

Title: Milwaukee Liedertafel Collection

Reference Code: Mss-1731

Inclusive Dates: 1892 – 2018

Quantity: 5.6 cu. ft.

Location: WHS, Sh. C114-C115
OS SM “M” (5 items)
OS LG “M” (2 items)

Abstract: The Milwaukee Liedertafel singing society—the city’s oldest men’s choral group—was founded by 17 members in 1858. It was responsible for holding the first Sangerfest in the State of Wisconsin. In 1867 the Milwaukee Liedertafel became a founding member of the Norwestliche Sangerbund, and as part of this group, brought the national Sangerfest to Milwaukee in 1868. As the group’s numbers grew, new and larger spaces were needed to host Liedertafel activities. Several locations were used before Liedertafel Hall was built on the corner of 7th and Prairie (now Highland) streets. The spacious hall served as headquarters until it fell to the wrecking ball in 1951.

Scope and Content: The collection includes meeting minutes, programs, anniversary booklets, event calendars, newspaper clippings, sheet music and song books.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: German, English

Notes: Collection originally processed by Nicholas Neylon, January 1992. The bulk of the material donated by Gary Luther and the Milwaukee Liedertafel in September 2018 and processed by Kevin Abing, November 2018.

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
Historical Information	1	1
125 th Jubilee Committee, 1981-1983	1	2
Anniversary (Golden), 1908	1	3
Articles of Incorporation/Constitutions/By-Laws	1	4
Awards/Certificates	1	5
Choral Judging, 2003-2009	1	6
Club Calendars, 1972-2001	1	7
Concert Programs, 1943 – 1986 (not inclusive)	1	8
Concert Programs, 1987 – 1996	1	9
Concert Programs, 1998 – 2012	1	10
Correspondence, 1958-1965	1	11
Event Calendar & Member Affairs, 1974 – 2016	1	12

Financial Matters	1	13
Grutke, Max – Memories	1	14
Keeley, James A. (former director)	1	15
Maenner- & Damenchoere Correspondence, 1965-1970	1	16
Maenner- & Damenchoere Deutschen Saengertag, 1966	1	17
Maenner- & Damenchoere Deutschen Saengertag, 1967	1	18
Maenner & Damenchoere Meeting Minutes, 1967-1969	1	19
Meeting Minutes, 1981-1988	1	20
Meeting Minutes, 1989-1993	1	21
Meeting Minutes, 1994-1996	1	22
Meeting Minutes, 1997-2006	2	1
Meeting Minutes, 2007-2018	2	2
Miscellaneous	2	3
National Sangerfest Programs, 1938 – 1980 (not inclusive)	2	4
National Sangerfest Programs, 1983 – 1989	2	5
National Sangerfest Programs, 1992 – 1998	2	6
National Sangerfest Programs, 2001 – 2007	2	7
National Sangerfest Programs, 2010 – 2013	2	8
Newspaper Clippings, 1914-2008	2	9
Property Inventory, 1984 & 1992	2	10
Rehfeld, Heinz (former president) Correspondence & Miscellaneous, 1981-2007, 2014	2	11
Rosters, ca. 1974-1984	2	12
Scrapbook, 1972-1980	2	13
Singing Clubs, Wisconsin – Programs, 2010-2015	2	14
Singing Clubs – Sangerbund des Nordwestens, 1915-1928	2	15
Singing Clubs, Non-Wisconsin – Programs, 1882-1971	2	16
Singing Clubs, Non-Wisconsin – Programs, 1972-1987	3	1
Songs List	3	2
Vergnugungs Obmann Files, 2003-2015	3	3
“We Sang It” (List of songs sung by Milwaukee Liedertafel), 1927-1990	3	4
Wisconsin Saengerbezirk	3	5
Wisconsin Saengerbezirk – Programs, 1915-1971	3	6
Wisconsin Saengerbezirk – Programs, 1977 – 2002	3	7
Miscellaneous Song Books	3	LOOSE
Miscellaneous Song Books	3A	LOOSE
Sheet Music	4	LOOSE
Index Cards to Song Titles (in Liedertafel Collection?)	5	
LEDGERS		
Membership Directory/Dues, 1902-1930	6	LOOSE

Active/Passive Members List, 1898-1924	6	LOOSE
Milwaukee Maennerchoere, Meeting Minutes, 1943-1953	6	LOOSE
Meeting Minutes, 1919-1937	6	LOOSE
Meeting Minutes, 1937-1964	6	LOOSE
Meeting Minutes/Annual Reports, 1993-2004	6	LOOSE
OVERSIZE ITEMS		LOCATION
Poster: "Spirits of 1776-And 1976: There were Germans there also" for Max Gruttke's 50 th anniversary with the Milwaukee Liedertafel		OS SM "M"
Honorary Diploma for participation in German-American Day, 1937		OS SM "M"
Certificate appointing Max Gruttke honorary member of singing group in Sun City, Arizona, 1982		OS SM "M"
Certificate noting Milwaukee Liedertafel included in North American Sangerbund, 1988		OS SM "M"
Certificate honoring Milwaukee Liedertafel's 100 th anniversary, 1958		OS SM "M"
Bond certificate sheets, 1891 (2 items)		OS LG "M"
PHOTOS, See M-258		
OVERSIZE PHOTOS, See OS#2860-#2864		
OVER-OVERSIZE PHOTOS, See German Fraternal Orgs., #6-#12		
CONCERT RECORDINGS (Transferred to Multimedia Collection)		
"Dich Muss Ich Haben"; "Aus Der Traube"/"Heimat", Oct. 3, 1954		
"Lebe Wohl"/"Sonntagsfeier", Nov. 22, 1952		
German Liedertafel Chicago #1/Am Strom		
German Liedertafel Chicago #3/Chicago #4		
100 th Anniversary Concert, July 4-6, 1958 (2 copies)		
44 th Nationales Sangerfest, Nord-Amerikanischen Saengerbund, 1961		