

**Gustavus Adolphus College Archives  
St. Peter, Minnesota**

**Turbescon (T.C.O.S.). Collection of Turbescon Secret Society, 1915-  
1951.**

**GACA Collection 127**

**Turbescon (T.C.O.S.). Collection of Turbescon Secret Society, 1915-1951. GACA Collection 127. 2 folders.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Turbescon collection consists of research notes and correspondence concerning this student “secret society.” Turbescon, popularly known as the T.C.O.S. or the Reds, was a male fraternal organization active during the late nineteen-teens at Gustavus Adolphus College. Research material appears to have been compiled by college authorities seeking to learn more about T.C.O.S. and its members. Later correspondence concerns the group’s founding and consists of incoming correspondence from former members to Professor Conrad Peterson. It is believed Peterson used these materials for his 1952 publication *Remember Thy Past*.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:**

According to Doniver Lund’s *A Centennial History*, Turbescon “was begun during [Peter August] Mattson’s administration and was popularly known either as T.C.O.S. or the Reds. The name T.C.O.S. was coined from the nicknames of two of its founders (Buster and Count), and ‘was originated with the idea of creating some mystery.’” Fraternities had been banned by the college during 1910. When fraternal organizations were reinstituted during 1920, Turbescon members divided into Tau Psi Omega and Nu Upsilon Gamma, popularly known as the Reds and the Grays.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the College Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

Turbescon (T.C.O.S.). Collection of Turbescon Secret Society, 1915-1951. GACA Collection 127. Gustavus Adolphus College Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Jeff A. Jenson processed this collection and developed the finding aid during March 2009.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Gustavus Adolphus College--Turbescon.

Gustavus Adolphus College--Fraternities.

Gustavus Adolphus College--Student organizations.

Gustavus Adolphus College--Tau Psi Omega.

Nu Upsilon Gamma. Gamma Alpha Chapter (Gustavus Adolphus College).

<b>GACA Collection 127</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence and Research Notes, 1915-1919	1	1
Correspondence, 1951	1	2