



**FINDING AID TO  
THE EURODELPHIAN LITERARY SOCIETY  
RECORDS, 1920-1929**

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-2839**

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Processed by: Virginia Pleasant, October 22, 2013

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Eurodelphian Literary Society, 1917-1933
<b>Title</b>	Eurodelphian Literary Society records
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSP 124
<b>Date Span</b>	1920-1932
<b>Abstract</b>	Collection includes record books documenting the activities, meetings, and members of the Eurodelphian Literary Society, as well as documents relating to their rituals and the national chapter
<b>Extent</b>	0.4 cubic feet (1 mss box)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Virginia Pleasant, 2013
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSP 124, Eurodelphian Literary Society records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University
<b>Related Materials Information:</b>	MSP 101, Philaethean Literary Society records MSP 34, Irving Literary Society records MSP 141, Carlyle Literary Society records MSP 142, Emersonian Literary Society records

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Organizations**

Eurodelphian Literary Society

### **Topics**

Literary societies.

Purdue University--Students--Social life and customs

Women's history and culture

Women's clubs

### **Form and Genre Types**

Constitutions

Newsletters

Logs (records)

## History of the Eurodelphian Literary Society

The Eurodelphian Literary society was started at Purdue in 1917 as a local women's society dedicated to literary discussion and debate. Shortly thereafter, the members of the society learned of a second Eurodelphian Society at Kansas State University and contacted them about the prospect of creating a national version of the group. The two local chapters were successful in doing so and became the first national literary society to be established for women in 1919. The Purdue chapter of the national society was named the Beta chapter. The Beta chapter constitution found in this collection indicates that there were at least six chapters of the national society. The club maintained strict academic requirements for admission, including an "A" average in all English classes, and a "B" average for all other classes. The Eurodelphians found strong support from Dean Carolyn Shoemaker, who instituted the annual award of the Eurodelphian medal that was awarded to a senior member of outstanding achievement. Shoemaker also helped inspire the merger between the Eurodelphians and the Philaetheans to form a more unified and stronger society in the face of declining memberships. The new society retained the name of the Philaetheans and lasted until 1936, when it appears that honoraries took the place of literary societies due to decreased interest and membership, likely due to the expanded availability of women's activities at Purdue.

### *Sources:*

MSP 124, Eurodelphian Literary Society records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

MSP 101, Philaethean Literary Society records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

*Debris* yearbooks, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue Libraries

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Eurodelphian Literary Society records (1920-1932, 0.4 cubic feet) document the activities and membership of both the local and national chapters of the society. Included in the collection are meeting minutes, pledge registers, constitutions, and notes on ceremonies and rituals. These materials give insight into the weekly happenings of the society as well as less frequent ceremonies. Unfortunately, the collection has no content from the earliest years of the society's existence. This collection might be useful to researchers interested in women's history, Purdue history, literary societies, extracurricular activities of female students, nineteenth and twentieth century material culture, and the impact of Dean and Shoemaker. Types of materials include: records books, printed material, constitutions, and ephemera. The records are organized into two series:

### Arrangement

#### **1. Local and National Documents, ca 1927-1932 (0.2 cubic feet)**

This series includes various documents pertaining to the local and national chapters of the Eurodelphian. Included are copies of the local and national constitution, notes on ceremonies and rituals performed by the society, and copies of the *Eurodelphian Messenger*, their national newsletter. Materials in the series are arranged by chronologically and by type.

#### **2. Ledgers, 1920-1932 (0.2 cubic feet)**

This series includes minutes of society meetings and a pledge book that documents all new members from 1920-1929. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically and by type.

### **Descriptive Rules** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### **Processing Information**

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Some clippings containing images of people or color graphics, or front pages of newspapers, have been preserved for display purposes, with photocopies made available for research. Metal fasteners have been removed whenever possible to do so without threatening the integrity of the artifacts.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### 1 Box

#### **Series 1. Local and National Documents, ca. 1927-1932**

(0.2 cubic feet)

##### Folder

1. Constitution, 1930
2. Notes, 1930-1932
3. Exponent clipping, 1927
4. Initiation ceremonies, circa 1920s
5. *Eurodelphian Messenger*, 1929, 1931
6. National constitution, circa 1920s
7. National ritual, circa 1920

#### **Series 2. Ledgers, 1920-1932**

(0.2 cubic feet)

##### Folder

1. Ledger, 1922-1925 (pages missing)
2. Ledger, 1925-1932
3. Pledge book, 1920-1929

