COSMOS CLUB HISTORY AND THE TOWNSEND HOUSE:
A SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

For those interested in reading about the history of the Cosmos Club and the Townsend House, this bibliography of items available in the Club’s library has been prepared by Karen Mark, former Librarian and Ruth O. Selig ('07).

BASIC RESOURCES


The Cosmos Club: A Self-Guided Tour of the Mansion. This 2018 brochure is designed to guide users on a walking tour of the public rooms of the Clubhouse with links back to the Club website.

Cosmos Club Website: About the Club > History ...

EARLY CLUB HISTORY (1878-1952)


Bulletin of the Philosophical Society of Washington. The bulletins cover the late 19th and early 20th century meetings that include papers delivered. Thirty-six of the founding members of the Cosmos Club were members of the PSW. Available online at Hathitrust.org.


"50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Cosmos Club, 1878-1928.” Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C. 1928. Also available online at Hathitrust.org.


COSMOS CLUB HISTORY: TOWNSEND HOUSE (1952 - 1979)
"Notes for Tour of Townsend Mansion, Home of the Cosmos Club, July 2015,” Harvey Alter (’70), Editor, with updates by Jean Taylor Federico (’92) and Betty C. Monkman (’04), (includes several excerpts from the Cosmos Club Bulletin describing the Warne Ballroom history and articles from the March 2012 Bulletin, Vol. 66, No. 3, covering the 2012 renovation) (Cosmos Club Website: About the Club > History>Readings and Resources).
RECENT CLUB HISTORY (1979 - today)


TOWNSEND HOUSE HISTORY

Notebook containing 25 8-1/2 x 11 copies of the ca. 1910 photographs of the Townsend House taken by Frances Benjamin Johnson, compiled by Harvey Alter. In Cosmos Club Archives.


Cosmos Club Website: About the Club > The Cosmos Club Historic Preservation Foundation > The Townsend Mansion

FURNISHINGS AND DECORATIVE ARTS

Notebook containing descriptions of subjects and artists of the Long Gallery Portraits, compiled by several Club Committees. Located in Long Gallery.
Online catalogue of art objects in the Cosmos Club collection containing descriptions and details on provenance. (See Librarian/Art Curator for access).

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION
Cosmos Club Website: About the Club > Cosmos Club Historic Preservation Foundation > Warne Ballroom Award. [Here you will find the submission packet that led to the Warne Ballroom Restoration Project winning the 2017 District of Columbia Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation in the Stewardship category.]

The March 2012 Cosmos Club Bulletin (Vol. 66, No. 3) contains articles about the restoration of the Warne Ballroom, the individuals involved in the planning, direction and execution of the work, and various details of the ballroom. Included also is an extensive photographic spread on pages 19-22, plus a cover image. The articles are also found in "Notes for Tour of Townsend Mansion, Home of the Cosmos Club, July 2015."


Revised January 2018