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Italian Mutual Beneficial Society Records MS-267

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Italian Mutual Beneficial Society Records
ID:	MS-267
Date [inclusive]:	1885-1894, 1905-1930
Date [bulk]:	1905-1930
Physical Description:	0.58 Cubic Feet 2 manuscript boxes
Language of the Material:	English and Italian
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-2
Abstract:	Records, 1885-1894, 1905-1930, of the Italian Mutual Beneficial Society in Calumet, Michigan.

Preferred Citation

MS-267, Italian Mutual Beneficial Society Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Administrative History

Mutual benefit societies, organizations common in early Italian American communities, provided a monetary sum for accidents, illnesses, and burials for dues paying members. Attendance at funerals was required by the membership and members who did not attend funeral services were issued a fine. As mutual benefit societies evolved they provided more social events for their members. The social events were, in part, to generate interest among other Italians in the community to join their dwindling membership. Established in 1875 with eighty-five members in Red Jacket [Calumet], the Italian Mutual Beneficial Society (Società Italiana di Mutua Beneficenza) was the first such Italian organization in the Copper Country. It built a series of Italian Halls, which were rented as a meeting place for various ethnic and social organizations in Calumet. The first Italian Hall was blown down by wind

during construction and the second was destroyed on January 1, 1908 by an accidental fire after a party. The third Italian Hall was home to what is now known as the Italian Hall Disaster, which took place on Christmas Eve, 1913. The Italian Hall fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1985. The Italian Hall Memorial Park with the stairway arch stands in place of the building. The Italian Mutual Beneficial Society fell into difficult times when several of its members died and its funds were quickly depleting. In 1922 it and several other Italian groups in the Upper Peninsula merged into one organization, the Christopher Columbus Society.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

Records, 1885-1894, 1905-1930, of the Italian Mutual Beneficial Society in Calumet, Michigan. Records include articles for the Nuovo Società Italiana di Beneficenza, correspondence, doctor and insurance papers, bills paid [invoices], bank statements, checkbooks, ticket books, meeting minutes, a journal and several copper postcards.

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Arrangement

MS-267 is currently described at the collection level.

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Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Acquisition

One manuscript box containing doctor/ insurance papers, bank statements, correspondence, articles of the Nuovo Società Italiana di Beneficenza, invoices, and copper postcards were donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Russell Magnaghi on October 9, 1985.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Material

Archival material found in this institution with documents relating to the Italian Mutual Beneficial Society include MS-266: Italian American Federation of the Upper Peninsula Records.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Bankbooks
- Postcards
- Fraternal organizations -- Michigan -- Calumet
- Italian Americans -- Societies, etc. -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Calumet (Mich.)
- Financial records
- Red Jacket (Mich.)

- Copper miners -- Michigan -- Copper Country

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Sickness and Injury Records, 1905-1910	box 1	folder 1
Admission Certificates and Copper Postcards, 1916	box 1	folder 2
Bank Statements, 1929-1930	box 1	folder 3
Correspondence, 1923, 1926	box 1	folder 4
Doctors'/ Insurance Papers, 1920-1922	box 1	folder 5
Doctors'/ Insurance Papers, 1923-1925	box 1	folder 6
Miscellaneous Papers, 1903-1926	box 1	folder 7
Bills Paid [Invoices], 1919	box 1	folder 8
Bills Paid, Jan 1, 1923-Mar 31, 1923	box 1	folder 9
Bills Paid, Apr 1, 1923-Jun 30, 1923	box 1	folder 10
Bills Paid, Jul 1, 1923-Sep 30, 1923	box 1	folder 11
Bills Paid, Oct 1, 1923-Dec 31, 1923	box 1	folder 12
Bills Paid, Jan 1, 1924-Mar 31, 1924	box 1	folder 13
Bills Paid, Apr 1, 1924-Jun 30, 1924	box 1	folder 14
Bills Paid, Jul 1, 1924-Sep 30, 1924	box 1	folder 15
Bills Paid, Oct 1, 1924-Dec 31, 1924	box 1	folder 16
Bills Paid, Apr 1, 1925-Jun 30, 1925	box 1	folder 17
Bills Paid, Jul 1, 1925-Sep 30, 1925	box 1	folder 18
Bills Paid, Jan 1, 1925-Mar 31, 1925	box 1	folder 19
Bills Paid, Oct 1, 1925-Dec 31, 1925	box 1	folder 20
Bills Paid, Apr 1, 1926-Sep 30, 1926	box 1	folder 21
Bills Paid, Oct 1, 1926-Dec 31, 1926	box 1	folder 22
Bills Paid, Jan 1, 1927-Mar 31, 1927	box 1	folder 23
Bills Paid, Apr, 1 1927-Jun 30, 1927	box 1	folder 24
Bills Paid, Jul 1, 1927-Sep 30, 1927	box 1	folder 25
Bills Paid, Sep 1, 1927-Dec 31, 1927	box 1	folder 26
Bills Paid, Jul 1929-Sep 1929	box 1	folder 27

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Bills Paid, Oct 1929-Dec 1929	box 1	folder 28
Bills Paid, Jul 1930-Sep 1930	box 1	folder 29
Nuovo Società Italiana di Beneficenza, Approximately 1922	box 2	folder 1
Checkbook and Monthly Memberships Paid, 1910, 1912, 1918-1923, (1918-1923)	box 2	folder 2
Minutes, 1885-1894	box 2	folder 3
