, was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 1997 for his discoveries related to cancer research.

THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 History

Dates

1988; 2002

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of two handwritten histories prepared by Dr. R. G. E. Murray. The 1988 history provides an overview of Chiron Club activities as well as a list of some of the long-standing members. The 2002 history describes the purpose of the Club and provides some specific details about the gavel, strike plate and the Annual Banquet.

Notes

1. There are some inconsistencies between the two histories.

File List

History

1988; 2002

AFC 15 - 1 / 1

THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 2 Meetings

Dates

1953 - 1973

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records
2 volumes

Scope and Content

Series consists of lists, including lists of members; conscience sheets, detailing which members had acted as hosts, chairmen and speakers; an attendance sheet; reports providing a synopsis of meetings held during the year; minutes, including a Minute Book and some loose leaf pages removed from it; and an election book, providing names of proposed members and the outcome of voting.

Notes

1. Included is a list detailing the founding members between 1947 and 1950. It was likely written in 1973, as it is on the back of a convocation notice for 1973.
2. There are no minutes for the academic year 1961-1962 in the Minute Book.
3. The Election Book is undated and is missing several pages.

File List

Lists	1953 - 1973	AFC 15 - 1 / 2
Reports	1959; 1964	AFC 15 - 1 / 3
Minutes	1954; 1958; 1967	AFC 15 - 1 / 4
Minute Book (vol.)	1957 - 1967	AFC 15 - 1 / 5
Election Book	[19--]	AFC 15 - 1 / 6

THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 3 Events

Dates

1955 - 1967

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of documents relating to events held by the Chiron Club. They include notices, invitations, a program and a report relating to the Annual Banquet, as well as a program and a script for a skit from the Collip Research Lab Christmas party in 1959, which may have been used for inspiration for a Chiron Club event. Also included are various undated scripts for skits performed at the Annual Banquet, as well as an apparent spoof agreement between American journalist H.L. Mencken, Cinema (Canada) Pictures, and John Labatt Ltd.

Notes

1. Although the spoof agreement is dated 1946, a year before the Chiron Club was established, it is doubtful that it is the actual date as it was intended as a prank, likely at a meet or special event.

File List

Annual Banquet	1955 - 1967	AFC 15 - 1 / 7
Scripts	[19--]	AFC 15 - 1 / 8
Spoof Agreement	[19--]	AFC 15 - 1 / 9

**THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 4 Correspondence

Dates

1961 - 1967

Extent and Material

1 cm textual records

Scope and Content

Series consists of correspondence from various Chiron Club members dealing with such topics as reasons for resigning from the club or missing a meeting and confirming a guest speaker.

Notes

1. The correspondence provides some insight into the sense of humour that permeated many aspects of the Chiron Club and its activities.

File List

Correspondence

1961 - 1967

AFC 15 - 1 / 10

THE CHIRON CLUB FONDS
AFC 15
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 5 Artifacts

Dates

1947

Extent and Material

1 gavel

1 strike plate

Scope and Content

Series consists of a wooden gavel and strike plate, which were made and donated to the Chiron Club in 1947 by Prof. Alan C. Burton, a founding member.

Notes

1. The strike plate is referred to as a “whacking board” in the October, 1954 minutes.
2. Engraved on the gavel are the Greek letters for Chiron, a book and microscope, and “UWO 1947.”

File List

Gavel	1947	AFC 15 - 2
Strike Plate	1947	AFC 15 - 2