

New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League Records

1893-1977 (*Bulk: 1903-1963*)

9 boxes (5.5 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 331



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When Charles Marsters founded the Boston Lacrosse Club in 1913, the club was the only one in New England to play teams from outside of the region. Under Marsters's leadership, however, participation in the sport rose steadily at both the high school and collegiate level, helping establish New England as one of the centers of the American game. In 1935, he and Tom Dent founded the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League (NEILL) to continue to build the sport.

The NEILL records document the growth of lacrosse from informal club team play to a more regulated, interscholastic and intercollegiate varsity sport. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, minutes, and agendas kept by co-founder Charles Marsters and a handful of other NEILL officers, but with material documenting the growth of the sport at UMass Amherst from the 1950s onward and the addition of women's lacrosse as a collegiate sport. The collection also includes some printed material (including rulebooks), news clippings, and photographs.

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Background on New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League

One of the major figures in the growth of scholastic and collegiate lacrosse in New England, Charles E. Marsters first grew attached to the sport while an undergraduate at Harvard (BS, 1907), but his commitment never waned thereafter. Spurred by his energy and initiative, participation in the sport rose steadily at both the high school and collegiate level, establishing New England as one of the centers of the American game. An officer of the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA), serving as vice president (1907-1908) and president (1909-1910 and 1917-1918), Marsters worked tirelessly as player, coach, and manager to promote the sport. With Paul Gustafson, he founded the Boston Lacrosse Club in 1913, playing point for sixteen years and managing the team, which became the first in New England to play teams from outside the region. He also laid the foundation for teams at Yale in 1915, and at Brown, MIT, the University of New Hampshire, and Tufts in the later 1920s.

In 1935, Marsters and his colleague Tom Dent founded the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League (NEILL), which became a major vehicle for promoting the sport. He was recognized for his labors on behalf of the sport with an award from USILA in 1951 and with induction into the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame as a player in 1957.

Scope of collection

The files of the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League (NEILL) document the growth of lacrosse in New England from an informal club activity to a regulated, interscholastic and intercollegiate varsity sport. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, minutes, and agendas kept by co-founder Charles E. Marsters and a handful of other NEILL officers. Reflective of his enthusiasm for lacrosse, Marsters's correspondents ranged from coaches to regional and national lacrosse associations, as well as college and prep school officials, including Frank Boyden, Headmaster of the Deerfield Academy and trustee of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Some later correspondence reflects interest in the sport at UMass Amherst, beginning in the 1950s, and the beginnings of women's lacrosse as a collegiate sport.

The NEILL collection is equally valuable in documenting the founding of the Boston Lacrosse Club (1913-1962) through member lists and rosters, reports from the managers and treasurers, and promotional materials. The printed material in the collection includes rule books and news clippings, and materials and correspondence relating to publication of *The Lacrosse Guide*, as well as copies of the guide itself (1907-1962), and photographs.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into six series:

Series 1. Official Records, 1935-1973

Series 2. Charles E. Marsters Files, 1913-1962

Series 3. The Lacrosse Guide, 1893-1962; n.d.

Series 4. News Clippings, 1903-1962

Series 5. Printed Material, 1948-1952; n.d.

Series 6. Oversized Materials, n.d.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Official Records

1935-1973

Includes minutes, 1935-73; account books, bank books and financial reports; copies of the constitutions of 1935, 1957, and 1966; reports; information on players and teams; newsletters; meeting agenda; and the correspondence of the following officers: E.W. Christensen, Earle Littleton, Robert Maddux, Ben R. Martin, Lincoln Redshaw, Timothy Ring, J. Bruce Munro, A. Barr Snively, and William A.R. Harkness.

Series 2. Charles E. Marsters Files

1913-1962

Marsters was the co-founder NEILL. Includes his correspondence with lacrosse enthusiasts around the country between 1913 and 1962; his correspondence with coaches of NEILL member colleges and affiliated prep schools; materials reflecting his association with the USILA and its activities: Development Committee, 1946-53; All America/All New England selection; North/South Game, 1949-62; newsletters, publicity releases and souvenirs; materials dating from the founding of the Boston Lacrosse Club, 1913-62: lists of members, constitution, letterheads, schedules, manager and treasurer's reports; correspondence, rosters, agreements, photographs and clippings; materials pertaining to the writing of the New H Book of Harvard Athletics: correspondence and other material reflecting Marsters' affiliations with the Lacrosse Hall of Fame, the US Lacrosse Coaches Association, the New England Lacrosse Officials Association, the US Women's Lacrosse Association, and the California Lacrosse Association.

Series 3. The Lacrosse Guide

1893-1962; n.d.

Contains material such as questionnaires, notes, and correspondence used to compile aspects of the guide, 1954-62, n.d., and copies of the guides themselves from 1907 to 1962 as well as other handbooks and rulebooks dating from 1893 to 1930 and n.d. In addition this series includes catalogs, correspondence, and orders pertaining to lacrosse equipment between 1935 and 1963.

Series 4. News Clippings

1903-1962

Contains newspaper clippings from a variety of newspapers collected by Harsters between 1903 and 1962.

Additional clippings are included among materials in other series.

Series 5. Printed Material

1948-1952; n.d.

Includes a bound volume on lacrosse, a clipped passage about lacrosse history, and a copy of an 1884 print by H.W. Hall.

Series 6. Oversized Material

n.d.

Includes posters, questionnaires, clippings, referee whistles (3), and photographs of teams.

Inventory

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1954-1961

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1940-1950

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Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Marsters, Charles E.

New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League.

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University of Massachusetts Amherst--Sports--History.

Contributors

New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse League [main entry]

Marsters, Charles E.

Boyden, Frank L. (Frank Learoyd), 1879-1972.

Genres and formats

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Link to similar SCUA collections

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