



## Severance Book Review Club (Columbia, Mo.) Records (C4364)

**Collection Number:** C4364

**Collection Title:** Severance Book Review Club (Columbia, Mo.) Records

**Dates:** 1931-2000

**Creator:** Severance Book Review Club

**Abstract:** The records of a literary club contain constitutions, minutes, and membership lists of the club.

**Collection Size:** 0.4 cubic feet  
(9 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at [research@shsmo.org](mailto:research@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The donor has authorized the materials in this collection to be released to the public domain.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Severance Book Review Club (Columbia, Mo.) Records* (C4364); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by William H. Elder on December 12, 1996 (Accession No. CA3128). An addition was made on February 18, 2003, by William H. Elder.

**Processed by:** Elizabeth Engel, June 2018

### Historical Note:

The Book Review Club was founded by Dr. Henry O. Severance, University of Missouri librarian. The founding committee included several members of his staff as well as a librarian

from the Columbia Public Library. The committee suggested names to be considered for membership and unanimous consent was needed for admission into the club.

The first meeting was held on October 19, 1931, and additional rules were agreed upon. Meetings were to be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7:45 p.m.; book reviews would last no longer than an hour and would then be followed by a discussion; and membership was limited to 20 people. Program and membership committees were also formed at the initial meeting. A constitution was created by Dr. Severance and adopted at a meeting on December 10, 1931. The aim of the club was “to read and discuss good literature.”

Books reviewed included both fiction works such as *Gone with the Wind* and the novels of Pearl Buck, as well as non-fiction works on a variety of subjects including history, science, biography, and politics. Dr. Severance died in 1942 and the club was renamed the Severance Book Review Club in his honor in 1944. The club disbanded in 2000 due to a decline in membership.

### Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged alphabetically.

### Scope and Content Note:

The collection largely contains minutes from club meetings along with miscellaneous material.

### Container List:

f. 1	Club history and song, n.d.; photograph, 1993
f. 2	Constitutions, 1931-1975
f. 3	Membership lists and schedules, 1957-1996
f. 4-9	Minutes
f. 4	October 1931-May 1943
f. 5	October 1943-November 1971
f. 6	January 1972-September 1985
f. 7	October 1985-May 1988
f. 8	August 1988-November 1995
f. 9	March 1996-November 2000

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