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**Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago
Manuscript Collection #13
Swedish Journalists Society of America,
Chicago Chapter Records, 1920-1972**

Boxes: 1

HISTORY

The Swedish Journalists Society of America was founded on August 6, 1919 by twelve Swedish journalists in Chicago. It was first named the "Swedish Journalists Society in Chicago", but this name was altered, as well as the bylaws, during the first annual meeting on January 7, 1920. The Society grew rapidly with a majority of members belonging also to the Swedish American Journalists Union. Basically, the Journalists Society and the Journalists Union were one and the same.

The Swedish Journalists Society's purpose, according to their bylaws (ca. 1920), states: "Through all appropriate means to benefit the members in their social and economical interests, to provide a societal link between the members, to voice their concerns and questions pertaining to their employment needs ... to bring about a fund to be called 'The Swedish Journalists Benefit', which would be separate from the society's general account and used solely for no other purpose than cases of distress, benefiting either the member or his family". [Translated from "Stadgar for Svenska Journalistforbundet i Amerika", by J. Jones.] Occasionally, concerts and other events were held to support this fund.

In the fall of 1920, a 290 page yearbook was published called "Blackfisken" (The Octopus), and in 1943 "Julbrasan" (The Christmas Hearth), a Christmas paper, was published. In 1945 a scholarship to the University of Chicago was established for students of Swedish descent.

These records primarily document the activities during the dwindling membership which led to the Society's demise in 1972.

DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS

The Swedish Journalists Society records consist of 12 folders in one half-size Hollinger box. This is not a complete collection and the bulk of the records is from 1941 to 1962, with the largest amount from the 1950s and are predominantly in Swedish.

Folders 1-3 contain the history and bylaws of the Society. Folder 4, minutes from 1941 to 1961, contains the most complete series of records in this collection. Folders 5 and 6 deal

with the financial aspects of the Society, sporadically from 1937 to 1972. Folder 7 contains incomplete membership lists and meeting notices, sporadically from 1943 to 1962. Folders 8 and 9 contain correspondence within and outside the Society. Folder 8 contains general correspondence dealing with the affairs of scholarship fund in 1945. Folder 9 contains correspondence dealing with the disbandment of the Society, 1958-1972. Folder 10 contains a few programs of the Society's events. Folder 11 contains two copies of "Blackfisken" (The Octopus), which was their published yearbook for the year 1920-1921. It also contains a distribution list for "Julbrasan" (The Christmas Hearth). Folder 12 contains clippings pertaining to the various activities of the Society.

PROVENANCE:

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public. However, the researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of libel, privacy, and copyright that may be involved in the use of this collection.

PROCESSOR:

SEPARATION RECORD: None

CONTAINER LIST

BOX	FOLDER	FOLDER TITLES	SPAN DATES
1	1	History – <i>Svensk-American Pressen</i> , 1923; <i>Julbrasan</i> , 1944	1923, 1944
1	2	Bylaws	1946
1	3	“Tentative Bylaws”	n.d.
1	4	Minutes	1941-1961
1	5	Finances	1937-1972
1	6	Finances	1937-1972
1	7	Membership Lists and Meeting Notices	1943-1962
1	8	Correspondence	1941-1963
1	9	Correspondence concerning dissolution	1958-1972
1	10	Programs	1944-1951
1	11	Yearbook <i>Blackfisken (The Octopus)</i> with distribution list for <i>Julbrasan</i>	1920-1921
1	12	Clippings	1942-1960
1	13	Distribution list for <i>Julbrasan</i>	n.d.