

Hampden-Sydney College Union Literary Society Correspondence

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1829-1857



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1993.001

Unit Date

1829-1857

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Correspondence of Hampden-Sydney College literary society, relating to routine business of the society, including membership and lecture invitations, regalia, and furnishings.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Hampden-Sydney College Union Literary Society Correspondence was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1993.

Processing Information

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Biographical / Historical

The Union Literary Society was founded at Hampden-Sydney College (Hampden Sydney, Virginia) in 1789, to provide the college's students a forum for improving their rhetoric through writing, speaking, and debating. The society had its own hall and library on campus and fulfilled its mission by staging formal debates among its members and engaging in formal debates with competing literary societies, largely focusing on political issues of the day. In 1929, the Union Literary Society merged with its on-campus rival, the Philanthropic Literary Society, to form the Union-Philanthropic Society. The society remains active today (2023).

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 16 pieces of incoming correspondence of Hampden-Sydney College's Union Literary Society. The correspondence relates to the society's routine business and includes responses to invitations to join the membership or to lecture before the society. Also included are letters from various vendors relating to purchases of regalia or furnishings for the society. Within the correspondence of potential members and lecturers are letters from John S. Caskie, Thomas Saunders Gholson, James E. Heath, Elias Lyman Magoon, Chesley Martin, Henry W. Miller, Joseph Nimmo, and Harry Robertson. Vendors represented in the collection are H. K. Ellyson, Jos. M. Freeman, Samuel W. Harwood, John W. Hines, Joseph Perkins, R. C. Richardson (for Jaquelin P. Taylor), and Francis B. Watkins.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Hampden-Sydney College

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Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1829-1857

folder 1