

Mary Handly Linton Papers and Slide Collection

This collection of slides and personal papers came from the estate of Mary E. Handly Linton, local poet and author.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Mary E. Handly Linton
Title: Mary E. Handly Linton papers and slide collection
Dates: 1811-1962
Size: 4 boxes, approx. 3800 slides
Location: SC26

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Gift, March 1992, Accession #:1992-26.

Custodial history: From the total collection left with the library, Special Collections retained all the personal papers, photographs, some books, and all of her slides. In the processing of the collection, some slides were weeded with only those of artistic merit and historical value to Kansas City kept.

Citation note: Mary E. Handly Linton papers and slide collection (SC26), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Mary Elizabeth Handly Linton was a local poet and author. She was born on September 6, 1910, in Jackson County, Missouri, the only child of Eugene S. and Kate Handly. Edgar Linton and Mary were married on November 20, 1932 in Jackson County, Missouri. Mary worked for the Radial Warehouse Company in North Kansas City for many years. It appears that she was a natural poet and as she developed her talent many of her poems were published in newspapers and magazines as well as in book form.

For many years, the *Kansas City Star* published many of her poems in the poetry corner located on the editorial page. She wrote *On Wings of the Soul* (1947) and *Roads Wide With Wonder: A Collection of Poems* (1954), books of poetry. According to a newspaper article published in the *Kansas City Star*, September 3, 1947, Mary Linton states, "my experiments with a camera, and a fairly large collection of classical records rank close to poetry among my interests."

Mary Linton was also an active member of the Kansas City Quill Club and was elected chairperson of the Poets' Round Table of the Kansas City Quill Club. According to the Social Security Death Index, Mrs. Linton died February 1, 1992. An obituary was not located for her in the local newspaper.

Scope and content note

This collection contains photographs both loose and in an album, slides and travel presentations, various family related papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, book drafts, miscellaneous papers, and unpublished poems. Two of Mary Linton's poetry books are available in Special Collections.

The slide collection is divided into three sections: (1) travel slides and presentations as Mary Linton organized them for presentations; (2) general slide notebook that Ms. Linton compiled herself; (3) general slides chosen from her entire collection for their quality, artistic value, or important or interesting content.

Ms. Linton enjoyed travel and was a very good amateur photographer. Her travel slides reflect her love of the American West and Southwest, especially the mountains and other natural monuments such as Mesa Verde and Oak Creek Canyon in Arizona. One of her slide presentations, titled "Our Living Land" contains many Kansas City statues and buildings as well. These presentations were left intact as Ms. Linton compiled them.

Mary Linton compiled a slide notebook of her work covering many subjects. Perhaps this was a collection of what she considered her best work. Slides 41-60 are unfortunately missing; slide 161 was "sold" but here is no indication to whom. This notebook was left intact as she compiled it. Currently is not found with collection.

The general slide collection truly reflects the type of photography and scenery that Mary Linton enjoyed. The slides in this collection were chosen from her total collection as reflecting some of her best work and some of the more important people and places that she photographed. Often the slides found in her complete collection were slides that she had purchased on trips and had probably incorporated into a few of her slide presentations. These slides were left out, as were those of poor quality, those that were duplicates of other slides chosen to remain in the collection, and those that were not identifiable as adding meaning or importance to this collection.

The general headings in this collection came about rather naturally, and they reflect her interest in the natural world and in the Kansas City area. Mary Linton obviously enjoyed flowers; the many beautiful selections of slides kept here will attest to that. She lived near downtown Kansas City, Missouri, and thus took an interest in area parks and in documenting views and construction in the downtown area. A few photographs of her building, at 929 Jefferson Street, and a few views from her apartment window are included in this collection and add a bit of perspective to her work and her daily life. Included in the "People" section are numerous slides of Ms. Linton herself, taken as early as the 1950s through the 1980s.

For the travel slides, each presentation that Ms. Linton left intact has been given a code of 2 letters that relates to the title of the presentation. These codes and consecutive numbers are in the upper right-hand corner of each slide and are intended to help prevent disarray or easy reordering of the slides should they be removed from order.

For the general slides, each general heading has been given a code letter or letters that relates to the general subject of an entire group of slides. There are sub-dividers within many sections, but the numbering is consecutive throughout each general heading, not within each sub-group. Again, the main purpose of this numbering system is in case of disorder of the slides, whether it be through use of the collection or through accidental disarray. The person processing the

collection did any writing done on the front of the slides in pencil. Often this will give a clue as to what is in the slide without having to view it. Any writing that was done in pen, usually blue ballpoint, was done by Ms. Linton, and it also often gives a description of what is on the slide or when it was taken.

Arrangement Note

Organized into two series: (1) Personal papers, (2) Slides.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1 – Family Papers, 1811-1926 – Wills, marriage certificate, real estate agreements
- Folder 2 – Family Papers, 1847-1946 – Clippings and records of births, deaths, marriages, divorce
- Folder 3 – Kate S. Belt Handly, 1893-1939 – Recommendations for teacher certification, recommendations for old age assistance
- Folder 4 – Miscellaneous papers, 1926-1962, some undated – Correspondence and papers
- Folder 5 – Miscellaneous papers, undated – handwritten scripture study
- Folder 6 – *Of Wings and Wonder* – Original draft, *On Wings of the Soul*, a collection of poems
- Folder 7 – Photographs, mostly undated – Unidentified
- Folder 8 – Photographs, undated – Includes many photos of Mary Linton
- Folder 9 – Photographs, 1891-1945 – Identified
- Folder 10 – Photo album, ca1930, p.1-10 – Includes Lake Tapawingo, p.1
- Folder 11 – Photo album, ca1930-40, p.1-20 – Includes Burch Manufacturing Co., p.11-12, 18-19
- Folder 12 – Photo album, ca1930-40, p.21-40 – Includes North Terrace Park Fountain, p.34
- Folder 13 – Photo album, ca1930-40, p.41-60
- Folder 14 – Photo Album, ca1930-40, p.61-82 – Includes Union Station interior and exterior view, p.71, 73 and Liberty Memorial, p.72
- Folder 15 – Unpublished poems, by D. Boicourt and Eric Olson, 1952 and n.d.
- Folder 16 – Unpublished poems, notebook with newspaper poems, etc., n.d.
- Folder 17 – Unpublished poems, notebook, n.d.

Box 2 – Travel Slides and Presentations

- AC Around The Calendar – Box 1, AC 1-210; Box 2, AC 211-246; Includes Nelson Art Gallery-#20, Bugs Bunny on Plaza-#29-31, Swope Park-#99-103, Plaza Lights(incl. Theater)-#228-235
- CC Colorado Calling, 1950 – Box 2, CC 1-99
- CT Colorado Trails – Box 2, CT 1-70;Box 3, CT 71-99
- GT Grand Tetons – Box 3, GT 1-175; Box 4, GT 176-258
- OL Our Living Land – Box 4, OL 1-115; Box 5, OL 116-233 Includes:Pioneer Statue, 29-30, Scout Statue 34-35, 42, Downtown KC 37-39, 149, Nelson Gallery of Art 40, The Thinker 41, Liberty Memorial 43-45, Loose Park 51, American Royal Parade, 1968, 85-118, Plaza Lights, 1968 166-175, 180-81, 188, Nativity Display near Plaza? 182, Area Churches including 2nd Presbyterian 198, St. Mary's 200, Community Christian 202, and Country Club Congregational 203-04
- RR Return to the Rockies – Box 5, RR 1-75; Box 6, RR 76-194

- SS Southwest Safari – Box 6 SS 1-80

Box 3 – Travel Slides and Presentations (Continued)

- SS Southwest Safari – Box 7 SS 81-256
- WW Western Wonderlands – Box 8, WW 1-200; Box 9, WW 201-249

Box 4 – General Slide Collection

Code Letters for categories: (P)=People; (L)=Landscape; (V)=Sky Views; (F)=Flowers; (T)=Trees, Leaves; (W)=Water, Oceans, Rivers; (A)=Animals; (PC)=Kansas City Parks and Cemeteries; (Z)=Plaza; (S)=Sculptures, Statues; (D)=Downtown Kansas City, MO; (NK)=Not Kansas City, MO; (BW)=Black and White Photography

General Listing and Order by Code Letter and Number

- People (P) – Places, Landscapes, Silhouettes, 1-27; Small Groups, 288-50; Individuals, Family Groups, 51-130; Known Family, 131-154; Mary (“author” on some slides), 155-149
- Landscapes (L) – Mountains, Landscapes Without Man-Made Structure, 1-77; Landscapes With Structures, 78-149. Includes Grand Canyon, 3 and 58, Oldest House in USA, 98-99, Powell Gardens, 101-2, and Lawrence, Kansas, 104-5.
- Sky Views (V) – Clouds, Rainbows, 1-24; Sunrises, Sunsets, 25-48
- Flowers (F) – Dandelions, Clover, Thistle, 1-7; Flowering Trees, Bushes, Lilacs, Groups of Flowers, 8-66; Iris, 67-72; Lilies, including water lilies, 73-97; Marigolds and Related Flowers, 99-102; Poppies, 103-107; Roses, including Loose Park Roses, 108-151; Tulips, 152-174; Violets, Crocus, Dogwood, Geranium, 175-197; Miscellaneous, 198-238
- Trees, Leaves (T) – 1-71, including bonzai
- Water, Oceans (W)
- Animals (A)
- Kansas City Parks and Cemeteries (PC) – General, Miscellaneous, 1-29 which includes Case Park, Nelson Art Gallery and Volker Park, Gillham Park, Penn Valley, Cancer’s Survivor’s Park, and Starlight Theater; Swope Park, 30-46; Swope Park Zoo, 47-126 with Mayor Richard Berkley included, 77; Loose Park, 127-184; West Terrace Park, 185-214
- Plaza (Z) – General Views, 1-35, including Christmas lights; Nichols Fountain, 36-52; Giralda Tower, 53-56; Sculptures, 57-77
- Sculptures, Statues (S) – Pioneer, 1-10; Scout Statue, 11-17; Powhatan Statue, 18-23; Other, 24-90 including George Washington Statue, 26-27, 36, Swope Memorial, 28-31, Oppenheimer Park, 32, New York Life Building Eagle, 37, Westport Pioneers, 41-42, Bucking Bronco, 44, 87, Nelson Art Gallery outdoor sculpture, 47-50, 56-, Jim Pendergast, 55, Eagle, 64-65, John F. Kennedy Memorial, 66, Muse of Missouri, 67, Andrew Jackson statue at courthouse, 74, 78, and Boy Scout Memorial, 76
- Downtown Kansas City, MO (D) – Various Views, 1-53; Construction, 54-64; Town Pavilion Construction, 65-75; One Kansas City Place Construction, 76-78; Freeway, Industrial Views, 79-100; Rooftop Views, 101-109; 1950s Flood, 110-118; River Views, 119-125; Fires, 126-131 including Coates House; Allis Plaza, 132-141; Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 142-146; City Hall (Includes views from the top), 147-166; city Market, 167-184; Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 185-191; Quality Hill, 192-205; Stockyards, 206-209; Miscellaneous, 210-221
- Kansas City, MO area, not downtown (N) – Ag Hall, 1-8; Crown Center, 9-20; Jesse James Home, 21-31; Liberty Memorial, 32-42; Lobb Cemetery and

Church, 43-53; Nelson Art Gallery, 54-62; Union Station, 63-71; Vaile Mansion (Independence, MO), 72-82; Miscellaneous, 83-95 including Rosedale, Kansas, 83-85, Lewis and Clark Point, 87-90, Kellys in Westport, 91, Paseo High School, 92, Post Office Stairway, 94, Wyandotte County Courthouse, 95, Centennial Parade of 1950, 107-118, American Royal Parade, 119-155, Blossom House, 156-57, Wornall House, 158; 1985 Royals Homecoming, 96-106; Parades (American Royal and others); 107-155; Additional Miscellaneous, 156-158

- Not Kansas City, MO (NK) – 1-55 including Unity Village, 1-7, Fort Osage, 8-11, Early Jackson County Courthouse, 12-13, Churches, 26-46, Jackson County Independence Courthouse, 49, Truman Home, 50, Weston, MO, 51-53
- Black and White Photography (BW) – 1-32 – Primarily family including Mary Linton herself

Processed by Special Collections intern Alison Hills, May 1992; further processing done later by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman.