

Victoria University Archives

Finding Aid - Victoria College (Cobourg, Ont.). Philalethic Society fonds (2088)

Generated by Victoria University Archives on August 30, 2022

Language of description: English

Victoria University Archives

71 Queen's Park Crescent East

Toronto

Ontario

Canada

M5S 1K7

Telephone: 416.585.4562

Fax: 416.585.4591

Email: archives@vicu.utoronto.ca

<http://library.vicu.utoronto.ca/archives>

<https://discoverarchives.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/victoria-college-cobourg-ont-philalethic-society-fonds>

Victoria College (Cobourg, Ont.). Philalethic Society fonds

Table of contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary information | 3 |
| Administrative history / Biographical sketch | 3 |
| Scope and content | 3 |
| Notes | 4 |
| Series descriptions | 4 |

Summary information

| | |
|--|--|
| Repository: | Victoria University Archives |
| Title: | Victoria College (Cobourg, Ont.). Philalethic Society fonds |
| Reference code: | 2088 |
| Category [alternative]: | Student/Alumni Organizations |
| Date: | [1839?]-1842 (date of creation) |
| Physical description: | 2 cm of textual records |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | Added by MO: June 1, 2016 Revised by ECN: April 25, 2017 Updated by JT: Aug 30 2022 |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Society was active from at least ca. 1839 to 1841 as a student society of Upper Canada Academy, and in 1842 of Victoria College. In vol 1 no 1 of Society's publication, "The Philomath." it gives the following summary of the Philalethic Society: "The Philalethic Society as the name clearly signifies, was established for the discovery and promotion of Truth. Its existence is not only antecedent to the Charter of Victoria College but its foundation may almost be said to have been laid with that of the noble edifice; and whilst U.C. Academy was struggling through the vale of obscurity to the attainment of a nobler name, and more conspicuous situation in the literary world; the operations of this first regularly organized literary club were felt and appreciated and known in the public account of the Institution."

The early minutes of the society shows that their primary function was to hold regular debates on various topics.

Custodial history

The records were given to Chancellor Wallace in 1936 by Joyce M. Ritchie.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of minutes of the Upper Canada Academy Philalethic Society, 1839-1841 [1988.084V], and a manuscript of student periodical "The Philomath.", 1842 [1987.249V].

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition

Transferred from the E.J.Pratt Library in 1984

1987.249V

1988.084V

Alternative form available

A photocopy of 1987.249 (The Philomath Vol 1, No 1) is stored with the original.

Restrictions on access

Researchers are asked to consult the photocopies in order to protect the originals from damage.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Series descriptions

| Reference code | Title | Dates | Physical description |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| 2088-1987.249V1 | File - The Philomath. Vol 1, No 1 <i>Scope and content:</i> This edition of The Philomath. contains a prospectus, which outlines its aim to publish a semimonthly periodical devoted to subjects of general literature. The first editor was I.B. Howard. Contributors included S.S. Nelles. The first issue states that, "The principal objects of the Society in this publication are, The personal improvement of those interested. The preservation in the Society of some standing memorial of its original institutions and the perpetuation of its literary character." | December 3, 1842 | |
| 2088-1988.084V1 | File - Upper Canada Academy Philalethic Society Minutes | 1839-1841 | |