

THE CHICAGO
LITERARY
CLUB

The First Hundred Years

1874-1974



CHICAGO : 1974

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Foreword

THE centennial anniversary of *The Chicago Literary Club* is the very proper occasion for the publication of a *History of sorts, commenting on the beginnings and the founders, the illustrious members over the years, the steadfast philosophy and stated purpose of the club, and a characteristically modest record of its accomplishments.*

It needs to be stated that this volume is not the only published history of the Club. In 1926 a volume of 299 pages was published titled History of the Chicago Literary Club, 1874-1924. It covered the period from 1874, the beginning year, to 1924. It was written and produced by an eminent member, Frederick William Gookin, who served as secretary of the Club from 1880 to 1920.

A second historical volume was published in 1947, titled History of the Chicago Literary Club, 1924-1946, covering two more decades. It was written and produced by Payson Sibley Wild, who followed Gookin as secretary, and who served so for twenty-seven years, from 1920 to 1947.

As the Centennial approached, the Board of Directors prevailed upon another secretary of the Club to undertake the planning, the writing, and the production of a one-hundred-year history. This was Walker B. Davis, who had served as secretary from 1954 to 1966. He did the original planning and carried out the detailed and wearisome research to produce the informative appendices which are a valuable part of this volume. But when he moved to Tryon, North Carolina, he found the distance from source material too great a handicap and asked for relief.

Theodore G. Remer then accepted responsibility as Managing Editor, with a small advisory committee consisting of Walker Davis, Nathaniel Apter, and the Chairman of the Club's Centennial Committee, ex officio. Remer spent about a year at the intriguing chore,

did extensive research through the club's records housed in the Newberry Library, and projected creative ideas for the History.

When illness blocked his continuance, in the early spring of 1973, just a year before the anticipated publication date, the Centennial Committee appointed an emergency Editorial Committee headed by Herman H. Lackner, secretary of the Club, working closely with Nathaniel Apter and Orville T. Bailey. The members of the Centennial Committee acted in an advisory capacity and the President of the Club for the Centennial Year, Cyril O. Houle, provided constant support. Addis M. Osborne selected the illustrations.

In a sense, this History is not a history. It is a reflection of the form of the club's literary exercises, adopted a hundred years ago and continued to the present time—the presentation of thoughtfully prepared essays on subjects stimulating and interesting to the members.

President Houle, in his inaugural paper delivered before the Club on October 8, 1973, presented Montaigne as "The Founder". He stated: "I have called him the founder of this Club, since he created the literary form we use . . ."

This History then might well be dedicated to Montaigne, who did his writing three hundred years before we were conceived since it is a series of essays rather than of historical chapters. Nevertheless, it is dedicated to its editors and contributors who have produced this unique History of a hundred years well spent.

ARTHUR A. BAER
Chairman, Centennial Committee

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

NATHANIEL S. APTER

WALKER B. DAVIS

MANLY S. MUMFORD

ORVILLE T. BAILEY

JOHN W. HUFFMAN

THEODORE G. REMER

WILLIAM K. BEATTY

HERMAN H. LACKNER

The Contents

FOREWORD	<i>Arthur A. Baer</i>	vii
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	<i>Addis M. Osborne</i>	xi
AD NOSTRAM SODALITATEM	<i>Franklin C. Bing</i>	xiii
THE CLIMATE	<i>Orville T. Bailey</i>	3
IN THE BEGINNING	<i>Theodore G. Remer</i>	7
THE FISCAL CENTURY	<i>Thomas Boal</i>	15
1874-1924	<i>Peter Edge</i>	19
1924-1946	<i>John B. Saunders</i>	28
1946-1953	<i>George W. Gale</i>	35
1953-1960	<i>Frederic T. Jung</i>	44
1960-1967	<i>Danforth Killips</i>	48
1967-1973	<i>Edward M. Paluga</i>	56
LADIES' NIGHTS	<i>William B. Wartman</i>	63
The Centennial Year and After	<i>Cyril O. Houle</i>	67
APPENDIX A—Officers of the Club		72
APPENDIX B—Roll of Members and Papers Read		77
APPENDIX C—Club Publications		140

List of Illustrations

CLUB CHARTER AND MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING	<i>End-papers</i>
	<i>Facing Page</i>
THE MEETING PLACE.	8
<i>With Portrait of The First President</i>	
FREDERICK WILLIAM GOOKIN	20
<i>Secretary Treasurer, 1880-1920</i>	
PAYSON SIBLEY WILD	28
<i>Secretary-Treasurer 1920-1950</i>	
BULLETIN BOARD	38
WALKER B. DAVIS	52
<i>Secretary-Treasurer 1954-1966</i>	
PUBLICATIONS	58
WILLARD L. KING.	68
<i>Essayist for the Centennial Celebration</i>	

Ad Nostram Sodalitatem

A man might very easily be glum
When he has reached an age, say sixty-nine,
And looks ahead, beyond God's cut-off line,
To Winter years that all too soon will come.
On these, our final laps, each sense grows numb,
Life loses fragrance, as an uncorked wine
Its memories of Autumn's fruitful vine,
The Summer's greening, and the wild bee's hum.
But when we think of our dear Club-night friends,
And how they smooth the path we travel by,
We praise our Founding Fathers, every week
For Mondays, and for what this Club forefends—
The right to say here what we think and why—
Then calmly face our Winter's rocky peak.

—*Franklin C. Bing*

SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Henry Dement



Secretary State

That in and to all these ends, Shall Come Creating:

Whereas, CERTIFICATE, duly signed and acknowledged, having been filed in the office of the Secretary of State on the 10th day of July 1886 for the organization of the The Chicago Literary Club,

under and in accordance with the provisions of "AN ACT CONCERNING CORPORATIONS," approved April 25, 1882, and on prior July 1, 1882, copies of which certificate is hereto attached.

Now, therefore, I, HENRY D. DEMENT, Secretary of State of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the powers and duties vested in me by law, do hereby certify that the said The Chicago Literary Club,

is a legally organized Corporation under the laws of this State

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand

and cause to be affixed the great Seal of State
at the City of Springfield this twelfth
day of July in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and eighty six and
the Independence of the United States the one
hundred and 11th

Henry Dement

State of Illinois,

Cook

COUNTY.

To HENRY D. DEMENT, Secretary of State:

We, the undersigned Alexander C. McElberg
James L. Heigh George C. Noyes
Bryan Leatherup Clinton Leckie
 and Frederick W. Gooden

citizens of the United States, propose to form a Corporation under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act Concerning Corporations," approved April 18, 1872, and all acts amendatory thereof; and for the purposes of such organization we hereby state as follows: to-wit:

1. The name of such Corporation is The Chicago Literary Club
2. The object for which it is formed is social, literary and artistic culture

3. The management of the aforesaid Club shall be vested in a Board of Six (6) Directors, who are to be elected annually

4. The following persons are hereby selected as the Directors to control and manage said Corporation for the first year of its corporate existence, viz: Alexander C. McElberg
James L. Heigh George C. Noyes
Bryan Leatherup Clinton Leckie
 and Frederick W. Gooden

5. The location is the City of Chicago in the County of Cook State of Illinois.

SIGNED:

A. C. McElberg
James L. Heigh
Geo. C. Noyes
Bryan Leatherup
Clinton Leckie
Frederick W. Gooden

State of Illinois.

County of Cook

I, William T. Summers

Notary Public

in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that on this 9th day of

July 1906, personally appeared before me

Alexander O. McHenry James G. Leigh

George A. Nease Benjamin Beasly

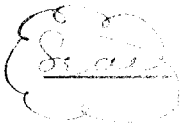
Clinton Lowrey W. Hardwick H. Grossen

to me personally known to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and verbally acknowledged that they had executed the same for the purposes therein stated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 9th day of July 1906.

William T. Summers

Notary Public



Chicago, May 11th 1874.

The First Regular Meeting of the Chicago Library Club was held at the Sherman House at 8 P.M.

Those present were Jameson, Poole, Moray, Doygett, French, Cleveland, Bunkley, Charles, Howland, Loring, King, Trumbull, Bealer, LeMoine, Wilkinson, Richard, Gilbert, & B. Smith, Chamberlain, J. L. High, Johnson and Mason. In the absence of the President, Vice-President Jameson took the Chair.

W. E. Poole read the report of the Committee on Arrangements and Exercises which was accepted. The order of Exercises proposed by the Committee was read and discussed, article by article, and adopted in the following form:

Order of Exercises.

1. — The first half-hour is to be spent socially.
2. — The usual literary exercises are to be an essay, or other original paper, by some member.
3. — Once in two months the literary exercises are to consist of the reading, by an editor appointed for the occasion, of original contributions of members - this exercise being wholly under the charge of the editor.
4. — The literary exercises in general are not to continue more than one hour.
5. — The essayist is to select his own subject, and be free to express any opinion whatsoever thereon.
6. — While the largest liberty of thought and expression is allowed to individual members, the Club, as such, is neither to express or have any opinions in religion, politics, social science, political economy, or any other subject. It is not by vote to endorse or condemn any paper that may be read, or views that may be expressed by any member.
7. — In order to secure the largest liberty to the essayist, and to avoid a conflict of opinions, no paper, at the time it is read, is to be open to adverse criticism in the Club. Any member, however, whom he writes, may select the same subject and treat it with entire freedom, as was done by the previous essayist.
8. — The Committee on Order of Exercises shall, on or before the first meeting of the Club in the autumn, prepare and print a scheme of exercises, with the dates and the names of the readers and the editors, for the whole season, that ample time may be given to members for the preparation of their papers. The subject of each essayist shall be announced at the meeting next preceding, and on the day of the meeting, no one or more shall