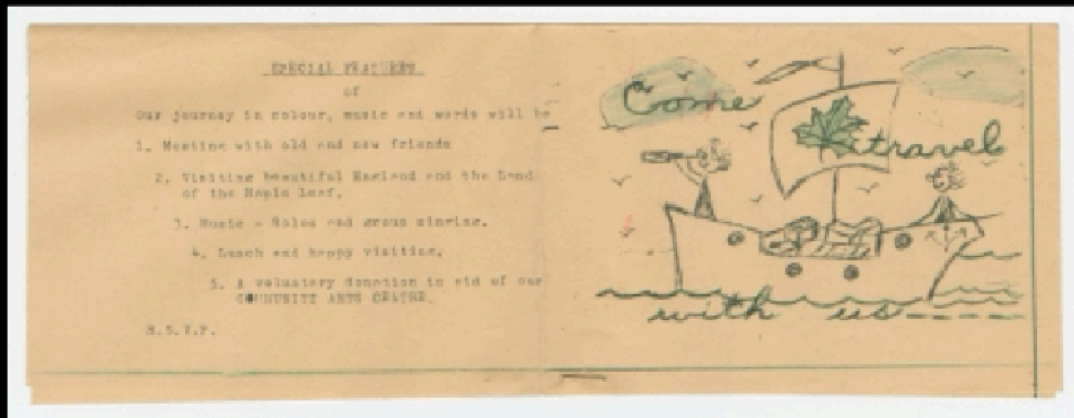


"Come Travel With Us." Sketch from a scrapbook in the Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines Fonds 1892-1996, RG 18

Researched by Anie Nguyen



The item I'm focusing on for this exhibit is a sketch of two people on a boat with a maple leaf flag, sailing in the sea. The handwritten title reads, "Come travel with us." To the left, the text outlines highlights of a cultural journey, including meeting friends, visiting England and Canada, enjoying music, and supporting a community arts centre. The combination of image and text suggests an invitation to an artistic and social experience.

This sketch can be found in a scrapbook that is housed in the Brock Archives and Special Collections. It is part of the *Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines Fonds 1892-1996, n.d. (non-inclusive) RG 18*. The scrapbook was created by members of a local literary society and contains newspaper clippings, personal correspondence, and photos reflecting the intellectual and social interests of the time. This item offers insight into how literature, poetry, and conversation shaped the region's cultural life.

Scrapbooks were a common form of documentation in the nineteenth century. As noted by scholar Katie Day Good in "From Scrapbook to Facebook," they allowed individuals to construct

personal and communal narratives. This scrapbook reflects how readers engaged with printed culture, actively shaping, and preserving their intellectual and social histories.

At a time when literacy rates were rising and newspapers were thriving, literary societies provided a space for public discourse. This scrapbook page illustrates how members of the Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines engaged with literature and used scrapbooking as a form of cultural and social expression.

Further Reading

Good, Katie Day. "From Scrapbook to Facebook: A History of Personal Media Assemblage and Archives." *New Media & Society* 15, no. 4 (2013): 557–73.

St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre. "The St. Catharines Women's Literary Club." Museum Chat (March 8, 2023):

<https://stcatharinesmuseumblog.com/2023/03/08/the-st-catharines-womens-literary-club/>.

Stevens, Bill. "The Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines." The Historical Society of St. Catharines (December 4, 2010):

<https://stcatharineshistory.ca/2010/12/04/the-womens-literary-club-of-st-catharines/>

"Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines Fonds 1892-1996, n.d. (Non-Inclusive) RG 18." Brock University. Archives & Special Collections. Accessed February 16, 2025.

<https://dr.library.brocku.ca/handle/10464/13493>