

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



FINDING AID TO THE BARBARA COOK COLLINS COLLECTION OF CHEERLEADING UNIFORMS AND PENANTS, 1939

**Purdue University Libraries
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Processed by: Virginia Pleasant, March 2, 2015

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Barbara Cook Collins
Title	Barbara Cook Collins Collection of Cheerleading Uniforms and Pennants
Collection Identifier	MSA 26
Date Span	1939
Abstract	The collection contains components from a women's cheerleading uniform and several pennants from 1939.
Extent	1 cubic foot, 1 Hollinger Box
Finding Aid Author	Virginia Pleasant, 2015
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Donated by Barbara Cook Collins on February 23, 1987.
Custodial History:	These materials appeared to have been misfiled with the Gertrude Sunderlin papers and were separated from them in 2014.
Preferred Citation:	MSA 26, Barbara Cook Collins Collection of Cheerleading Uniforms and Pennants, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University per deed of gift

Subjects and Genres

Organizations

Purdue University. Athletics department.

*Purdue University. Cheerleading.

Topics

Cheerleaders

Purdue University—History

Women's Archives at Purdue University

Form and Genre Types

Clothing

*Pennants

History of the 1939 Purdue Cheerleading Squad

Prior to 1939, cheer or yell leaders at Purdue were all men. The male students were chosen by the student body, with one member appointed as the head cheerleader. These students were responsible for fostering school spirit and support for Purdue's athletic teams. The position of head yell (cheer) leader was highly coveted, with its selection process well-documented in the *Exponent*. In 1939, Stubby Meiers was selected as the head cheerleader and forever changed the face of cheerleading at Purdue. During his tenure, Meiers selected three female students to join the squad for the first time: Barbara Cook (BSS 1940), Mary Mather (BSHE 1940), and Marjorie Moore (BSHE 1942). The three women are pictured with the rest of the Yell Leaders in the 1939 *Debris*. Interestingly, 1939 also saw the introduction of a Mascot to Purdue Athletics, with the creation of the first Boilermaker Special.

Sources:

MSA 26, Barbara Cook Collins collection of Cheerleading Uniforms and Pennants

1939 Debris Yearbook, Purdue University

http://tourtheten.com/purdue/traditions/game-day-traditions/boilermaker-special-purdue-pete-spirit-squad/#.VL_yziw3k80

Collection Description

Scope

The Barbara Cook Collins collection of Cheerleading Uniforms and Pennants (1939, 1 cubic foot) documents the advent of the inclusion of women in cheerleading at Purdue. The collection reflects the clothing worn and props used by women cheerleaders in 1939. The items also reflect material and university culture from the late 1930s. The collection might be most useful to researchers interested in cheerleading history (particularly at Purdue), extracurricular activities available to women in the early years of Purdue, material culture of the mid-twentieth century, and university culture and customs. Unfortunately there is little documentation a/or supporting documents accompanying the artifacts. Types of materials include: uniforms/ clothing and pennants.

Descriptive Rules Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been placed in archival housing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box

Item

1. Black and Gold Felt Pennant with Purdue in Old English Letters
2. Black Felt Pennant with Purdue in Gold Block Letters
3. Black and Gold Felt Pennant with "PU" Insignia and Purdue in Block Letters
4. Black Felt Pennant with Griffin Seal and Purdue in Gold
5. Black and Gold Felt Pennant with "PU" Insignia, Football, and "10"
6. Black and Gold Cheerleading Cardigan Sweater (Wool and Suede)
7. Black Cheerleading Sweater Dress with Gold Stripes (Wool)