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AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB MAGAZINE,  
1925-1936

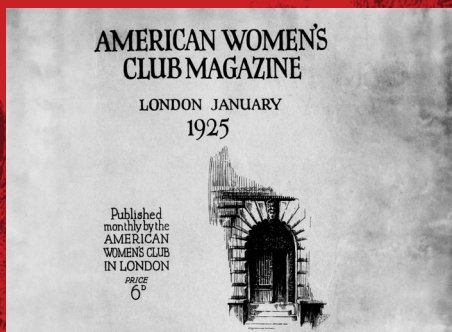
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Explore the social, educational, and philanthropic activities...

Founded in May 1899 as the Society of American Women in London, the American Women's Club (AWC) — as it became known in 1916 — was an organisation for female expats from America. By the 1920s the AWC had gained 1,500 members and boasted a lavish, fully-staffed headquarters at 46 Grosvenor Street in Mayfair.

As its first president, Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin, wrote in the inaugural edition of the *American Women's Club Magazine*

(AWCM), the club stemmed from a shared belief that “serious social intercourse would lead to useful service and would create a centre of our own in the land of our sojourn”. This collection brings together editions of the AWCM that were published monthly between January 1925, when it was launched, and December 1936. These document the club's history and provide insights into the varied social, educational, and philanthropic activities that AWC members pursued.



This collection consists of nearly 3,400 images of the *American Women's Club Magazine*.



The AWC's headquarters boasted 30 bedrooms, an Italian garden with a Florentine fountain, a ballroom, and a library.

The AWCM likewise evidences the local, national, and international networks within which the club operated. Articles frequently discussed AWC branches in Europe, and as far afield as Shanghai.

This collection sheds light upon the influential women's clubs movement. It also illuminates the wider social, political, and cultural contexts that precipitated and shaped institutions like the AWC.

“We are a group of American women in a foreign land, and we have the responsibility and duty of demonstrating the strongest and finest qualities of our own country”, *American Women's Club Magazine* (February 1936).

Sources include: American Women's Club

...pursued by a women's club during the interwar period.



The AWC valued personal development and intellectual enrichment. It organised a range of educational activities, including a debating society, French classes, and lessons on “Voice Production and Public Speaking”.



The AWC assembled an extensive lending library. The club's magazine regularly documented the library's acquisitions.



In terms of its activities and outlook, the AWC was, in ways, a rather progressive institution. Yet it still reflected prevailing racial prejudices.

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