

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Worcester Choral Union, Records, 1850-1930</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Octavo volumes "W" Folio volumes "W" Mss. boxes "W"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>13 octavo volumes; 1 folio volume; 1 mss. box</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For further information concerning the musical societies in Worcester, see Franklin P. Rice, <u>The Worcester of 1898</u> (Worcester: F.S. Blanchard and Company, 1899), p. 215. See also, Charles Nutt, <u>History of Worcester and Its People</u> (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1919), vol. 2, p. 787; and "History of the Worcester Choral Union," located in folder 3 in mss. box of this collection.</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Mozart, Beethoven, and Choral Union Records the gift of Luther Merritt Lovell, 1932; Hamilton Music Club Records the gift of Forrest W. Taylor Estate, 1952</p>	
<p>Collection description:</p> <p>During the mid-nineteenth century, several musical societies were formed in Worcester, Mass., "for the improvement of musical Science" among its citizens. An objective of the Worcester Mozart Society, founded in 1850, was "the practice of the higher branches of vocal music for...the cultivation of a correct musical taste." Other organizations included the Worcester Music Club, 1858-1859, the Hamilton Musical Club, 1863-1867, and the Beethoven Society, 1864-1866. The members paid dues, purchased music, held weekly rehearsals, and performed in concerts in the city and occasionally in neighboring states. Due to the large number of musical societies, a consolidation occurred in 1866 and was named the Mozart and Beethoven Choral Union. Incorporated in 1871 as the Worcester Choral Union, this group held concerts at Mechanics Hall and remained a viable organization until 1881, when membership declined. In 1930 its assets were transferred to the Worcester County Musical Association, which had been formed in 1879.</p> <p>This collection contains records, 1850-1930, of the Worcester Music Club, Hamilton Musical Club, the Mozart Society, Beethoven Society, Mozart and Beethoven Choral Union, and finally, the incorporated Worcester Choral Union. Included in the volumes are reports of secretaries, treasurers, and librarians, minutes of annual meetings, rehearsals, and trustees' meetings, membership lists, attendance records, constitutions and bylaws, copies of the acts of consolidation and incorporation, printed concert programs, and newsclippings of concert reviews and club activities.</p> <p>The manuscript box contains receipted bills, 1866-1872, business correspondence, a printed history of the Worcester Choral Union, committee and librarian's reports, and amended bylaws of 1878. There are also copies of the acts of consolidation and incorporation, printed programs, and a decree transferring property of the Choral Union in 1930. Among the people who played active roles in these organizations were Edward Hamilton (1812-1870), Alexander Cole Munroe (1831-1911), and Luther Merritt Lovell (1847-1935).</p>	

15 June 1978

See Contents List.

WORCESTER CHORAL UNION

Contents List

- Octavo Volume #1 Worcester Music Club, Records, 1858-1859, with minutes of meetings
- Octavo Volume #2 Hamilton Musical Club Records, 1863-1867 with bylaws, membership list, minutes of meetings
- Octavo Volume #3 Mozart Society, Records of Secretary and Treasurer, 1850-1856, with constitution, bylaws, membership lists, minutes of meetings
- Octavo Volume #4 Mozart Society, Records of Secretary and Treasurer, 1856-1866
- Octavo Volume #5 Mozart Society, Cash Book, 1862-1866
- Octavo Volume #6 Beethoven Society, Accounts and Memoranda of Concerts, 1864-1866
- Octavo Volume #7 Beethoven Society, Record and Cash Book, 1864-1866, with bylaws, minutes, and membership list. Also, interleaved printed programs
- Octavo Volume #8 Mozart and Beethoven Choral Union, Records, 1866-1872, with terms of consolidation, treasurer's and librarian's reports, membership lists, minutes of meetings, and records of Board of Trustees
- Octavo Volume #9 Worcester Choral Union, Records of Accounts, 1869-1871, with banks. Also, membership directory
- Octavo Volume #10 Worcester Choral Union, Record Book, 1871-1880, with copy of act of incorporation, librarian's records, minutes of regular meetings and Board of Government meetings, and interleaved concert programs and newsclippings
- Octavo Volume #11 Worcester Choral Union, Record Book, 1881-1930, with amended bylaws, printed programs, records of club's dissolution in 1930
- Octavo Volume #12 Worcester Choral Union, Membership Register, 1872-1874; 1878
- Octavo Volume #13 Worcester Choral Union, invitations, 1880-1881, with acceptances to choral membership
- Folio Volume #1 Mozart Society, Attendance Record Book, 1852-1864
- Manuscript Box: Folder #1 Receipted Bills, 1866-1870  
Folder #2 Receipted Bills, 1871-1872  
Folder #3 Miscellaneous Papers, 1866-1930