

# Princeton University Library

## DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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### William K. Selden Collection on Eating Clubs, 1906-1994: Finding Aid

#### Summary Information

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| <b>Call number:</b>             | AC030  |
| <b>Location:</b>                | Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books<br>and Special Collections.<br>Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.<br>Princeton University Archives.<br>65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA  |
| <b>Size:</b>                    | 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)   |
| <b>Language(s) of material:</b> | English.   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                | The William K. Selden Collection on Eating Clubs contains<br>research materials collected by Selden for the publication,<br><i>Club Life at Princeton; An Historical Account of the<br/>Upper-Class Eating Clubs at Princeton University</i> . Selden<br>donated the material to the Archives in 1994. |

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## History of the Eating Clubs

As Princeton's student population expanded in the middle part of the 19th century, eating clubs were established to provide sufficient dining services. Eating clubs filled the social vacuum created when Greek-letter fraternities were banned in 1855 and became the dominant social influence among undergraduates. Throughout their history, the restricted clubs were criticized for their exclusivity and for creating artificial barriers among the student population. Membership declined in the years following the Second World War, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s when students sought more egalitarian social institutions. In 1969 the admittance of women into the University caused a stir among the clubs, but many embraced the change and opened membership to women. In 1979 Sally Frank, a third-year student, filed a lawsuit with the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights when she was denied membership in three of the exclusive clubs. The final verdict, announced in 1992, forced all clubs to admit women to their ranks. There are presently 14 active clubs on campus, the oldest of which is the Ivy Club, established in 1879.

## Description

The collection contains primarily clippings, arranged chronologically, from *The Daily Princetonian* as well as clippings from *Princeton Alumni Weekly* and *Princeton Weekly Bulletin* documenting the activities of Princeton University's Eating Clubs. Topics found within this collection include the University's Bicker policy and women's rights in the Eating Club system. Relevant reports, such as the Report on Undergraduate Residential Life, and personal correspondence are also found.

## Access and Use

### Access

Collection is open for research use.

### Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the University Archivist. Copyright is held by the Trustees of Princeton University.

## Processing and Other Information

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William K. Selden Collection on Eating Clubs, Box and Folder Number; University Archives, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University

Library.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Theresa Marchitto in January 1995. Finding aid written by Theresa Marchitto in January 1995.

### **Encoding**

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Techbooks and Cristela García-Spitz on October 20, 2006.

### **Descriptive Rules Used**

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Subject Headings**

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Princeton University -- Societies, etc.
- Princeton University -- Students -- Social conditions.
- Clubs -- New Jersey -- Princeton.
- College students -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- Social conditions.
- College students -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- Societies and clubs.
- Clippings.
- Reports.
- Princeton University

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