

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Middlesex Hunt
Minute Book
1901-1910**

Name: **Middlesex Hunt (1899-1919)** **MC0014**

Materials: Minute book

Dates: 1901-1910

Volume: 0.25 cubic feet

Donation: Presented by Francis P. Sears, Jr., on behalf of John B. Glass, 1996

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Historical Note

The Middlesex Hunt of South Lincoln, Massachusetts was established in by Alexander Henry Higginson in 1899. Higginson's father Henry, the founder of the Boston Symphony, recognized his son's penchant for the sporting life and provided him with the funds to acquire the land needed for kennels and stables. The Hunt was officially recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association in 1901. Unlike their neighbors at Myopia and Norfolk, the Middlesex hounds concentrated on foxhunting as opposed to drag. Higginson served as MFH for the entire tenure of the Hunt; favoring the English style, he employed Bob and Ned Cotesworth of England as his hunt staff.

The Middlesex Hunt developed a reputation as one of the best in the country, although this was not uncontested. In 1905, after having taken up an argument in favor of English foxhounds with fellow MFH Harry Worcester Smith, Higginson and the Middlesex Hounds competed against Smith's Grafton Hounds in the Great Hound Match. The match, a two-week trial of hunting in the Piedmont Valley of Virginia, ultimately ended in defeat for Higginson and his English hounds, but it served to establish the Piedmont as the hunting capital of the United States. Although defeated in the match, the Middlesex Hounds were still regarded as one of the best groups in the country, and as such received several invitations to visit other hunts for another fourteen years. Higginson disbanded the kennels and sold off his

hounds at the close of the First World War due to lack of funds and interest from a war-weary public, as well as family matters. While some of the pairs went to the Pau Hounds of France, the rest of the hounds were sold to the Millbrook Hunt. Higginson shortly thereafter followed to Millbrook and served as MFH for three seasons, hunting with many of his old hounds.

The distinctive collar for Middlesex was a white one; the Master and staff wore green facings and pipings. The Middlesex season lasted from August 1 to February 1.

Collection Description

The Middlesex Hunt Minute Book is the only item in this collection. It was compiled by Hunt Secretary Francis P. Sears, Sr. and includes materials dealing with Hunt Club business from 1901 to 1910. Records of the hunt, such as minutes and member lists, are included with ephemera such as fixture cards and newspaper clippings.

Series and Subseries

- I. Minute Book, 1901-1910** **0.25 cubic feet**
 Volume contains hunt constitution and by-laws, meeting minutes, lists of members, invitations, hound lists, fixture cards, show catalogs, programs, and newspaper clippings.

Container List MC0014

I. Minute Book

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
L47	Secretary's minute book	1901-1910

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, May 2004.