MSS0138. Ku Klux Klan collection finding aid

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Ku Klux Klan collection

Title: Ku Klux Klan collection
Collection No: MSS.138
Extent: 1.5 cubic feet

Abstract: The collection consists of materials which fragmentarily document the activities of Ku Klux Klan groups in Tennessee and beyond.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Ku Klux Klan collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: November 2021
Scope and contents

The collection fragmentarily documents the activities of Klan groups in Tennessee and beyond. It includes blank by-laws forms for local chapters, sample pieces of letterhead, membership forms, an oath of allegiance, and flyers, as well as four items of correspondence. The two 1923 letters concern businessmen exploiting their mutual Klan connections; a 1967 letter advertising a Klan-sponsored Christmas card; and a copy of a 1968 letter from a Mississippi klan leader condemning the killing of Kathy Ainsworth by Meridian police. There are also publications by and about the Klan and several pieces of clothing worn by Klan members.

Subject terms

Bowers, Samuel Holloway, 1924-2006.
Ku Klux Klan (1915- )
Women of the Ku Klux Klan.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

1 By-laws of Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, circa 1920? Blank form for chapter use.
2 Correspondence:
   Exalted Cyclops, Klan 3, Realm of Oklahoma, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Musokee, Okla., to President, Oklahoma Free State Fair Board, Musokee, Okla., 1923 September 10. Gives thanks for Klavern being given use of fairgrounds on August 28, 1923, to hold open air initiation.
   R.E. Collier, Kligrapp, Klan 101, Realm of Texas, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Fort Worth, Tex., to W.A. Riggs, Aransas Pass, Tex., 1923 June 22. Responding to inquiry about produce commission merchants, recommends two possibilities.
   United Klans of America, Inc., Tuscaloosa, Ala., to Memphis State University Special Collections, 1967 November 2. Flyer and sample of Christmas card “Keep Christ in Christmas”.
   Sam H. Bowers, Jr., Laurel, Miss., to Tom E. Tucker, Meridian Police Department, Meridian, Miss., 1968 July 1 (copy). Bowers, Imperial Wizard of Mississippi’s White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, condemns the killing of Kathy Ainsworth by police the previous night.
3 Flyers for United Klans of America meetings, 1966, 1967. Meetings in Memphis and Tipton County addressed by Robert M. Shelton, Raymond R. Anderson and
Doyle Ellington (7).

Letterheads, undated. Office of the Grand Dragon, Realm of California, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc.; Imperial Palace, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Department of propagation.

Membership forms, Klode card, oath of allegiance, undated.

Publications:


Pamphlet: “Americans Take Heed!”, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 1922.


Other publications and flyers distributed by the White Rescue Service, Memphis, circa 1966.

Women of the Ku Klux Klan forms, letterhead, undated.

Church announcement card: Grace Methodist Church, Tenth and Lindsay, unknown city, undated (1920s?). Includes meeting on “Is the Ku Klux Klan a Good Thing”.


OS 1 Movie advertisements: “Legion of Terror”, Columbia Pictures, 1936. (2)

Artifacts:

Circular metal pendant: “KKK member in good standing”.

OS Box 1 White cotton gown with attached hood, with blue delta symbol sewn on front. Red cloak and sash worn by a klanswoman.

Pamphlets: Memphis, Tennessee, Ku Klux Klan, circa 1959. (3)

Box 2 Publications:

The Imperial Night-Hawk, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Atlanta, Ga., Vol. 1, No. 42, 43, 44, 47-50, 52; Vol. 2, No. 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 1924.

OS 1 The Fiery Cross, Atlanta, Ga., Vol. 3, No. 3, 1941 July; Vol. 4, No. 5, 1942 July/August.

The Fiery Cross, Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1966 (5 issues); Vol. 3, No. 1, 1968 January; Vol. 8, No. 4-12, 1973; 1974 January/February/March.

“The White Man’s Civilization” by Mary Hannah Gordon, undated. Copy of manuscript by General George W. Gordon’s (1836-1911) wife claiming he was the first Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire. Original in Memphis Pink Palace Museum.