

The GEiEG documentary fonds at the Girona Municipal Archives. Description and treatment

Anna Gironella

The Grup Excursionista i Esportiu Gironí (GEiEG) [the hiking and sporting group of Girona] was created in Girona on November 7, 1919, with the goal of promoting hiking and other recreational and cultural activities, according to the organization's original statutes. In addition to organizing outings and hikes, they soon began organizing sports activities—first, related to athletics—, recreational activities and cultural projects. It is the first organization in Catalonia dedicated to amateur sports and one of the organizations with the most members.

The GEiEG has different sports sections that organize recreational and competitive events. The first section was the mountain trail section, which started when the organization did in 1919, followed by their athletics, basketball, and skiing programs, and many others. In addition to the sports section, it's also important to mention the cultural sections, like sardana music and dance section and the organization's choir, both started in 1947, and the archeology section, created in 1934. Every year the organization hosts different activities and outings, some of them dating back to the 1930s, like the Group Gathering, the Festa del Pedal, the *colles sardanistes* contests, the Pujada als Àngels and the Kids and Teens Fast Painting Contest at the Girona Fair. It is an organization that is very well-established socially in the city of Girona.

The Grup Excursionista i Esportiu Gironí (GEiEG) documentary fonds was deposited at the Girona Municipal Archives (AMGi) on January 10, 2017; coming from the organization's building on Carrer Albareda. The records deposited consisted of the organization's yearly summaries, the GEiEG monthly newsletters, posters, photographs, and videos, dated between 1920 and 2016. In total there were 122 archive boxes, 23 large format folders and 4 boxes of journals, graphics, photos and audiovisual records.

They are documents that are primarily related to the activities the GEiEG organized with its various branches. Next, we'll describe the different types of records included in the fonds:

- The GEiEG **summaries** contain the summaries of the activities hosted by the association and the sections, as well as different logos for the organization, financial information and photographs. The summaries from years 1976/1977 to 2003/2004 are included, while the volumes for 1989/1990 and 1994/1995 are missing.
- The GEiEG informative **newsletters**, published every month, explain the organization's activities and contain publications of other articles of interest. Almost the entire collection of newsletters was deposited, from number 1, published in March-April 1920, until number 819, from October-November 2016. For some of the first ones, there is only a photocopy of the original and some are missing from 1941 to 1945. During its publication, the newsletter has varied in terms of format and cover design.
- The **posters** are organized into folders according to the different GEiEG sections and activities. In total, there were 724 units deposited, dated from 1922 to 2016. The collection of posters that were preserved show the wide variety of activities

the organization planned and they highlight the most important moments of some sections. They also preserve the posters for the majority of the organization's recreational and social events, like the Group Gathering, the Festa del Pedal, the Pujada als Àngels and the fast painting contests, which conserve almost all of their posters year after year. Among the authors of these posters we find Antoni Varés, from the thirties and forties, and collaborations with Domènec Fita, Carles Vivó and Enric Ansesa. The collection of posters makes it possible to analyze the evolution of the aesthetics and the drawing techniques of the times, and the illustrators and artists that were most popular in the city.

- Included in the fonds' **photographs** are positive and negative pictures as well as slides. The positive pictures are photographs in black and white and color; the formats most widely used are 10x15 cm, 13x18 cm, and 18x24 cm, and they are classified according to the sports and cultural sections and the community activities organized by the GEiEG. In total, they deposited 65 archive boxes with positive pictures, a folder with large-format photographs and two boxes with negatives and slides.
- The fonds' collection of **videos**, which consists of 30 documentary units, are primarily recordings of cultural and community activities organized by the GEiEG, but it also includes recordings of some of the organization's assemblies.

The fonds processing has consisted of:

- A general description of the fonds: creation of an ISAD sheet (G).
- Cataloging and installation of textual-type series and journals: summaries and newsletters.
- Digitizing and publishing the newsletters on the AMGi website. In total, there were 16,563 pages digitized that correspond to 767 issues.
- Cataloging, installation, digitizing and publication of the posters on the AMGi website. In total there were 706 documents digitized that correspond to 582 records, in addition to the posters, the series contains papers, calendars and plans.
- Selection of 8,212 photographs from a collection of approximately 15,000 photographs. Normalized installation in terms of conservation, digitizing, and registration processing on the entire digitized collection.
- Basic cataloging tasks on 7,844 photographs. Includes the information summary from the original photographs, the classification and basic management data.
- Inventory of 30 videos in Beta, VHS and DVD formats.

It should be pointed out that the GEiEG fonds housed at the AMGi primarily consists of documents that relate to the organization and its different sporting, recreational, and cultural events. The administration and management records, in other words, the constitution of the association's governing body, membership lists, correspondence and financial records, are still kept at the GEiEG offices, both current and historical documents.

The organization's long history and amount of members, as well as the fact that much of its documentary legacy has been preserved, which contains a wide variety of formats and includes a wide range of activities, makes the GEiEG fonds popular in the social history of the city of Girona and to the history of sports in general.