

# Maury Literary Society, Records of

Records of the Maury Literary Society  
1873-1928



## Title Statement

Maury Literary Society, Records ofRecords of the Maury Literary Society, 1873-1928 RG.31.14.12

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

RG.31.14.12

### Unit Date

1873-1928

### Language

The materials in this collection are in English.

### Abstract

This collection includes the written minutes and papers of the Maury Literary Society from 1873 to 1928 and documents related to the personal awards of the society's namesake, Matthew F. Maury. The Maury Literary Society was formed from the split of the Virginia Literary Society in 1873 along with its counterpart the Lee Literary Society. MLS helped create the first student publication, the *Gray Jacket*, in 1875. The MLS folded in 1928.

### Creator

Maury Literary Society (1873-1928)

### Extent

0.9 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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## Source of Acquisition

The Records of the Maury Literary Society were acquired by the University Libraries and Special Collections and University Archives in multiple accruals from 1957 to 1985.

## Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Records of the Maury Literary Society were completed in July 2021. Initial description was completed prior to 2002.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Records of the Maury Literary Society, RG 31/14/12, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Administrative History

The Virginia Literary Society was formed in 1872 as the first student organization at the College. This Society split into the Sophsonian and Philomathian Societies in 1873. In May of that year, the Philomathian Society changed its name to the Maury Literary Society, in honor of Commodore Matthew Fontain Maury of Virginia. The Sophsonian had already become the Lee Literary Society in February. The Maury and Lee Literary Societies joined forces to produce the first student publication, the *Gray Jacket*, in 1875. In 1928, the two societies merged, but then folded one year later.

# Scope and Content

This collection includes five volumes of handwritten minutes (1876-1887, 1890-1896, 1896-1903, 1915-1918, 1924-1928), a financial ledger (1891-1893), a membership roll book (1917-1928), constitution and bylaws (1921), programs, announcements, and correspondence. The 1890-1896 minute book contains membership rolls for 1890-1896 and the 1915-1918 minute book contains membership rolls for 1893-1894 and 1915-1918. Also included in the collection is an oratory medal awarded by the Society to M.F. Brown along with notes about Brown and another recipient, Scanland. Photographs of medals, orders of knighthood, and diamond pins given to Matthew Maury (for whom the Society was named) by the Crowned Heads of Europe and an accompanying card presenting these photos to the Society in June 1900 is also included.

# Separated Materials

Duplicate copies of the 1921 Constitution and By-laws have been separated to the Rare Book Collection.

Several medals have been separated and are also available for view: Best Orator for W. T. Pennington, 1875; Cochran Medal for Millard F. Brown as Best Debator, 1875; and Best Orator for F. E. Scanland, 1886.

# Related Materials

Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives also maintains the Records of the Lee Literary Society, RG 31/14/11, and volumes of the *Gray Jacket* in the Rare Book Collection.

# Keywords

University History

University Archives

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (1872-1896)

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Records of the Maury Literary Society by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Invitations to Commencement, Exercises, Debates**

**Unit Date** 1873-1911

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### **Minutes Record Book**

**Unit Date** 1876-09-15-1887-10-08

**box** 2

### **Papers Relating to Oratory Medals and Medal**

**Unit Date** 1877, 1886

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### **VAMC Commencement Programme**

**Unit Date** 1887

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### **Society Dues Book**

**Unit Date** 1891-1893

**box** 2

### **Minutes Record Book**

**Unit Date** 1890-10-11-1896-03-11

**box** 2

### **Minutes Record Book**

**Unit Date** 1896-03-21-1903-05-23

**box** 1

### **Minutes Record Book**

**Unit Date** 1915-02-27-1918-05-11

**box** 2

### **Papers Found in Record Books**

**Unit Date** 1893/1894-1918

**box-folder** 1 (box)  
**Container** 5 (folder)

**Materials Related to Matthew F. Maury**

**Unit Date** 1900, undated  
**box-folder** 1 (box)  
**Container** 6 (folder)

**Roll Book**

**Unit Date** 1917/18-1928  
**box** 2

**1921 Constitution and By-laws**

**box-folder** 1 (box)  
**Container** 3 (folder)

**Lee-Maury Play Staff Documents**

**Unit Date** 1926  
**box-folder** 1 (box)  
**Container** 4 (folder)

**Photograph of Medals Awarded to Matthew F. Maury**

**Unit Date** undated  
**box** 1