

Charitable Irish Society Records 1781-2014 (bulk 1880-2014)

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Summary Information

Library Unit	Archives and Manuscripts Department
Creator	Charitable Irish Society
Source	Charitable Irish Society
Title	Charitable Irish Society records
Date [inclusive]	1781-2017
Date [bulk]	1880-2014
Extent	40.25 Linear Feet (38 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	The Charitable Irish Society records consist of the professional and historical records of the Charitable Irish Society of Boston. These include administrative files, reports on committees and special projects, constitutions, membership records, anniversary dinner programs, subject files, photographs, artifacts, and financial records.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Charitable Irish Society records, MS.1993.012, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research. Materials in Series IX: Financial records that are less than 75 years old are closed.

Restrictions on use

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Provenance

Donated by Charitable Irish Society, 1993 and subsequent years.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Charitable Irish Society records, MS. N-1474, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02215. <http://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/fa0123>

Historical Note

The Charitable Irish Society was founded in Boston on 1737 with two purposes, as set forth in its constitution: "to cultivate a spirit of unity and harmony among the Irish in Massachusetts, advocating the interests and cultural heritage of the Irish people; to alleviate suffering by helping members or other worthy recipients."

The Charitable Irish Society is the oldest Irish organization in North America, and it remains committed to its original mission. During its first century the Society's membership was mainly Protestant, consisting of the descendants of Ulster Presbyterians. During and after the great famine in Ireland in the 1840's, many Irish migrated to Boston, most of them Catholics. The Society concentrated its efforts on helping the new arrivals, and gradually its membership and leadership became Catholic.

The Society has continued its original mission while adapting to changing circumstances. Its members now work with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Immigration Center, and the Irish Pastoral Center to aid Irish and other people in need. The Society also plays a major role in the "Catch the Spirit – Citizenship" program.

A longer history of the Society, called *The Silver Key: A History of the Charitable Irish Society Founded in Boston 1737*, was written by Charles T. Burke in 1973.

Sources:

Charitable Irish Society, "www.charitableirishsociety.org." Last modified 2015. Accessed August 21, 2015. <http://www.charitableirishsociety.org>.

Scope and Contents

The Charitable Irish Society records include correspondence, financial records, meeting minutes and agendas, membership records, subject files, ledgers, printed materials, certificates, ephemera, artifacts, and photographs documenting the membership and activities of the Society. Printed materials include constitutions, programs and fliers for the annual dinners, and pamphlets. Artifacts include medals and ribbons, a large linen banner, a ballot box, and an embosser with the Society seal.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in nine series: I. Administrative files; II. Central reference files; III. Constitutions; IV. Membership records; V. Programs; VI. Subject files; VII. Photographs; VIII. Artifacts; IX. Financial records.

Collection Inventory

I: Administrative files, 1833-2014

Arrangement

Chronological.

Scope and Contents

This series contains administrative files for the organization's annual events, Board of Directors meetings, Silver Key Award, and the organization's anniversary dinners and other Society functions. This series also includes correspondence between Society members.

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Restrictions on access

Financial records are closed for 75 years from date of creation to protect the privacy of the parent organization.