

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

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| <p>Name of collection:<br/>Worcester, Mass. St. Wulstan Society, Records, c.1890-1987</p>  | <p>Location:<br/>Mss. Boxes "W"<br/>Octavo Volumes "W"</p> |
| <p>Size of collection:<br/>4 mss. boxes; 11 octavo volumes</p>   | <p>N.U.C.M.C. number:<br/>N.A.</p>                         |
| <p>Finding aids:<br/>See Charles Nutt, <u>History of Worcester and Its People</u> (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1919), vol. 2, p. 777; see also Octavo Volume #1; Box 2, folder 4; and Box 3, folder 3.</p>  |  |
| <p>Source of collection:<br/>Deposited periodically by the St. Wulstan Society</p>   |  |
| <p>Collection description:<br/>The St. Wulstan Society was organized by J(eremiah) Evarts Greene (1834-1902) in 1890 as a social and literary society for men. Meetings were held at the homes of members; following dinner one of the men would present a paper on a topic of interest to the group. These topics ranged from reminiscences of Worcester to discussions of national politics. The original membership included George Frisbie Hoar (1826-1904), Rev. Daniel Merriman (1838-1912), the Very Rev. John J. Power (1828-1902), Samuel Swett Green (1837-1918), Stephen Salisbury (1835-1905), and Dr. Granville Stanley Hall (1844-1924). The membership of the society was always limited to sixteen men.<br/>At the first meeting Henry Alexander Marsh (1836-1914), a member of the society and lawyer for Helen C. Hayward Knowles, Mrs. Lucius J. ( -1884), suggested that the society become trustees of Knowles' estate. She had left a sizable bequest for the advancement of art education in Worcester. The society, through its Art Commission, agreed to administer the estate, and in 1891 the society was incorporated for the purpose of promoting "literature, art, historical and social science in Worcester, and holding and administering the Helen C. Knowles legacy for promotion of art education in Worcester...."<br/>In the 1890s Stephen Salisbury suggested that the society merge its interests with the art museum he was proposing to establish in Worcester. After some controversy, the society decided to maintain its independent status.<br/>Through the years the income from the Knowles bequest was distributed by the society to the Worcester Art Museum, the Art Students Club, the public school system, and various art organizations. In January 1971 the fund was turned over to the Worcester Art Museum, and the society has reverted to its original function as a social and literary society.<br/>See the contents list that follows for a description of the documents in the collection.</p> |  |

28 April 1978

Add. 10 December 1987

WORCESTER, MASS. ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY

Contents List

Box 1:

- Folder 1 Postcards Announcing Meeting Dates, 1892-1902
- 2 Miscellaneous Manuscripts  
Includes notes, information about the collection, and samples of the seal of the St. Wulstan Society (woodcut of the seal transferred to Graphic Arts, 1978)
- 3 Newspaper Clippings about the Society, 1885 & 1891
- 4 Manuscripts Pertaining to the Organization of the Society  
Includes copy of 1884 will of Helen C. Knowles, incorporation records, bylaws
- 5 Manuscripts Pertaining to the Organization of the Society  
Includes reports and extracts from early records
- 6 Schedules of Meetings, 1890-1918
- Records of the Society. Includes reports, legal and financial records, membership lists, lists of talks given, bylaws, and information on St. Wulstan
- 7 Records, 1891-1893
- 8 Records, 1895-1897
- 9 Records, 1898-1900
- 10 Records, 1901-1904
- 11 Records, 1908-1918
- 12 Records, 1921-1937

Box 2:

- Folder 1 Records, 1948-1955
- 2 Records, 1959-1970
- 3 Records, 1979-1986

Copies of papers delivered at meetings, mostly brief summaries; includes a history of the Society by Henry G. Stoddard written in 1948

- 4 Papers, 1901 & 1948
- 5 Papers, 1951-1954
- 6 Papers, 1955-1956

Box 2:

|        |    |                   |
|--------|----|-------------------|
| Folder | 7  | Papers, 1957-1960 |
|        | 8  | Papers, 1969-1973 |
|        | 9  | Papers, 1974      |
|        | 10 | Papers, 1975      |
|        | 11 | Papers, 1976      |

Box 3:

|        |   |                   |
|--------|---|-------------------|
| Folder | 1 | Papers, 1977-1981 |
|        | 2 | Papers, 1982-1985 |
|        | 3 | Papers, 1986-     |

Correspondence. Includes thank-you letters from recipients of scholarships, correspondence scheduling dinner meetings and papers presented at those meetings, and information on new members

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 4 | Correspondence, Undated; 1888-1891 |
| 5 | Correspondence, 1892-1893          |
| 6 | Correspondence, 1894-1905          |
| 7 | Correspondence, 1916-1923          |
| 8 | Correspondence, 1924-1935          |
| 9 | Correspondence, 1936-1937          |

Box 4:

|        |   |                           |
|--------|---|---------------------------|
| Folder | 1 | Correspondence, 1948-1949 |
|        | 2 | Correspondence, 1950-1955 |
|        | 3 | Correspondence, 1956-1963 |
|        | 4 | Correspondence, 1972-1986 |
|        | 5 | Correspondence, 1987-     |

Octavo Volumes:

- #1 Notebook, undated  
Includes a brief history of the Society titled "The Origin of the Club" and copies of early records
- #2 Treasurer's Record Book, June 1891-1913
- #3 Records of the Art Commission of the St. Wulstan Society, January 1891-October 1916  
Includes minutes of meetings, records of financial support given to the Art Students Club and to art classes and exhibitions, and newspaper clipping about Stephen Salisbury's proposal for the establishment of the Worcester Art Museum, 1891. Most pages blank.
- #4 St. Wulstan Society Records, January 1891-February 1902  
Includes agreement of the association, bylaws, minutes of meetings, copies of correspondence, treasurer's reports, and titles of papers presented at meetings of the society
- #5 St. Wulstan Society Records, March 1902-October 1918  
Continuation of volume #4 with treasurer's reports and reports of the Art Commission, brief summaries of papers presented at meetings, tipped-in manuscripts, and some loose manuscripts in an envelope
- #6 St. Wulstan Society Records, October 1918-October 1931  
Continuation of volume #5 with summaries of papers presented at meetings, and some manuscripts tipped-in
- #7 St. Wulstan Society Records, November 1931-October 1947
- #8 St. Wulstan Society Records, November 1947-December 1955
- #9 St. Wulstan Society Records, December 1955-January 1964
- #10 St. Wulstan Society Records, February 1964-June 1983
- #11 St. Wulstan Society Records, January 1984-