

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Putnam & Thurston's  
Restaurant Collection

2000.75

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## Collection Information

Abstract : Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant in downtown Worcester was one of the city's leading dining and meeting locations from its founding in 1858 until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite loss of downtown business and retail stores to suburban malls, the restaurant persisted until about 1979, when it finally closed.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository. Item level control (some series folder level control).

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of James K. Davis, Worcester, Mass., September 2000.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsb, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Putnam & Thurston's (Worcester, Mass.)  
Restaurants – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Business enterprises – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Dinners and dining – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Menus. lcsb

## **Historical/Biographical Notes**

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant was the successor to a restaurant that opened in 1848 under the Central Exchange Hotel by Daniel C. Gates. In 1873 a partnership operated the restaurant known then as Taft, Bliss, and Putnam. Two years later the name was changed to Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant. The restaurant was one of the principal eating places in Worcester, with a large dining room, meeting rooms, and facilities for organizational dinner meetings. From its original site on Main Street, the restaurant moved to 39 Mechanic Street in 1917, and moved again in 1929 to its final location at 29 Mechanic Street. With the proliferation of suburban shopping centers and malls, beginning in the 1950s, businesses and retail stores in downtown Worcester slowly lost business and ultimately most closed. Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant persisted until about 1979 when it too closed.

## **Scope and Content**

The collection consists of the contents of a scrapbook and includes clippings (aqp), news articles, advertisements, programs of organizational meetings held at the restaurant, letters, menus, and miscellaneous items. Collection represents the period 1938 to 1959.

## **Series Description**

Series 1: Clippings.

Series 2: Letters.

Series 3: Programs.

Series 4: Advertisements.

Series 5: Menus.

Series 6: Miscellaneous.

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant Collection  
2000.75  
Series 1, Clippings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.75.1.1	"Mack-Hale greets oldest customer" : Worcester (newspaper), June 3, 1938. aqp
1	1	2000.75.1.2	"Paul Mack-Hale dies suddenly" : Worcester (newspaper), May 20, 1939. 2 p. aqp
1	1	2000.75.1.3	Articles relating to death and burial of Paul Mack-Hale, proprietor, Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant : Worcester (newspaper), May 23, 1939. 4 p. aqp
1	2	2000.75.1.4	"Spirit of Worcester welcomed" (training plane) : <i>Worcester Sunday Telegram</i> , September 4, 1943. aqp
1	2	2000.75.1.5	Newspaper photograph of Charles Davis with various types of containers for food services : Worcester (newspaper), September 4, 1943. aqp
1	2	2000.75.1.6	"Charles David Kotsilibas" : in Views – News – Impressions, Worcester (newspaper), ca. 1943. aqp
1	2	2000.75.1.7	Order of Aheppa program honoring Alexander Varkas at Putnam & Thurstons Restaurant : Worcester (newspaper), October 13, 1941. aqp
1	2	2000.75.1.8	"Y.M.C.A. World Service campaign tops goal" : Worcester (newspaper), February 20, 1945. aqp
1	3	2000.75.1.9	"But building housing Putnam & Thurston" : <i>Worcester Evening Gazette</i> , June 13, 1951. aqp
1	3	2000.75.1.10	"New Englanders like to read about selves", by Bill Moiles : <i>Worcester Telegram</i> , June 7, 1955. aqp
1	3	2000.75.1.11	"Two natives of Greece honored" : Worcester (newspaper), June 13, 1951. aqp

Series 1, continued

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| 1 | 3 | 2000.75.1.12 | “The Good old days”, column : Worcester (newspaper), 1959. aqp                                    |
| 1 | 3 | 2000.75.1.13 | Albie Booth is dinner guest here”, with advertisements : Worcester (newspaper), ca. 1950s. aqp    |
| 1 | 3 | 2000.75.1.14 | “Old timers dine at Put’s centenary” : <i>Worcester Sunday Telegram</i> , March 1, 1959. 2 p. aqp |

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant Collection  
2000.75  
Series 2, Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2000.75.2.1	To Mr. Davis from Beth W. Fairbanks, May 21, 1939, relating to the death of Mack-Hale. aqp
1	4	2000.75.2.2	Mr. Charles Davis from United Wholesale Grocery Co., May 24, 1939, relating to the death of Mack-Hale. aqp
1	4	2000.75.2.3a	Mr. Charles Davis from J. M. Crume, Editor, Little Traveler Guide, relating to listing in travel guide, June 3, 1939.
		.3b	Copy of listing for travel guide.
1	4	2000.75.2.4	Mr. Charles Davis from Maurice T. Lawler, June 27, 1950, on the occasion of Davis' appointment as Auditorium Trustee.
1	4	2000.75.2.5	Mr. John K. Davis from Henry F. Long, Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation, March 13, 1951, relating to meeting at Putnam & Thurston's.
1	4	2000.75.2.6	Mr. Charles Davis from Francis S. Holmes, Executive Secretary, Worcester Committee for Education on Alcoholism, January 29, 1951, relating to meeting at Putnam & Thurston's.
1	4	2000.75.2.7	Charles & John Davis from John S. Derham, May 4, 1951, relating to induction into office.
1	4	2000.75.2.8	Charles K. Davis from P. F. Canton, Stark, Johnson & Stinson, Inc., November 25, 1951, regarding participation in Christmas decoration project.
1	4	2000.75.1.9	Mr. Charles Davis from Milton P. Higgins, President, Norton Company, January 22, 1952, relating to Community Chest.

Series 2, continued

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| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.10 | Charlie (Charles Davis) from Robert Harrington, January 22, 1952, regarding Harrington's election as bank trustee. Manuscript.     |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.11 | Charles and John Davis from Edward R. Dickhaut, Boston Stewards' Club, March 18, 1952, relating to meeting at Putnam & Thurston's. |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.1.12 | Mr. Charles & John Kotsilibas Davis from G. H. Anderson, December 17, 1952, relating to past services and Christmas greetings.     |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.1.13 | Mr. Charles Davis from Harry Paul, June 15, 1955, relating to visit by Rudy Vallee to Putnam & Thurston's.                         |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.14 | Charles and John Davis from Al Banx, March 2, 1959, relating to reopening.   |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.15 | Charles, John, James and Speri Davis from C. Ellis Spencer, March 3, 1959, relating to reopening and remodeling.                   |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.16 | Charles and John Davis from Edward C. Maher, March 3, 1959, relating to reopening celebration.                                     |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.17 | Charles and John Davis from Chandler Bullock, March 3, 1959, relating to 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary reopening.                  |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.18 | Charles and John Davis from Richard C. Pinney, March 5, 1959, relating to 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. 2 p.          |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.19 | James K. Davis from H. Ladd Plumley, March 2, 1959, relating to "Old Timers Night Dinner".   |
| 1 | 4 | 2000.75.2.20 | Charles Davis from Gordon Torgerson, March 2, 1959, relating to banquet.   |

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant Collection  
2000.75  
Series 3, Programs



<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2000.75.3.1	Telechron, Inc., June fashion preview, May 17, 1950 at the Empire Room, Putnam & Thurston's.
1	5	2000.75.3.2	John Ericsson Lodge No. 25, VASA Order of America, Golden Jubilee banquet, October 14, 1950 at Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant. aqp
1	5	2000.75.3.3a-c	Order of Aheppa, 18 <sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention, June 25-26, 1950; business meetings at Putnam & Thurston's. 3 p. aqp

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant Collection  
2000.75  
Series 4, Advertisements

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2000.75.4.1-.4	Clippings of advertisements for Putnam & Thurston's, 1930s. 4 items. aqp
1	6	2000.75.4.5-.13	Clippings of advertisements for Putnam & Thurston's, 1950s. 9 items. aqp
1	6	2000.75.4.14-.16	Clippings of advertisements for Putnam & Thurston's, n.d. 3 items. aqp

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant Collection  
2000.75  
Series 5, Menus

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2000.75.5.1	Menu, New Year's Eve, 1947.
1	7	2000.75.5.2	Menu, New Year's Eve, 1948.
1	7	2000.75.5.3a-b	Menu, Easter Sunday, 1949. 2 c.
1	7	2000.75.5.4	Menu, Thanksgiving Dinner, 1949.
1	7	2000.75.5.5	Menu, Christmas Dinner, 1949.
1	7	2000.75.5.6	Menu, New Year's Eve, 1949.
1	7	2000.75.5.7	Menu, Easter Sunday Dinner, 1950.
1	7	2000.75.5.8	Menu, Mother's Day specials, 1950.
1	7	2000.75.5.9	Menu. Christmas Dinner, 1950.
1	7	2000.75.5.10a-b	New Year's Menu, 1950-1951. 2 c.
1	7	2000.75.5.11a-b	Menu, Mother's Day specials, 1951. 2 c.
1	7	2000.75.5.12a-b	Menu, Thanksgiving Dinner, 1951. 2 c.
1	7	2000.75.5.13a-b	Menu, Christmas Dinner, 1951. 2 c.
1	7	2000.75.5.14	New Year's Eve Menu, 1951-1952.
1	7	2000.75.5.15	Menu, Christmas Dinner, 1952.

Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant Collection  
2000.75  
Series 6, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2000.75.6.1	Interior of Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant, 379-381 Main Street, Worcester, Mass. : collotype photomechanical print, pre 1917.
1	8	2000.75.6.2	Putnam & Thurston's Restaurant : postcard, halftone print, ca. 1950.
1	8	2000.75.6.3	Putnam & Thurston's : business card, ca. 1950.
1	8	2000.75.6.4	Advertising card for Thanksgiving Dinner, n.d.
1	8	2000.75..5	Sympathy card on the occasion of Paul Mack-Hale's death, 1939.