



Kansas City Athenaeum Collection (K1026)

Collection Number: K1026

Collection Title: Kansas City Athenaeum Collection

Dates: 1901-1962, bulk 1957-1962

Creator: Kansas City Athenaeum

Abstract: The Kansas City Athenaeum Collection contains three folders of materials pertaining to the Athenaeum's Music Department. Materials include, a typed memoir of the Athenaeum, music program flyers for performances set up by the Music Department, and programs set up by the Clef Club in conjunction with the Athenaeum's Music Department.

Collection Size: 0.02 cubic feet
(3 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-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Kansas City Athenaeum Collection* (K1026); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by the Miller Nichols Library on May 18, 2000 (Accession No. KA1080).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Kansas City Athenaeum Collection can be found in the following collections:

Council of Clubs of Kansas City, Missouri, Records (K0686)

Herbert Perry Wright Papers (K0013)
Leon Milton Birkhead Papers (K0280)
SHSMO-KC Picture Collection (K0026)

Processed by: Processed by Rachel Forester, July 2018

Historical Note:

The Kansas City Athenaeum is a women's organization founded in 1894. The oldest women's club in the Kansas City metropolitan area, the club sought to promote philanthropy endeavors, continuing education, clubs, and interests groups for women.

The building that housed the Kansas City Athenaeum was known as the Athenaeum Club House and was erected at the corner of Linwood Boulevard and Campbell Street in Kansas City, Missouri. Constructed in 1914 by architect Samuel Tarbet and contractor Harvey Stiver, the two-story building featured classical revival detailing. The first floor of the building held a commercial sized kitchen and dining hall; the second floor held a ballroom with six stained-glass windows and four meeting rooms.

At the time of the buildings construction, the organization held 500 members who choose areas of interest in one of six subjects: the arts, music, literature, home economics, philosophy and ethics, or public issues. These six subjects served as a means for club members to further their education. The club also engaged in numerous social and political projects such as, the formation of a Gold Star Scholarship fund to aid high school students interested in furthering their education, establishing maintenance for Shelley Park, and investigating the Kansas City County Poor Farm. Additional projects included finding a physician to inspect milk, participating in an anti-litter campaign, establishing a manual training for local high schools, fundraising and event planning for soldiers during the Frist World War, and establishing a Juvenile Court.

The organization met at the Athenaeum Club House continuously for 101 years before deciding to sell the building to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 2015. Members of the Kansas City Athenaeum continue to meet semimonthly in different locations throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area, devoting their efforts to philanthropy and community service endeavors.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into two folders. Materials within those folders have been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The Kansas City Athenaeum Collection contains three folders of materials. Folder one consists of a typed four page memoir titled, "Memories of the Athenaeum, Music Department, 1901 to 1943." The initials E.C.B. are associated with the memoir. Folder two contains music program flyers for various performances set up by the Kansas City Athenaeum Music Department between 1957 and 1962. Lastly, folder three consist of two flyers for programs set up by the Clef Club in association with the Kansas City Athenaeum, one is dated 1958 and the other is undated.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Memories of the Athenaeum, 1901-1943
f. 2 Music programs, 1957-1962
f. 3 Clef Club Programs, 1958, no date

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Athenaeum (Kansas City, Mo.)	1-3
Clef Club (Kansas City, Mo.)	3
Music	1-3