

REGISTER OF THE FORUM CLUB PAPERS,  
1929-1979

Forum Club Records, 1929-1979

Mss 82, .5 cu. ft.

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### INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of the records of the Forum Club, a discussion group at Clemson College. They document the membership, programs, and activities of the Club from 1929-1979.

This collection was donated to Clemson University in March, 1979 by the Forum Club. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. This register was prepared by Dave Redekop in 1986.

### CLUB HISTORY

The Forum Club at Clemson College was organized in early 1929 through the impetus of H. C. Bearley and Gene Parker. The aim of the club, as stated in its' constitution, is "to provide an open forum for discussion by the members of topics of general interest." The club has only twenty members at any one time and membership is by invitation alone. When vacancies occurred, the members vote by written ballot, without nominations, until someone receives three-fourths of the total vote cast.

Thirteen men met on January 9, 1929 at the first organizational meeting and chose A. G. Holmes as temporary chairman and Gene Parker as secretary. The first full meeting of the club took place on February 4, 1929. The membership adopted the name "The Forum Club", as well as its' constitution. Since that time the Forum Club has met for over fifty years. Its' membership has included many well-known members of the Clemson community, such as Ben Robertson, Jr., John Lane, A. B. Bryan, George Aull, Claud Green, and James E. Ward. The longevity of the Club is a tribute to its' simple purpose, since it has no dues, no social activities, or dinners. It meets every other Monday to discuss topics that the speakers for each

week choose to write about. The club still functions on campus, though our records cover only until the end of the 1970's.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Forum Club Records contain material documenting the Club's founding in 1929 and subsequent activities as a group dedicated to the open discussion of issues. The records mainly cover the program announcements, membership elections and resignations, and the clubs' constitutional and policy framework. There are a few presentations given at Club meetings, including two written by Ben Robertson, Jr., and a complete set of minutes. There are also membership lists, attendance records, and a few sketchy financial statements.