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**Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago  
Manuscript Collection #34  
Swedish Club of Chicago Records, 1910-1984**

SIZE: 11 Archives boxes

**ABSTRACT:** This collection

**HISTORY:** The Swedish Club of Chicago traces its beginnings to Föreningen Freja, an immigrant singing society started in 1869 and incorporated in 1874. This society bought insurance for, and paid sick benefits to, its members. When Föreningen Freja became dormant in the years 1881 to 1886, some of its members merged with non-singers to form "Svenska Klubben" (The Swedish Club) in 1882. This social club was located at 155 East Chicago Avenue. Föreningen Freja was reactivated in 1887 as Svenska Sångsällskapet (the Swedish Singing Society) which changed its name to Svenska Sångsällskapet Freja in 1889. On December 13, 1889 it merged with Svenska Klubben to form The Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago (the Swedish Glee Club in Chicago), which can be seen as the direct ancestor of the Swedish Club of Chicago.

On April 13, 1896 Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago moved into the building on 1258 North LaSalle (at the time it was 470 North LaSalle because of a different numbering system) which would later be known as the Swedish Club of Chicago. In 1906 Svenska Glee-Klubben changed its name to Svenska Klubben after its singing director and some of its singers left. The Chicago Swedish Glee Club was soon established as a separate organization. Svenska Klubben applied for incorporation in the State of Illinois in 1923, but the Secretary of State refused to incorporate an organization with a foreign name. "The Swedish Club of Chicago" had at first simply been the name of the stock company created by Svenska Glee-Klubben i Chicago in 1893. When Svenska Klubben was denied incorporation it took the name "The Swedish Club of Chicago" and was incorporated on July 13, 1923.

The Constitution and Bylaws of Svenska Klubben adopted March 2, 1922 state that

The object of this association shall be: to preserve Swedish Language, Customs, Song, Music, Art, and Industry; to promote Social Intercourse; to maintain a Club House and Library.

New bylaws were amended in 1930 and again in 1949. Among other changes, the above paragraph was rewritten in 1930 to include "manly sports", and in 1949 to include "education". The 1922 bylaws stated that any one interested in the goals of the club could join. However, the

1930 revisions set a limit of 100 non-Swedish members. A level of 400 had been set for Swedish-American members in 1922. Honorary memberships were also established in 1922; these included the Swedish Ambassador in Washington, the Swedish Consul in Chicago, the Governor of Illinois, and the Mayor of Chicago.

The activities of the Swedish Club of Chicago, most clearly documented by its scrapbooks from the years 1937-1973, reflected the object of the organization as stated in 1922. Among other things, events sponsored by the club included special dinners marking notable milestones or accomplishments of members, holiday dinners; New Years' and Midsummer celebrations, travelogues, dinner dances, golf outings, and herring breakfasts. The Club remained essentially a social club until its closing; although the Chicago Swedish Glee Club practiced in its own quarters in the club. The club also sponsored exhibitions of Swedish-American art during the years 1911-1964, as well as publishing *The Swedish Club News*.

After nearly a century of activity the Swedish Club of Chicago closed because of increasing costs and a shrinking pool of prospective members. The Swedish Club auction was held on November 11, 1984. As of March 24, 1988 the club exists as the Swedish Club Foundation.

**RELATED COLLECTIONS:** Exhibitions by Swedish-American Artists at the Swedish Club of Chicago, 1911-1982 (SAAGC MSS #35)

**PROVENANCE:** Boxes 12-13 were Acc. # 00-60(s) processed in 2008.

**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.

**PROCESSORS:** Ted Roberg, March 24, 1988/ Katrina Brown 2008 boxes 12-13

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER</b>	<b>FOLDER TITLE</b>	<b>SPAN DATES</b>
1	1	Constitution and Bylaws	1922-1954?
1	2	History	1947
1	3	Yearbooks	1924-1927
1	4	Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting	1950-1951
1	5	Finance	1939-1940, 1957
2	1	Applications for Membership	1924-1929?
2	2	Applications	1928-1929
2	3	Questionnaires to Members	1927-1928
2	4	Questionnaires	1927-1928

2	5	Correspondence	1921-1963
3	1	Scrapbook	1937
3	2	Scrapbook	1938
3	3	Scrapbook	1939
3	4	Scrapbook	1940
3	5	Scrapbook	1941
3	6	Scrapbook	1942
3	7	Scrapbook	1943
4	1	Scrapbook	1945
4	2	Scrapbook	1946
4	3	Scrapbook	1947
4	4	Scrapbook	1948
4	5	Scrapbook	1949
5	1	Scrapbook	1950
5	2	Scrapbook	1951
5	3	Scrapbook	1952
5	4	Scrapbook	1953
6	1	Scrapbook	1954
6	2	Scrapbook	1955
6	3	Scrapbook	1956
6	4	Scrapbook	1957
6	5	Scrapbook	1958
7	1	Scrapbook	1959
7	2	Scrapbook	1960
7	3	Scrapbook	1961
7	4	Scrapbook	1962
8	1	Scrapbook	1963
8	2	Scrapbook	1964
8	3	Scrapbook	1965
8	4	Scrapbook	1966
9	1	Scrapbook	1967
9	2	Scrapbook	1968
9	3	Scrapbook	1969
9	4	Scrapbook	1970
9	5	Scrapbook	1971
9	6	Scrapbook	1972
9	7	Scrapbook	1973
10	1	Guest Register	1922-1927
10	2	Guest Book	1933-1979
11	1 (in many folders)	<i>Swedish Club News</i>	1910-1912
11	2 (in many folders)	<i>Swedish Club News</i>	1912-1913, 1928-

	folders)		1931
11	3	Miscellaneous Publications	1923-1954
11	4	Clippings (largely dating from 1940's – 1950's)	n.d.
11	5	Banquets, Menus	1911- 1982?
11	6	Leaflets, Correspondence regarding entertainment	n.d.
11	7	Auction inventories	1984
12	1	Minutes	1948-49
12	2	Minutes	1949-50
12	3	Minutes	1950-51
12	4	Minutes	1951-52
12	5	Minutes	1952-53
12	6	Minutes	1953-54
12	7	Minutes	1966-70
12	8	Minutes	1966-70
12	9	Corporate Records	1958-59
12	10	Corporate Records	1960
12	11	Corporate Records	1959
12	12	General Ledger	1978-1983
12	13	12 <sup>th</sup> period- Journal Entries	1963
12	14	11 <sup>th</sup> period- Journal Entries	1983
12	15	10 <sup>th</sup> period- Journal Entries	1983
12	16	9 <sup>th</sup> period- Journal Entries	1982
12	17	Computer Input	1982
12	18	Continental	1982
12	19	United Of America	1982
12	20	Check Disbursements	1983
12	21	Entries	1982
12	22	Work Sheets	1983
12	23	Entries(Financial)	1982
12	24	Entries(Financial)	1982-83
12	25	Entries(Financial)	1982-84
12	26	Safekeeping Records	1963-1964
12	27	Auditors Statement	1963
12	28	Bank Statements	1963
12	29	Envelope	1964
12	30	Free Standing	1964
12	31	Safekeeping Fees	1963-64
12	32	Bills Paid To S/C/C	1964
12	33	Certificates Of Incumbency	1958-1964
12	34	Auditor's Report, Svithiod Singing Club	1964
12	35	Cancelled Checks, Income Items, Purchase& Sale Records	1964-68

12	36	Financial, Misc.	1962
12	37	Bank Statements	1958-1962
12	38	Correspondence	1962-63
12	39	Correspondence- End Of Year	1958
12	40	Old Correspondence Prior to the term of John W. Peterson	1959-1962
12	41	Accounts received statement samples from 1982	1982
13	1	Financial statements	1969-70
13	2	Minutes	1954-55
13	3	Minutes	1955-56
13	4	Member list: juniors, veterans, courtesy, dues exempt and Glee club additions	N.D.
13	5	Minutes	1975-76
13	6	Minutes	1973-74
13	7	Minutes	1971-72
13	8	Member list	N.D.
13	9	Minutes	1965-66
13	10	Minutes	1963-64
13	11	Minutes	1961-63
13	12	Report on examination of accounts	1970-1975
13	13	Report on examination of accounts	1976-79
13	14	Report on examination of accounts	1960-64
13	15	Report on examination of accounts	1957-59
13	16	Proposed budget for fiscal year	1969-70
13	17	Recommendations for dining room service	N.D.
13	18	Semi-annual meeting	1964
13	19	Report on examination of accounts	1965-69
13	20	Minutes	1969-71
13	21	Minutes	1968
13	22	Minutes	1966-67
13	23	Minutes	1960-61
13	24	Minutes	1956-57
13	25	Minutes	1957-58