

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



FINDING AID TO THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY SCABBARD AND BLADE COLLECTION, 1924-1973

**Purdue University Libraries
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Processed by: Mary A. Segó, August 11, 2014

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Legacy collection, creator unknown
Title	Purdue University Scabbard and Blade collection
Collection Identifier	MSP 163
Date Span	1924-1973, predominant 1960-1973
Abstract	A legacy collection of bulletins, constitution (revisions), correspondence, pledge manual and brief history, membership pamphlets and financial records documenting Scabbard and Blade Fraternity, Company E (Purdue University), along with the National Society of Scabbard and Blade.
Extent	0.40 cubic feet
Finding Aid Author	Mary A. Segó
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:	Legacy items; donors various and unknown.
Preferred Citation:	MSP 163, Purdue University Scabbard and Blade collection, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Cernan, Eugene A., 1934-

Organizations

Scabbard and Blade Fraternity. Company E (Purdue University)
ROTC

Topics

Scabbard and Blade Fraternity. Company E (Purdue University)
Student activities--United States

Form and Genre Types

Bulletins
Constitutions
Correspondence
Journals (Periodicals)
Manual
Pamphlets
Records (documents)

Occupations

Student
Soldier

History of Scabbard and Blade

Scabbard and Blade is a national military honor society founded by five field officers at the University of Wisconsin. They organized in 1904-1905 what is now known as A Company, First Regiment. These five men were Charles A. Taylor, Victor R. Griggs, Albert W. Foster, Harold K. Weld and Leo Marshall Cook. The Society is recognized locally, state wide and nationally as an organization of high prestige and ideals.

Membership in the Society is by election only and is a lifetime membership. It is divided into four classifications: active, alumni, associate and honorary. Active members are chosen from outstanding cadet officers in the advanced course of Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC programs at the institution where the company is located. Alumni members are active members who are no longer enrolled in ROTC or the university. Nearly all of them are commissioned reserve officers. Associate membership includes civilian university officials, faculty members and active or retired commissioned officers. Honorary members are civilians elected to membership in the Society for their achievement of distinction and their valuable service in the promotion of national defense. Some of the most outstanding active members include former Secretary of State, Dean Rusk; astronaut, John W. Young; former President, Herbert E. Hoover; musician Phil Harris and astronaut, Eugene A. Cernan. As of 2014 there are approximately 137,000 cadet officers.

Purdue University's First Regiment, Company E, was formed in 1908.

Source:

National Society of Scabbard and Blade. *A Brief History and Pledge Manual of the National Society of Scabbard and Blade*, Stillwater, OK (?): National Society of Scabbard and Blade, 1968. Print.

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue University Scabbard and Blade collection (1924-1973; 0.4 cubic feet) documents activities of Company E (Purdue University), along with the National Society of Scabbard and Blade. Some of the unique items include constitutions from 1926, 1966, 1968 and 1970, an IBM printout of names, addresses and information for members of the National Society of Scabbard and Blade initiated in the 1960-1970 and 1970-1971 school years, and a 1973 issue of *The Scabbard and Blade Journal* that features a cover story of Purdue alum, Eugene A. Cernan. There is also a ledger embossed with "Property of Scabbard and Blade, E. Co. 1st Rgt."

Types of materials include: bulletins, constitution and revisions, correspondence, journals (periodicals), pledge manual with brief history, membership pamphlets and financial records.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in acid-free folders and acid-free boxes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box *Invitations, Constitution, Pamphlets, Manual, Journal, Bulletins, Correspondence, Financial Records and Cards, 1924-1973*

Folder

1. Invitations, Scabbard and Blade, annual spring and fall initiation banquet, 1924
2. Constitution, 1926, 1966, 1968, 1970 (2 copies)
3. Manual, *A Brief History and Pledge Manual* of the National Society of Scabbard and Blade, 1968
4. Membership pamphlets (2), Scabbard and Blade, circa 1960s
5. Manual for company officers, May 1970
6. *The Scabbard and Blade Journal*, November 1972 (2 copies) and March 1973, features Captain Eugene A. Cernan on cover (2 copies)
7. IBM printout of names, addresses and information for members of the National Society of Scabbard and Blade initiated in the 1960-1970 and 1970-1971 school years
8. Bulletins and Correspondence, National Society of Scabbard and Blade, May 1971 - December 1972
9. Bulletins and Correspondence, National Society of Scabbard and Blade, March 1973 - April 1973
10. Financial records, 1967-1970
11. Financial ledger, E Company 1st Regiment, includes members names, circa 1968-1970
12. Cards, Christmas, National Headquarters, Scabbard and Blade, undated