

K Kansas City Museum Collection, 1912-1954
0336 0.13 cubic feet
[NSA]

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

INTRODUCTION

The collection contains materials related to the institutional history of the Kansas City Museum, photographs of the museum, various Kansas City area newspaper clippings related to the museum, and several guide books related to museums of the Chicago, Illinois, area.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City on July 17, 1990 (Accession No. KA0590).

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INSTITUTIONAL SKETCH

The Kansas City Museum is housed in Corinthian Hall, the former residence of R. A. Long, located at 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri. The estate was built for Long by architect Henry F. Hoit for an estimated one million dollars. At one time, the estate was known as the "Palace on Gladstone Boulevard."

The Kansas City Museum began operations in Corinthian Hall in 1940, under the auspices of the Kansas City Museum Association. Renovations of the building have taken place intermittently in order to turn the former residence into a museum with sufficient galleries and display areas.

During the museum's prime, 1950s-1970s, it was a pioneer in the natural sciences under the directorship of John Ripley Forbes. Although the museum collected and interpreted the history of the Kansas City area, Forbes encouraged the exhibition and interpretation of the natural sciences. The museum began housing hundreds of stuffed animals in lifelike dioramas. The museum is reported to have offered classes and demonstrations on taxidermy during this time. Forbes' successors continued and expanded upon his precedent until the 1990s, when later successors began to reevaluate the museum's exhibits and interpretative programs.

In 2000, the Kansas City Museum Association merged with the Union Station Assistance Corporation, opening the doors to new exhibits and a reinterpretation of the museum as a local and regional history museum.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of the institutional history of the Kansas City Museum with such materials as issues of *The Pioneer*, the bulletin of the Kansas City Museum, intermittent years; an undated issue of The Kansas City Museum, *What it Means*; correspondence dated from 1946 and 1947; an undated report of the director; a brief, undated history of the Kansas City Museum Association; the personal reminiscence of Rev. Richard Gear Hobbs; and a brief history of the museum by John Pen.

The collection also consists of undated photographs of the exterior and interior of the Kansas City Museum, various Kansas City area newspaper clippings with dates between 1912 and 1954, and several guide books related to the Chicago Historical Society, Museum of Science and Industry, and the National History Museum all located in Chicago, Illinois.

FOLDER LIST

Box 001

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