



Herman Schlundt Papers (C0015)

Collection Number: C0015

Collection Title: Herman Schlundt Papers

Dates: 1913-1941

Creator: Schlundt, Herman, 1869-1937

Abstract: Files from the University of Missouri chemistry department. Includes some of Schlundt's personal correspondence and papers as well as departmental and personal correspondence of Mary Violette Dover, D.H. Dolley, Henry D. Bent, and Allen E. Stern. Papers contain research notes for Schlundt's work on radioactivity and Dover's work on lubricants.

Collection Size: 12.5 cubic feet
(1,069 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Herman Schlundt Papers* (C0015); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Anna Schlundt on August 22, 1946 (Accession No. CA2865). An addition was made on December 8, 1949 by the University of Missouri Department of Chemistry (Accession No. CA3064).

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Historical Note:

Herman Schlundt was born on July 16, 1869 in Two Rivers, Wisconsin to Carl and Maria Dryer Schlundt. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. degree in chemistry and mineralogy in 1894. He received his M.S. in chemistry, mathematics, and mineralogy in 1896 and his Ph.D. in 1901. From 1896 to 1899 he taught courses in high school chemistry in Milwaukee. On 27 July 1899 he married Martha A. McMinn. They had two daughters, Anna and Esther. Between 1899 and 1900 he spent a year studying at the University of Leipzig, and in 1921 he studied at Cambridge University.

Schlundt's career at the University of Missouri began as an instructor in 1902. In 1905, he was promoted to assistant professor, then to professor in 1907. He was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a member of the American Academy of Science; the American Electrochemical Society; the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters; Sigma Xi; Alpha Chi Sigma; Phi Beta Kappa; Tau Beta Pi; Gamma Alpha; and Kiwanis. He was a founding member of the Missouri Academy of Sciences in 1933. By September 9, 1937, Schlundt mentions in a letter that he was suffering from a recurrence of sleeping sickness. He was hospitalized in October and died of uremic poisoning on December 30, 1937 in Columbia.

Less is known of Mary Violette Dover. She was born in Petersboro, Ontario, the daughter of Frederick and Annette Wood Dover. She received B.A. and M.S. degrees from McGill University in 1898 and 1900. In 1908, she was awarded a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Breslau, Germany. She served as an instructor in chemistry at Mount Holyoke College from 1909 to 1914 before becoming an instructor at the University of Missouri in September 1915. In 1918, on leave of absence from the university, Dover worked as an experimental chemist for the Hercules Powder Company and as a government consultant on explosives. She was promoted to assistant professor in 1920 and to associate professor around 1927 or 1928. She died on August 7, 1934 from complications following what friends assumed to be minor surgery. Her research was on lubricants and combustion heats of gases and petroleum products. She was a member of the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi, Pi Delta Nu, and active in the American Association of University Women. She lived in the Boone Tavern, drove a Cadillac, and had her clothes tailored in Ontario.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following ten series:

Chemistry Department, General Correspondence
University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools and Colleges
Bible College of Missouri
Research Notes
University of Missouri Committee on Duplication and Economics in the University
Curriculum
University of Missouri Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics
University of Missouri Committee on Research of the Graduate Faculty
University of Missouri, New Chemistry Building
Mary Violette Dover Papers
Scrapbook

Scope and Content Note:

These papers provide a partial view of chemistry department affairs and research activities during the period covered. Though the collection was originally accessioned as Schlundt's papers, it contains much more concerning departmental activities than his actual personal work. It appears to be the joint files of Schlundt and Dover, who seemed to share the same secretary of administrative assistant and who obviously used a single file system.

A previous processor had arranged the materials chronologically with a large section of miscellaneous materials at the end. Much of Schlundt's and Dover's research was in the unsorted files. Most of Dover's research notes on lubricants were undated, but a careful researcher could probably reassemble them from clues available in the correspondence, beginning about 1920. This material has been filed as a series at the end of the collection. Researchers interested in Schlundt's work will find his notes and accounts interspersed throughout the collection, beginning in 1919.

The collection is particularly strong on information about university activities. Schlundt was on many of the major committees and kept meticulous files on most of them. He was on the University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools and Colleges from 1914 until 1936, serving as visitor for the sciences during most of that time. There is extensive information on the upgrading of science education in both the committee series and the correspondence files. Other committees for which Schlundt kept reports are the Committee on Educational Policy for the College of Arts and Science, 1920-1936; the Library Committee, 1926; the Administrative Committee for the Graduate School, 1926-1936; the Committee on Duplication and Economics in the University Curriculum, 1931-1932; the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, 1932-1933; and the Committee on Reorganization of Higher Education, 1934.

Schlundt's research files may be incomplete, but there is material on radium, radium poisoning, and water analysis for radium. In addition, his research accounts contain a fairly complete record of the products he was buying and refining for resale to companies including the William A. Baehr Organization, Erkenbrach Chemical Company, Lindsay

Light Company, A.D. McKay Rare Chemicals Company, Maywood Chemical Company Thorium Plant, G.S. Robins & Company, Shattuck Chemical Company, the U.S. Bureau of Standards, United States Radium Corp., Wellsbach Company, and W.M. Welch Mfg. Company. From time to time, all of the companies listed shipped unrefined ore or barrels of mesothorium sludge to Schlundt. He and C.C. Carroll, an assistant, were apparently refining, sealing, and shipping back small quantities of a purer product. Schlundt was also apparently working with G.F. Breckinridge, another member of the chemistry department, who took over the work after Schlundt's death.

More complete descriptions of the series are in the folder list.

Container List:

Chemistry Department, General Correspondence Series

Concerns students, scientific research, and Schlundt's service on the University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools and Colleges from 1914 through 1936. Includes requests for letters of recommendation, applications for scholarships and assistantships, letters of application and resumes for teaching positions in the department, and queries from employers seeking people with specific abilities and training to handle particular positions within their organizations.

Many of the letters after February 1918 are those of Mary Violette Dover, also a member of the chemistry faculty. Her correspondence generally relates to students and their progress and to the deaths of her mother and father and the settlement of their estates in Ontario, Canada.

There is extensive information on the construction and equipping of the "new chemistry building," later known as Pickard Hall, and much on the analysis of materials, especially water, sent from various parts of the state.

Information on Schlundt's experiments with radioactive materials is interspersed throughout the collection. Anyone doing extensive research on his contributions in that field would well advised to scan the entire correspondence series, particularly between the years 1919 and 1937.

By September 1937 Schlundt's mail was being answered by Henry E. Bent and referred to G.F. Breckinridge who worked with him on research. All letters after November are those of Bent and Allen E. Stearn. Bent was appointed dean of the graduate school in January 1938, and Stearn became acting chairman of the chemistry department at that time.

f. 1-5	Undated
f. 6	1913
f. 7-9	1914
f. 10-13	1915

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f. 136-187	1925
f. 188-230	1926
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f. 297-356	1928
f. 357-409	1929
f. 410-494	1930
f. 495-588	1931
f. 589-655	1932
f. 656-740	1933
f. 741-818	1934
f. 819-891	1935
f. 892-940	1936
f. 941-968	1937
f. 969-982	1938
f. 983	1938-1941

University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools and Colleges Series

Schlundt served on the committee as visitor for the chemical sciences during most of the years from 1914 through 1936. His correspondence with the various schools and colleges is filed in the chronologically-arranged section. This material forms a core of minutes from the committee's meetings, miscellaneous information, and reports from the schools. It can be used as a key to the schools for which other information is available.

f. 984-989	Committee Reports and Documents
f. 990	Academy of the Sacred Heart, Academy of the Visitation, Bethany Junior College, Caruthersville Junior College, and Central College for Women
f. 991	Central High School (St. Joseph), Central Wesleyan College, Christian College, Christian University, and Conception Junior College
f. 992	Cottey College
f. 993	Flat River Junior College, Hannibal-LaGrange Junior College, and Hardin College
f. 994	Harris Teachers College and Howard-Payne College
f. 995	Iberia Academy and Junior College and Inter-County Junior College
f. 996	Jefferson City Junior College
f. 997	Kansas City Polytechnic Institute, Kansas City Training School, Kemper Military Academy, and Kidder Institute
f. 998	LaGrange College and Lincoln University

- f. 999 Lindenwood College, Marionville College, and Missouri Christian College
- f. 1000 Missouri Wesleyan College, Monett Junior College, Moberly Junior College, and Mountain Grove High School
- f. 1001 Ozark Junior College (Ozark Wesleyan College)
- f. 1002 Palmer College, Pritchett College, and The Principia College
- f. 1003 Rockhurst College, Sacred Heart Junior College, and St. Joseph Junior College
- f. 1004 St. Mary's Institute, St. Teresa College, Scarrett-Morrisville College, School of Osteopathy, and Southwest Baptist College
- f. 1005 Stephens College and Synodical College
- f. 1006 Trenton High School and Junior College, University of Kansas City, Wentworth Junior College, Westminster College, Will Mayfield College, William Woods, College, and WPA Freshman College

Bible College of Missouri Series

- f. 1007 Undated reports regarding the relationship of the Bible College of Missouri and the University of Missouri.

Research Notes Series

- f. 1008-1010 Radium. Undated notes on radium and mesothorium shipments and analysis. Materials in these folders probably relate to other dated notes and transactions in the chronologically-arranged section of the collection. However, without knowledge of the research being carried on, it was impossible to relocate them in reasonably correct order.
- f. 1011-1015 Radium Poisoning, 1928-1933. Notes, test results, and correspondence on radium poisoning. Schlundt was working with G. Failla, Frederick B. Flinn, and others on early instances of radium poisoning in humans. He was involved in testing persons who had been employed as watch dial painters, and some of his findings seem to have resulted in the establishment of U.S. Public Health Service regulations on the industry. Additional material on radium poisoning can be found in the chronological files.

University of Missouri Committee on Duplication and Economics in the University Curriculum Series

- f. 1016-1019 1931-1932. Schlundt was a member of this Depression-era committee appointed to study courses in all departments and make recommendations on how duplications should be eliminated. Other information is filed in the chronologically-arranged correspondence series, but since most of this was undated, it has been left together.

University of Missouri Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics Series

- f. 1020-1024 Schlundt served on this committee. Files contain his handwritten notes from meetings and drafts of reports as well as typed materials, 1928-1933.

University of Missouri Committee on Research of the Graduate Faculty Series

- f. 1025-1029 Undated surveys regarding teaching and the relationship of teaching to research on the basis of hours spent in preparation, in the classroom, and on projects underway throughout the university, 1919-1920.

University of Missouri, New Chemistry Building Series

- f. 1030-1031 Material on the building of a new chemistry building at the university, 1922-1933. Includes announcement to contractors that plans and specifications are available, some floor plans, layouts for rooms, specifications for furniture, and formulas for the finish to be used on laboratory tables.

Mary Violette Dover Papers Series

Personal papers and research materials, 1914-1934. Includes dated and undated letters, lists of publications, clippings, biographical information, her estate inventory, material on her family and their possessions in Petersboro, Ontario, Canada, research notes, and a collection of brochures on Cadillac automobiles.

- f. 1032-1034 Personal materials
f. 1034-1039 Research and publications
f. 1040 Manuscript on lubricating oils
f. 1041 Index to tables for manuscript
f. 1042 Tables to manuscript, numbered
f. 1043 Tables with revisions
f. 1044-1056 Tables and notes on measurements and various treatments of oils including surface tension, interfacial tension, viscosity, and index of refraction of at least nine types of lubricating oils tested. Oils include olive oil, Velocite B, Renoun, Turbine, Ploco, Pennsylvania, Mid-Continent, South Texas Pale, and Pierce.
f. 1057-1062 Cadillac and LaSalle automobile brochures, 1926-1931

Scrapbook Series

Clippings, brochures, and other materials on natural mineral waters and hot springs therapy of various diseases. Includes materials advertising radioactive qualities of the waters, resort facilities, and shipment of waters for home use. Also has information on several devices to be used for producing irradiated drinking water for consumption in the home, as well as one advertisement for the Crosley Icy Ball for home ice production.

The scrapbook has been disassembled for conservation. Materials have been placed in folders arranged alphabetically by state.

f. 1063	Arkansas
f. 1064	Colorado, Louisiana
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f. 1069	Remedies

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