

C Trefts, Charles (1887-1963), Papers, 1903-1963
3465 .2 linear feet, 4 audio cassettes

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Business correspondence, financial papers, photographic salon stickers, prizes, and other items of St. Louis professional photographer Charles Trefts, organizer of the Advertising Slide Company. His photographic collection was presented to the State Historical Society in 1964.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mr. and Mrs. Anton A. Tibbe in February and March of 1964 (Accession No. 300). An addition was made on 10 November 1986 by Anna T. Tibbe (Accession No. 2626).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Trefts, St. Louis professional photographer, was born in St. Louis November 15, 1887, and died November 15, 1963. He left a pictorial record of over 60 years photographing buildings, street scenes, parks, catastrophes, churches, mostly in the St. Louis area, but many in rural Missouri.

Trefts held jobs with Simmons Hardware Company, the Columbia Terminal Railway and the Judge and Dolph Drug Company, prior to establishing his own company, the Advertising Slide Company in 1913. He was one of the first to use colored advertising slides in the motion picture industry. He also developed ads for the Brown Shoe Company, Ralston Purina and the Famous-Barr Company.

Commerical photography was not Trefts' only interest. He took pictures of scenic views, and won many prizes for his artistic photos at national photographic shows. When the Union Electric Company of St. Louis was building Bagnall Dam in the Missouri Ozarks, Trefts was employed by them to photograph the area, and also the Snyder property, Ha-Ha-Tonka.

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