

Title: Order of the Eastern Star

Call Number: Mss-0314

Inclusive Dates: 1901 – 1978

Bulk: 3.2 cu. ft.

Location: WC, Sh. 088-089

History: The Order of the Eastern Star is the female branch of the Masons. The organization was formed so that women who are related to male members of the masons could partake in the benefits of identifying themselves to other masons. It is not clear when the organization was started, but is believed to have been created in its modern form in the 1870s. Members of the organization must have close family ties with a male member of the masons to join a chapter.

Scope and Content: The collection has an assortment of materials pertaining to the organization, as well as individual members and clubs within the larger context of the O.E.S. There are programs and membership material to the larger chapters in Wisconsin, including dues paid by individuals. Also included are session books, ritual books, catalogues, memorabilia and correspondence collected by Irma Sedlmayer and Mabel Boehringer, WWII war effort awards and recognition, and the charitable work done by members at the Dousman retirement home and for the Wisconsin Eastern Star Foundation. In addition the collection contains the publication of *Stardust*, a monthly publication of the O.E.S. for the years 1957-1966, and photographs from miscellaneous members' families and events hosted by the O.E.S.

Administrative Note:

This collection was processed on July 15, 2003 by Ann Stachewicz.

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Bethany Chapter no.105 programs and yearbooks (1947-1982)	1	10
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Milwaukee Chapter no.2 social events and news clippings (1926-1975)	1	15
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