

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
S1230
WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION-ST. LOUIS
RECORDS

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 6.5 cubic feet

The records of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection (WHMC)-St. Louis contains administrative correspondence, meeting minutes, and monthly and annual reports pertaining to the founding and operation of the office. Subjects of interest include the controversy between the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) and the University of Missouri–Saint Louis (UMSL) regarding WHMC-St. Louis's desire to remain independent from WHMC, the creation of UMSL's University Archives, and the development of WHMC-St. Louis's oral history program. The materials in this collection date from 1967 to 2011.

The Western Historical Manuscript (WHMC)-St. Louis was established in 1968 as part of WHMC. Founded in Columbia, Missouri, in 1943 by the University of Missouri, as well a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, WHMC's mission was to collect and preserve the history of Missouri and the Midwest. In 1963, WHMC became part of the joint collection with the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO), under the direction of Dr. Richard Brownlee. In 1968, WHMC adopted a University-wide manuscript collection, with offices eventually opening in Kansas City and Rolla in 1980.

Dr. James Norris, a professor of history at UMSL, served as WHMC-St. Louis's first Associate Director and Irene Cortinovic became the office's first professional archivist in 1971; she would later become Associate Director in 1975. Cortinovic shepherded most of WHMC-St. Louis's initial donations, which focused on 20th century St. Louis history. Early donations included the Young Christian Women's Association (S0343) and the League of Women Voters of Missouri (S0232). Cortinovic's most notable achievement was the oral history program, which documented the history of St. Louis's ragtime jazz performers, women in labor unions, St. Louis socialists, and women in the seventies.

Although the WHMC-St. Louis was officially part of WHMC, Norris and Cortinovic desired the freedom to pursue their collection development initiatives. Norris and Cortinovic divided WHMC-St. Louis's operations into three separate programs under the banner of the Archives and Manuscripts Division: Urban and Industrial Manuscripts, University Archives, and Oral History. They believed that this administrative structure would enable them to distinguish themselves from WHMC and provide assurance to potential donors that their collections would remain in St. Louis.

In 1977, Dr. Richard Brownlee began tightening administrative control over the joint collection. Brownlee believed that WHMC's Associate Directors should report directly to him and abide by standardized cataloging and indexing conventions. Cortinovic opposed centralization, fearing that WHMC would take control of the manuscripts collection and that some donors would be unwilling to give their papers to the St. Louis Research Center

S1230
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RECORDS

if they would not remain in St. Louis. Despite opposition to Dr. Brownlee's plan he restored the original administrative structure of the joint collection. Cortinovic retired in April 1980 in part due to Brownlee's centralization plan.

Ann Kenney (1980-1986) succeeded Cortinovic and continued expanding the WHMC-St. Louis's collection. During her tenure as Associate Director, she acquired the Thomas Dooley Papers (S0464), the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign Records (S0454), and the Edward J. Mallinckrodt Papers (S0452). After Ann Kenney resigned from WHMC in 1986, Pat Adams (1987-1989), became Associate Director, acquiring the Young Men's Christian Association Records (S0473) and the Hardy Salt Company Records (S0379). Ann Morris (1989-2000) replaced Pat Adams and was instrumental in the acquisition of the Marlin Perkins Papers (S0516), the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center Records (S0535), and the Francis Scheidegger Collection (S0566). William "Zelli" Fishetti (2000-2011) was WHMC-St. Louis's last Association Director. Under Fishetti's leadership, WHMC-St. Louis accepted the donations of the Rannells Family Papers (S0786) and the Jay and Fran Landesman Papers (S0604, S0608). He was also instrumental in WHMC's early adoption of digitization technology and helped create WHMC-St. Louis's photo database.

In early January 2011, the University merged WHMC with SHSMO. The WHMC name was retired, and SHSMO became the sole manager of both collections, although the University continues to own the collections originally managed by WHMC research offices. Fischetti remained Associate Director of the St. Louis office through this transition until his retirement in 2016.

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The Personnel series is restricted indefinitely.

Box List

Box 1

Background materials

History of the State Historical Society of Missouri, 1948

History of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection (including merger with the State Historical Society of Missouri), 1968-2002, no date

Correspondence

Administrative

1982, 1985-1992, 1997, 2001-2003, 2005-2009 (13 folders)

Associate Director, 1977, 1979-1991

General, 1967-1982 (12 folders)

S1230
WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION-ST. LOUIS
RECORDS

Box 2

- Collection Development
 - Acquisitions, 1967-1979 (5 folders)
 - Oral history, 1972-1979 (5 folders)
 - Microfilm, 1982-1987
- Correspondence with other research centers
 - State Historical Society of Missouri, 1978-1981
 - Western Historical Manuscripts, Columbia, 1980-1981, 1984 (2 folders)
 - Western Historical Manuscripts, Kansas City, 1980-1989

Meeting Minutes

- Archives Advisory Committee, 1972-1977
- Associate Director Committee, 1981-1992 (2 folders)
- Staff Meetings, 1980-1988 (3 folders)

Reports and Statistics

- Accession forms,
- Manuscripts, 1971-1978 (5 folders)

Box 3

- Manuscripts, 1978-1980 (2 folders)
- Oral History Program, February 1974-April 1975
- Acquisitions
 - In progress reports, 1977-1989 (3 folders)
 - Alphabetical files (A-Y), 1976-1987 (299 folders)

Box 4

- Alphabetical files (A-Y), 1975-1983 (225 folders)
- Budget, 1979-2011 (17 folders)
- Collections statistics, 1971-1988
- Five-year reviews, 1988, 1998 (3 folders)
- Monthly and annual reports, 1977-1991 (11 folders)

Box 5

- Monthly and annual reports, 1992-2011 (28 folders)

Publicity

- Cortinovis, Irene, Interviews, 1971, 1975
- Guide to Manuscripts, 1972-1973
- Press releases, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings, 1972-1989 (5 folders)
- Speakers Bureau, University of Missouri, St. Louis, 1974-1976
- Thelma Blumberg photo exhibit opening, photographs and invitation,
April 14, 1991

Grant Proposals

- Archives of American radio, 1976
- Bicentennial Ethnic Project, 1975-1976
- Black History Sources, 1978-1979
- Community Leaders Project, 1974-1975

S1230
WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION-ST. LOUIS
RECORDS

Ethnic Heritage Studies Center, 1971-1972, 1974-1976 (2 folders)
Environmental and wildlife collections, Charles A. Lindbergh Fund, 1991-1992

Box 6

Humanities Heritage, 1973
Immigration history, 1972-1973
Italian history, 1973
National Endowment for the Humanities, 1972
 Oral history of St. Louis, 1971-1972
 Arthur Witman grant, 1992-1995
 Youthgrants, 1972
National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 1977-1980
Notable American Women Project, 1976-1977
Oral History of St. Louis, 1971-1972

Subject files

40th anniversary celebration, 1983
American Federation of TV and Radio Artists, 1982
Amistad Research Center, 1973-1974
Archival networks research (Anne Kenney)
 General, no date
 Network paper, no date
 Illinois, 1981
 Michigan, no date
 Minnesota, 1982
 Missouri, 1980-1981
 Nebraska, 1979, 1981
 North Dakota, 1981
 Texas, 1981-1982
 Washington, 1974-1981
 Wisconsin, 1977, 1980
Archives and manuscripts control format, no date
Archives of American Art, 1969
Archives—history, Master of Arts program, 1978
Black Oral History Collection, Fisk University, 1971
Cataloging (library), no date
Center for the Study of the Consumer Movement, 1978, 1984
Collection development, 1981, 1990-1993
Congress of Racial Equality, St. Louis Chapter, 1999-2000
Directory of Military Personnel and Related Records, 1974
Eastern Missouri Laborers District Council, 1982
Ethnic Studies Consortium, 1975-1976
Ethnic studies, Florissant Valley Community College, 1975-1976
Friends of the Library, 1973
Frisco Railway, 1982-1983
Garfield photo, 1993

S1230
WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION-ST. LOUIS
RECORDS

George Meany Memorial Archives, 1988
International Institute, 1972, 1976
Joint Collection subject guide, 1982
Laura X project, 2007-2008 (7 folders)

Box 7

Lober, Irene Moss, University City Board of Education, 1981
Legislators, 1977-1980
LUMIN, no date
Military Personnel Records Center fire, July 12, 1973
Missouri History Initiative, 1998-1999
Mormino, Gary, 1973-1982
Newman, Eric (coin collection), 1971-1972
New York Times Oral History Program, no date
Organizations and Clubs of St. Louis, no date
Ragtime Jazz Concert, 1972
Riverboat Jazz Concert, 1971
Social Studies Conference, 1973-1974
Society of American Archivists, correspondence, 1972-1974
Special equipment, 1982-1983
St. Louis Board of Education, 1980-1981
Sullivan, Leonor K., 1971, 1976
Thomas Jefferson Library, facilities, 1979-1980
University of Minnesota, immigration History Research Center, 1975
University of Missouri-Kansas City, Conservatory of Music, 1972
University-wide records management, 1975-1983
Western Historical Manuscript Collection, administrative centralization
controversy, 1968-1977 (2 folders)
Western Historical Manuscript Collection, political collections, no date
Women's Historical Collections, 1971-1977
Women's History Sources Survey, 1976-1978

Personnel

Associate Director, 1985-1986
Senior manuscripts specialist, 1979-1987
Student assistants, 1985-1987
Student professional assistant, 1981-1984
Work study, 1972-1987
Block, Rebecca, 1991
Cortinovis, Irene, 1971-1980
Drew, Natalie, 1991-1992
Wehrspan, Helen, 1973-1975