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THE SPHEX CLUB PAPERS

The collection of the Sphex Club, of Lynchburg, Virginia, includes minutes of meetings, the constitution and bylaws of the Club, a roster of its members, and a listing of Sphex papers presented by members and guests of the Club. In addition to this guide, the collection is outlined in more detail in “Sphex in the Jones Memorial Library,” Chapter VI of the Club history, *The Sphex Club of Lynchburg, Virginia: The First One Hundred Years, 1910-2010*, by James M. Elson.

[Detailed finding guide available with the collection.]

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- BOX 1** Minutes 1910-1960
- BOX 2** Minutes 1960-1982
- BOX 3** Minutes 1982-1989; copies of various constitutions and bylaws from the Club’s first century; account book 1924-1946; *The Sphex Club of Lynchburg, Virginia: The First One Hundred Years, 1910- 2011*, by James M. Elson; Identification sheets for each of approximately 170 Club members 1910-2010, arranged alphabetically by last name (see also: Chapter II: “Sphex Members 1910-2010” in Sphex Club history; a short history of the Sphex Club; Sphex news articles 1936, 1981, 1985, 2010
- BOX 4** Minutes 1989-1990; 2009-2010
- BOX 5** Minutes 2010-
- BOX 6** Minutes (Future minutes)

Boxes 7-13 contain Sphex papers given before June 1989 by Club members or guest speakers. A detailed listing is found on p. 70 of the Sphex history.

- BOX 7** BAKER – BUSH
- BOX 8** CAGE – DeBUTTS
- BOX 9** FAUBER – HARPER

(Continued)

THE SPHEX CLUB PAPERS, Cont'd.

BOX 10 HARPER – JOHNSON

BOX 11 KEYS – NOELL

BOX 12 NOELL – THAYER

BOX 13 THOMAS – WOOD

Boxes 14- are arranged chronologically starting with Fall 1989. Files within each box are labeled for each Sphex year (Fall through Spring of the following year). A detailed listing of these papers may be found in the Sphex Club history, pp. 71-77. A perusal of the identification sheet of a specific member or speaker may be helpful in locating a paper.

BOX 14 Papers – Fall 1989-Spring 1993

BOX 15 Papers – Fall 1993-Spring 1998

BOX 16 Papers – Fall 1998-Spring 2003

BOX 17 Papers – Fall 2003-Spring 2007

BOX 18 Papers – Fall 2007-Spring 2010

BOX 19 Papers - Fall 2010-Spring 2014

BOX 20 Papers – Fall 2014-Fall 2018

BOX 21 Papers – Fall 2018-Fall 2020

BOX 22 Papers – Spring 2021-Spring 2023

BOX 23 Papers – Fall 2023-Spring 2024

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THE SPHEX CLUB OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

The Sphex Club of Lynchburg, Virginia, was organized on 5 October 1910. According to the constitution, the purpose of the organization was "to promote the intellectual and social culture of its members and to encourage philanthropic, educational and civic progress in the community."

According to a history of the organization compiled by William H. Barney, "the real reason for the club's founding was to give the academic community of Randolph-Macon Woman's College and the business and professional men of the city a forum on which they could meet for the exchange of interest and ideas."

The club, limited to a membership of thirty, meets biweekly from fall until spring. An individual member of the club presents a paper at each meeting. Following the presentation, the paper is discussed by the members present.

The club also holds an annual meeting to which members may invite guests for dinner, for the presentation of a paper (usually by a prominent speaker) and for a general discussion of the paper presented.

The name of the club is said to be an acronym for Science, Philosophy, History, Education, and X "the unknown."

[William H. Barney, "A Short History of the Sphex Club," The Sphex Club Papers, Mss., MS1133, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA.]