

Alfred Gregory Theater Program Scrapbooks

The Alfred Gregory Scrapbooks contain theater programs and related items that were collected by Mr. Gregory. He was a member of various clubs and their programs and dinner menus are also apart of the collection.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: [Alfred Gregory]
Title: [Alfred Gregory] Theater Program scrapbooks
Dates: 1875-1927
Size: 6 scrapbooks, 6 boxes
Location: SC66-1

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Due to preservation concerns, photocopies of the scrapbooks are available for use.

Acquisition information: Unknown.

Citation note: [Alfred Gregory] Theater Program scrapbooks (SC66-1), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Alfred Gregory (1858-1946) was a local attorney and a member of the Kansas City Bar Association. He was born August 15, 1858, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His father, John M. Gregory, was the first president of the University of Illinois. After graduating in 1878 from the University of Illinois at Champaign with an engineering degree, he secured an appointment as private secretary to the commissioners sent by the state of Illinois to the World's Fair at Paris, France. Mr. Gregory later earned a law degree from Columbia University.

He moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to Kansas City in 1889 to practice law with Henry Beardsley. Josephine Karnes, daughter of J.V.C. Karnes, became his wife in 1892. He loved to travel and made six or more trips to Europe during his lifetime. His name appears in the record books of the Kansas City Bar Association (SC101) held in Special Collections. According to his obituary found in the *Kansas City Bar Bulletin*, April, 1947, he was a lover of music and art and a regular attendant at the Philharmonic Orchestra concerts. Alfred Gregory died May 15, 1946, in Kansas City. He was survived by two sons, J.V. Gregory and John M. Gregory.

Scope and content note

This collection contains six separate scrapbooks that are arranged chronologically. They cover fifty-two years and are arranged as follows: #1, 1875-1894; #2, 1895-1903; #3, 1903-1911; #4, 1911-1916; #5, 1916-1923; #6, 1923-1927. Although there was no definite provenance determined, it is believed

because of the nature of some of the contents of the scrapbooks, that they were assembled and kept up by Alfred Gregory.

The outsides of the scrapbooks were labeled by date. The pages of all six of the scrapbooks have been numbered and photocopied, including the entire contents of programs and items found on each page. When various items on the pages could be excised, this has been done and the items placed with the photocopies. When these items could not be separated from the pages, they have been retained and included with the collection. This applies primarily to programs and not to newspaper clippings or thin playbills.

Contained on the scrapbook pages are theater playbills, notices and programs, banquet menus for club and association events, newspaper clippings, cards, invitations, and various ephemeral items. Items included not only pertain to Kansas City but to other American cities as well as international locales.

An index was prepared for each separate scrapbook during processing. The theater/performance location, theater group, club name, event happening, and additional miscellaneous items have been indexed. Plays, performers, producers, etc., have not been indexed. Locations outside Kansas City have been noted at the beginning of the indexing for each scrapbook.

The scrapbooks do include a number of dinner menus for various clubs and events. The Knife and Fork Club meeting menus are numerous in this collection. Programs include orchestral, theater, and various types of musical performances including opera. There are a few non-arts or club related events included as dedication ceremonies and political functions.

Collection Inventory

Scrapbook #1 1875 -1894

Includes: theater bills & programs, announcements from places other than Kansas City including New York, Philadelphia, Champaign, Ill., Chicago, Buffalo, N.Y., Topeka, Ks., etc. Contains 148p. with Kansas City theaters starting on p.88 forward.

Contents: arranged alphabetically

- Auditorium (n.d., 1891-1893)
- Coates House (1888-1892, 1894)
- First Congregational Church (1890-1891)
- Gillis (n.d., 1890-1891)
- Lyceum Theatre (1891)
- Ninth Street (n.d.)
- Nordic Operatic Concert Company (1893)
- Warder Grand (Opera House) (1888, 1890-1891)

Scrapbook #2 1895 –1903

Includes: theater notices & bills, theater programs, banquet menus for club & association events, newspaper clippings, cards, ephemeral items, etc. Primarily Kansas City, but does include Chicago, New York, Wichita, Ks., University of Illinois, London, etc.

Contents: arranged alphabetically

- Allen Library (1903)
- Apollo Club (1902)
- Auditorium (1895-1897, 1899-1901)
- Century Ball (1900)
- Coates Opera House (1895-1900, 1903)
- Commercial Club (1901, 1903)
- Convention Hall (1899-1900, 1902-1903)
- Democratic National Convention (1900 guest ticket)
- Fairmount Park (Fairmount Auditorium) (1896, 1901)
- Frederick Funston SEE Knife and Fork Club (1899)
- Grand Opera House (1897-1900, 1902-1903)
- Kansas City Bar Association (1898, 1900, 1903)
- Kansas City Chapter Sons of the Revolution (1895)
- Kansas City Symphony Orchestra (1895-1903)
- Knife and Fork Club (1899-1903)
- Lyceum Hall (1900-1902)
- Oratorio Society of Kansas City (1900)
- Orpheum (1901)
- Philharmonic Orchestra (1896)
- Standard Theater (1901)
- Troost Park (1902)
- Willis Wood (1902-1903)

Scrapbook #3 1903-1911

Includes: dinner programs, playbills, theater programs, newspaper clippings, invitations, etc. Other than Kansas City include Paris, France; Tours, France; University of Illinois.

Contents: arranged alphabetically

- Auditorium (1906, 1909)
- August Meyer Statue unveiling (1909)
- (New) Casino, 10th and Broadway (1904, 1906, 1909)
- Coates House (1903, events held there for other years)
- Commercial Club (1903)
- Convention Hall (1904-1910)
- Grand Opera House (1905, 1910)
- Kansas City Bar (1904-1907)
- Kansas City Symphony Orchestra (1903-1904)
- Knife and Fork Club (1903-1906, 1908-1911)
- Orpheum (1907)
- Philharmonic Choral Society (1904)
- Shubert Theatre (1906-1911)
- Westminster Congregational Church (1907)
- Willis Wood (1903-1911)
- Young Men's Christian Association (1906)

Scrapbook #4 1911-1916

Includes: dinner menu programs, playbills, newspaper clippings, programs, ephemera, etc. Mostly all Kansas City related.

Contents: arranged alphabetically

- Auditorium Theater (1915)
- Coates House (1912)
- Comedy Club (1915-1916)
- Commercial Club (1916)
- Convention Hall (1912-1916)
- Drexel Hall (1915)
- Grand Ave Temple (1916)
- Grand Opera House (1912-1913)
- Kansas City Symphony Orchestra (1912-1916)
- K. C. Grand Opera Society (Co.) (1912, 1914-1915)
- Knife and Fork Club (1912-1916)
- Orpheum (1913-1915)
- Shubert Theater (1911-1916)
- Sigma Chi-Kappa Kappa Chapter (1912)
- Temple (Ararat?) (1915)
- University of Illinois-Southwestern Alumni Association (1912)
- Westminster Congregational Church (1916)
- Westport High School (1914)
- Willis Wood (1912-1913, 1916)

Scrapbook #5 1916-1923

Includes: playbills, concert programs, club programs and dinner menus, badge and buttons, including campaign buttons, and newspaper clippings. Other places include New York, Paris, London, Madrid, Rome, Florence, Lucerne, Dinan, Morlaix and other European cities.

Contents: arranged alphabetically

- American Legion Convention Round-up (1921)
- Broadway Tabernacle Church (1917)
- City Club (1916, 1920)
- Comedy Club (1916-1921)
- Convention Hall (1917-1919, 1921-1923)
- Gaiety Theatre (1923)
- Garden Theatre (1917)
- Grand Theatre (1918-1921)
- Ivanhoe Temple (1922-1923)
- Junior College (1921)
- Kansas City Conservatory of Music (1917)
- Kansas City Grand Opera Company (1919, 1923)
- Kansas City St. Andrews Society (1921)
- Kansas City Symphony Orchestra (1916-1918, 1922)
- Kansas City Theatre (1922-1923)
- Knife and Fork Club (1917-1923)
- Liberty Memorial-site dedication (1921)
- Linwood Boulevard Christian Church (1918)
- Newman Theatre (1920)
- Orpheum (1918, 1922-1923)
- Republican
- Sub-committee on Election Frauds (1916)
- Harding and Coolidge Campaign buttons (1920)
- Association of Young Republicans (1921)

- Shubert Theatre (1917-1923)
- Westminster Congregational Church (1918)
- Willis Woods (1916)
- Women's City Club (musicals) (1921)

Scrapbook #6 1923-1927

Includes: playbills, newspaper clippings, programs, and ephemeral items. Other than Kansas City include Paris, New York, Chicago, Rome, Milan and London.

Contents: arranged alphabetically

- Ararat Temple (1927)
- Auditorium Theatre (1925)
- Convention Hall (1923-1927)
- Garden Theatre (1923)
- Isis Theatre (1924)
- Ivanhoe Temple (1924-1927)
- Kansas City Bar Association (1925)
- Kansas City Civic Opera Company (1923)
- Kansas City Little Symphony (1924-1926) (Kansas City Symphony Orchestra Association)
- Kansas City Theatre (1924-1926)
- Knife and Fork Club (1923-1924)
- Orpheum (1923-1926)
- Ship Directory-SS Minnetonka (1925)
- Shubert Theatre (1923-1927)
- Sons of the American Revolution (1925)

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman and Library Assistant Adrian Knotek, 1998.