

**Eleanor Foundation Records**  
**~1894-2001**

*Preliminary Finding Aid*

**Biographical History**

In 1898 Ina Law Robertson opened the Eleanor Hotel, a residence to provide low-cost and safe housing for Chicago's working women. After the first Eleanor Hotel (later known as Eleanor Club) was created, a second Club was established in 1905, and multiple other Clubs were started in Chicago in the following years. Robertson's idea to provide affordable housing to support women, often transitioning from rural homes to urban living, was the beginning of what was later known as the Eleanor Foundation. The Eleanor Residence for Working Women and Students was the last housing location, which closed in 2001.

**Scope and Content**

The Eleanor Foundation records roughly span the years 1894 to 2001. These materials include photographs, publications, correspondence, and more. This collection is unprocessed so descriptions and dates are only estimations.

Container List Notes:

- Central Eleanor Club (CEC)
- Eleanor Association (EA)
- H# = Hollinger boxes
- F# = flat boxes
- RC# = RC boxes

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
		<b><i>Eleanor Foundation Records, ~1894-2001</i></b>	
H1		Ina Robertson personal: writings, letters, news clippings transcript copy, etc.	
H2		James Law Estate Probate Records: Bound exemplified copy of record	
H3		Eleanor Association (EA): History, Personnel, By-Law Characters, etc., Trustee Meeting Minutes, Executive Committee and ex-workers meeting	1914-1968
H4		EA Stockholders and Directors reports, meeting minutes	1907-1928, 1963-1976
H5		EA Committee meeting minutes	1907-1949
H6		EA Talks Poetry, "Thoughts on Living"	
H7		EA Scrapbooks, Pamphlets	1935- 1940
H8		EA Financials: Properties and Endowments	
H9		EA Financials: Financial Policy Expenses, Financial Reports	1914-1960s

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H10	EA Financial: needs and annual reports; EA Financial Reports	1912-1923, 1924-1945
H11	EA Financials	1946-1965
H12	EA Financials: Federal and State Taxes, Social Security Wages	1940-1948, 1936-1970 (not inclusive)
H13	EA Tax Returns and Reports	1962-1968
H14	EA General	1970-1980
H15	EA Housing Clubs General, Needs of the working girls (news clippings)	
H16	Housing Clubs One-Six, Cadourie	
H17	Eleanor Lodge: Building Construction and Furnishing, Final Inventory	1928-1931, 1975
H18	Eleanor Lodge: Financials Ledger; "Accounts Reported", EA Financial, Central Eleanor Club (CEC), Parkway, Lodge	1952-1954, 1968-1971
H19	Parkway Eleanor	
H20	Parkway Construction Correspondence, Childs and Smith to Eleanor Association and Construction	1935-1955
H21	Parkway Construction, Potential site, architect, reports on specifications, Blue prints: Childs and Smith, Contracts, Renovation	1960s
H22	Eleanor League and Junior Club	
H23	Eleanor Camp	
H24	CEC and Tea Room; CEC Establishment, History, General Meeting, Minutes, Membership, Building	1907-1955
H25	CEC Council Meeting Minutes	1914-1970
H26	CEC Financial Reports	1914-1971
H27	CEC Activities, Drama, Club classes, CEC performance, festivities	1930s-1940s
H28	CEC various, Building renovations, CEC Building Upkeep	1950-1975, 1959-1963, 1960s-1970s
H29	CEC reports, employment, membership	1961-1970, 1980
H30	CEC activities, candlelighting, film, etc. CEC Bulletins	1960s-1970s
H31	CEC Monthly Bulletins, 1980-February 1989	1980-1989
H32	CEC Monthly Bulletins, March 1989-December 1996	1989-1996
H33	Women Forum Clearing, Housing International	
H34	Exhibit labels, song books, sheet music, packets: "Ina Law Robertson: Portrait of a Woman Pioneer"	
H35	Eleanor time capsule opened 2006: Bulletins, documents, by-laws.	
H36	Bid binder for Parkway sale (?), Needs Analysis	2001
H37	Financial and legal documents	
H38	Photos, Ina Law Robertson photo album	
H39	The Eleanor Record, photos, event programs, club maps, audiocassette, CEC dice, etc.	
H40	History Exhibit: Ina Robertson, exhibit labels, photos, July	1999
H41	Archives unsorted, photo albums, scrapbook pages (news clippings), Parkway Eleanor, front office cash sheet/payroll	1937, 1940, 1971
H42	Tablecloth	
H43	Books: Ina Robertson Bible, others from club libraries, membership lists, Christmas cards	c. 1914-1970?

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H44	The Eleanor Record magazines, pamphlets, booklets: "The Power of an Ideal"	
H45	Materials from M. Schreiber, CEC materials	1980s-
H46	Chicago Lyric Opera House booklets, <i>La Boheme</i>	
H47	Deeds, documented property sale, misc. club and tax info	1930-1954
H48	Sheet music	
F1	Robertson miscellaneous, residents, homestead, juniors, newsletters, Clearing House	
F2	Club One Scrapbook, events, trips, residents	1960-1966
F3	Camp, Cadourie, scrapbooks: camp and juniors	
F4	Clubs and camp copies, mount for exhibit	
F5	Club Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, social center, lodge and Parkway	
F6	CEC, building, events, activities, members, mock wedding	
F7	Club One, building, events and residents	
F8	CEC ledgers (2)	
F9	Club One gold plaque	
F10	Eleanor Women's Foundation framed award to Myrtle Schreiber	1998
F11	Art photo book, <i>The White City</i> (fragile)	1894
F12	CEC photos and memorabilia	
F13	CEC ledgers	1907-1928?
F114	Photos from residence basement	
F15	Photos	
F16	Scrapbook with news clippings, Eleanor Camp songbook	1938
F17	Photos from residence basements	
F18	Photos of staff and board for publicity and for framed photos in foyer	2000
F19	Photos: Clubs and CEC	1960s
F20	Photos: Miscellaneous	
RC1	CEC minutes; bequests and endowments	1969-1979
RC2	Shirts, glass slides, framed images, Ina Law Robertson diary, miscellaneous objects	
RC3	Parkway, legal and financial documents, news articles, Ina Robertson estate documents	
RC4	Photo album, Hollinger Boxes of photos, CEC history, forms	
RC5	Books: The Eleanor Record: bound newsletters	
RC6	Objects, trophies, etc.	
RC7	Superintendent meeting minutes	1941-?
RC8	Photo negative printing blocks	
RC9	EA Financials	
RC10	Estate Records and Bequests to Eleanor Association	
RC11	Eleanor Club Scrapbooks, camp music book, memorabilia	
RC12	Archival supplies (labels, photo sleeves, clips, etc.)	
RC13	Board of Directors meeting minutes and Financials	1974-2000
RC14	Archival supplies (file folders)	
RC15	Audited financials	1926-1966
RC16	Photos, CEC memos, ads, etc.	
RC17	The Eleanor Record, song books	

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RC18	Unsorted photos, Junior club record, Helping Hand Fund account	
RC19	The Eleanor Record: bound books	
RC20	Typing blocks	
RC21	Books, stereopticon slides belonging to Ina Robertson: glass slides	
RC22	The Eleanor Record: bound books	
RC23	Women of Faith Resource Center Articles of Incorporation, photos, scrapbook pages, news clippings, oil and material rights	
Green Tub	Photo discs, 2 oval Robertson framed portraits, 4 rectangle framed portraits, Eleanor Camp photos, framed City of Chicago Proclamation, framed rededication letter from mayor, 7 small frames with labels from exhibit, framed art (mice)	
Black Binder	News clipping about women, women's issues	2000-2001
Item	Framed: Building photo "22"	
Item	Framed booklet (?): "Little Lights on Eleanor Life"	
Item	Framed: Faces of Eleanor Collection: These each feature a photo and short story about an individual woman. They can be identified by the names of the women: Cheryl, Sonia, Leturyurin, Crystal, Sandy, Leialoha, Lolita, Maria, Marina, Nikisha	
Item	Framed: Eleanor Toast Song: sheet music and song book	
Item	Framed: "The Big Hay Rack Party from Eleanor Camp"	1923
Item	Framed: Memorial to Orpha M. Wardle	
Item	Framed: Ina Law Robertson photo portrait	
Item	Framed: "The First Eleanor Club" (from newspaper?)	
Item	Framed: Photo of girls studying	
Item	Framed: Eleanor Clubs ads, 3 panels	1912
Item	Framed: Eleanor Pledge and seal (?)	
Item	Framed: Ina Robertson portrait, painting by Praciado	