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INSTITUTIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Joint Collection, Western Historical Manuscript Collection and the State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscripts; University of Missouri-Columbia

By Randy Roberts

The Western Historical Collection was established at the University of Missouri-Columbia under a Rockefeller Foundation grant in 1943. In 1962, the collection was physically and administratively combined with the manuscript division of the State Historical Society of Missouri to become the Joint Collection. In 1968, divisions of the Joint Collection were established on the Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis campuses of the University.

In cooperation with the State Historical Society and the other divisions of the Joint Collection, the goal of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia is to collect, preserve and make available original documentation that illuminates the history of Missouri and the broader region to which the state belongs. From traditional political, military and diplomatic records, plus a variety of other sources, users will find information on politics, the economy, religion, education, the professions, folklore, ethnic and social groups and movements, and the lives of both famous and obscure individuals, all illustrating the culture of the region. The Joint Collection welcomes use by scholars, students and the general public.

Since its founding, the Western Historical Manuscript Collection has continued to solicit actively additions to its holdings. While Missouri remains the focus of its collecting interests, the Joint Collection has also acquired many collections of national and even international interest and significance. The holdings of the Columbia division consist of more than 11,000 linear feet of manuscript and photographic materials, over 6,000 rolls of microfilm, nearly 2,500 audio tapes and records, and more than 100 video cassettes and films. Among the collection's major holdings are the papers and archives of the following individuals and organizations: agriculturalists D. Howard Doane and George N. Peek, circuit preacher John Allen Gano, Methodist bishop Ivan Lee Holt, Missouri Supreme Court judges Abiel Leonard and Laurance M. Hyde, educator Homer P.

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Rainey, journalists Frank Luther Mott, Sara Lockwood Williams and Walter Williams, poet John G. Neihardt, archaeologist Carl Chapman, authors Lester Dent and Homer Croy, businessman Dutton Brookfield, diplomat Rosemary Lucas Ginn, etymologist Peter Tamony, demographer Irene Barnes Tauber, steamboat historian E. B. Trail, politicians Champ and Bennett Champ Clark, Clarence Cannon, Stuart Symington and Thomas F. Eagleton, the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company, the Missouri State Labor Council AFL-CIO, Christian College, Stark Brothers' Nursery, the Missouri Folklore Society, the Missouri Library Association, and the Rural Sociological Society of America.

To assist researchers in the use of its holdings, the staff of the Joint Collection prepare finding aids for each collection. These aids consist of a general file listing collections by name, a chronological catalogue of collections by decade, a narrative description of the contents of each processed collection and an extensive index of names, places, topics, organizations, and types of materials. Additionally, in 1985 the four divisions of the Joint Collection published a Guide to Collections which contains classified subject entries for more than 3,400 individual manuscript collections. Consisting of thirty-eight subject categories and more than 700 pages, the Guide to Collections is available to researchers for use in paper form or for purchase in either microfilm or microfiche format.

In recent years the Joint Collection has been actively engaged in an outreach program to University of Missouri students and faculty, members of historical agencies and the general public. Staff members participate in the preparation of public exhibits, tours of the collection, various archival and historical associations and conferences, lectures, receptions, publications and other activities which highlight the collection's holdings or serve to strengthen the archival profession. Other functions of the joint collection include conservation services, a microfilming program, document and photographic reproduction, interlibrary loans, reference correspondence and archival consultation. At present, the joint collection is supported by fifteen full-time professional and clerical staff members and several student workers.

The Columbia division of the joint collection is located in the main library building on the University of Missouri campus. Since moving to its present quarters in 1962, the offices of the joint collection have undergone numerous renovations and improvements. Included were the construction of a conservation laboratory and individual carrels where researchers may use microform, audio and audio-visual materials. During the past year, the collection has acquired a computer system which has greatly facilitated the administrative, statistical, reference and processing responsibilities of the staff.

The joint collection is open 8:00 -4:45 Monday through Friday except on university holidays. Evening hours are 4:45-9:00 on Tuesday evenings when the university is in session. Researchers and other interested persons may contact the joint collection for further information at 23 Elmer Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65201. (314) 882-6028.

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**University Archives,
University of Missouri-Columbia**

By Ralph Havener

In February, 1970, the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri approved the establishment of a university-wide archival program. Since then, institutional archives have been organized, equipped and staffed on each of the University's four campuses, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis.

The Columbia campus — often referred to as the "Flagship" campus by Missourians-- maintains the bulk of the archival materials. They are housed in two locations located a mile apart from each other: Lewis Hall and the University Records Center. Both are open to the public. Routinely, however, records are brought to the main reference room from the records center for the convenience of patrons.

Over 4,000 cubic feet of materials are available for research use at the Columbia campus, all related to the history of the university. These include records generated in the "official" business of the institution, such as the files of key administrators, committee minutes, printed reports, photographs, and blueprints. The University Archives also holds donated items, such as faculty papers, maps, field notes, films, tape recordings, and records of student organizations.

Normally, the University Archives is open from 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Special arrangements can be made for out-of-town researchers. Visit or write the University Archives, 725 Lewis Hall, Columbia, MO 65211. (314) 882-7567.

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

By Theresa Sanderson Spence

Six years before California's famous gold rush of 1849, thousands of prospectors flocked to the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula to make their fortunes in copper. Few of these pioneers achieved great personal success, but many of their settlements endured. In 1886, the Michigan Mining School was established at Houghton to train miners, and that event proved to be a turning point in the history of the Copper Country. By the end of the nineteenth century, the district survived its hardships to become a world leader in copper production.

Today the Mining School is known as Michigan Technological University (MTU). Since 1966, the MTU Library has maintained a program to preserve the rich history of the local area. Among its copper business collections are the records of the Calumet and Hecla Consolidated Mining Company, once the world's largest producer of the metal. It controlled the entire production process, from exploration and mining, through to production and distribution of wire and tubing. Included in this collection are administrative files, board minutes, and several thousand blueprints. The Copper Range Railroad Collection holds a wealth of information

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relating to the transportation in the area. Found here, for example, are original survey notes which determined the laying of track and building of bridges. In addition to hauling copper, the trains carried children from outlying to central district schools. The railroad records span almost eighty years, concluding with the dissolution papers of the company in the late 1970s. A number of other collections vividly document the lives and activities of residents during the copper booms. They include the papers of William S. Thomas, a nineteenth century county clerk and amateur botanist, and the records of the Societa Beneficenza Figli d'Italia and the Ladies of the Eternal City, two ethnic benevolent societies.

To extend coverage of regional history into contemporary times, MTU has agreed to serve as a depository for local government records from six Upper Peninsula counties in cooperation with the State Archives of Michigan. Still another aspect of the program is in visual materials. These range from tintypes, glass plate negatives and color glass plate slides, to present day photographs from local photographers. Presently there are over 16,000 negatives housed in the collection.

The archives, proper, of course relates to university history. Presidential files and minutes of the board of control, the faculty senate, and the student council are housed here. Copies of MTU publications and faculty works are also collected. For over a decade, the university oral history program has extended beyond this official coverage. Of particular note are a series of reminiscences of fiftieth year graduates, which were used extensively in writing the University Centennial Book. Many of the most recent productions are on video tape, including documentation of annual winter carnival celebrations and NCAA winter sport competition.

In Autumn, 1987, the Michigan Archival Association (MAA) will meet in Houghton. Planned for this first-ever meeting for the MAA in the Upper Peninsula are both professional sessions and a day of touring during the peak fall color season.

The archives is open on weekdays from 8:00 to 5:00. It is located on the third floor of the library and open to the public. For further information, contact the University Archives, MTU Library, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49934. (906) 487-2505

REPOSITORY NEWS

South Dakota News

Ground breaking ceremonies for the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center took place on May 1, 1987. The $6.5 million facility is expected to be ready for occupancy during the State Centennial celebration in 1989. The building will provide 63,000 square feet of climate-controlled space to house the State Archives and the Robinson State Museum. Both institutions are in urgent need of improved storage and staff work areas. A conservation laboratory will be included in the new structure.

State Historian, Dayton Canaday, will retire July 10, 1987. For many years, Dayton directed the former State Historical Resource Center, a library and manuscript collection which is now part of the State Archives. Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, Fred Lillibridge, resigned in May. He has not been replaced to date.

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