

# Italian Mutual Beneficial Society Records MS-267

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert.

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

11/25/2009

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Italian Mutual Beneficial Society (Calumet, Mich.).
<b>Title</b>	Italian Mutual Beneficial Society Records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1905-1930
<b>Extent</b>	0.58 cubic feet 2 manuscript boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Material</b>	English and Italian
<b>Mixed materials [Box]</b>	1-2
<b>Abstract</b>	Records, 1905-1930, of the Italian Mutual Beneficial Society in Calumet, Michigan. Includes doctor and insurance papers, bills paid, bank statements, checkbooks, ticket books, a journal and several copper postcards.

### Preferred Citation

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

## Administrative History

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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

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Records include articles for the Nuovo Società Italiana di Beneficenza, correspondence, doctor and insurance papers, bills paid [invoices], bank statements, checkbooks, ticket books, a journal and several copper postcards.

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## Arrangement

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MS-267 is housed in one manuscript box and is currently described at the collection level.

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## Administrative Information

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## **Publication Information**

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 11/25/2009

## **Revision Description**

This collection was processed during the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing project. 10/19/2012

## **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**

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### **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**

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**Genre(s)**

- Bankbooks
- Financial records
- Postcards

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Calumet (Mich.)
- Red Jacket (Mich.)

**Subject(s)**

- Copper miners--Michigan--Copper Country
- Fraternal organizations--Michigan--Calumet
- Italian Americans--Societies, etc.--Michigan--Upper Peninsula

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Sickness and Injury Records 1905-1910	1	1
Admission Certificates and Copper Postcards 1916	1	2
Bank Statements 1929-1930	1	3
Correspondence 1923, 1926	1	4
Doctors'/ Insurance Papers 1920-1922	1	5
Doctors'/ Insurance Papers 1923-1925	1	6
Miscellaneous Papers 1903-1926	1	7
Bills Paid [Invoices] 1919	1	8
Bills Paid Jan 1, 1923-Mar 31, 1923	1	9
Bills Paid Apr 1, 1923-Jun 30, 1923	1	10
Bills Paid Jul 1, 1923-Sep 30, 1923	1	11
Bills Paid Oct 1, 1923-Dec 31, 1923	1	12

Bills Paid Jan 1, 1924-Mar 31, 1924	1	13
Bills Paid Apr 1, 1924-Jun 30, 1924	1	14
Bills Paid Jul 1, 1924-Sep 30, 1924	1	15
Bills Paid Oct 1, 1924-Dec 31, 1924	1	16
Bills Paid Apr 1, 1925-Jun 30, 1925	1	17
Bills Paid Jul 1, 1925-Sep 30, 1925	1	18
Bills Paid Jan 1, 1925-Mar 31, 1925	1	19
Bills Paid Oct 1, 1925-Dec 31, 1925	1	20
Bills Paid Apr 1, 1926-Sep 30, 1926	1	21
Bills Paid Oct 1, 1926-Dec 31, 1926	1	22
Bills Paid Jan 1, 1927-Mar 31, 1927	1	23
Bills Paid Apr, 1 1927-Jun 30, 1927	1	24
Bills Paid Jul 1, 1927-Sep 30, 1927	1	25
Bills Paid Sep 1, 1927-Dec 31, 1927	1	26



Bills Paid Jul 1929-Sep 1929	1	27
Bills Paid Oct 1929-Dec 1929	1	28
Bills Paid Jul 1930-Sep 1930	1	29
Nuovo Società Italiana di Beneficenza Approximately 1922	2	1
Checkbook and Monthly Memberships Paid 1910, 1912, 1918-1923 (Bulk, 1918-1923)	2	2