

Photograph Scrapbook Collection #1

This photograph collection contains some early images of Kansas City, primarily from the latter part of the 19th century. They capture the essence of the city at that time.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Unknown

Title: Photograph scrapbook collection #1

Dates: circa 1870s-1880s

Size: 1 scrapbook, 2 boxes, 94 photographs

Location: P8

Administrative information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access

Additional physical form available: Photographs have been photocopied and digitized.

Acquisition information: Purchase or gift (?), 1943, H. M. Sender?

Custodial history: Formerly classed as a part of the department's book collection, MVSC Q 977.8411 K161V. New prints and negatives were made of all the photographs in the collection due to Friends of the Library funding secured in 1999.

Citation note: Photograph scrapbook collection #1 (P8), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Pubic Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Scope and content note

This photograph special collection contains images which feature Kansas City as it appeared in the late 19th century. The scrapbook has been disassembled and contains 96 black and white photographs of varying sizes. The photographer(s) and scrapbook originator are unknown. The photographs are mounted on heavy scrapbook leaves and most are briefly described. There were no original negatives with the scrapbook.

The images are of early Kansas City, primarily ca1870s-1890s and provide some unique views. These include views of the Board of Trade building under construction as well as exterior and interior views of the glass Exposition Building. Numerous buildings are captured as well as unusual weather events. Buildings include hotels and businesses. Early transportation is depicted by bridges, street cars, trains, railroad stations, etc. The grading of the city, riverfront views, downtown street scenes, groups of people, parades and other special events are also captured in this collection.

The library presumably acquired this collection either by purchase or as a gift. An accession number and a date of January 5, 1943, is found on a scrapbook page. Also found is "Return to H.M. Sender, 1336 Walnut, Kansas City, Mo." It is known that Mr. Sender was a dealer in rare books and historical items.

Collection Inventory

Individual photograph inventory available in department with finding aid.
Information given includes: photograph number, description, date if known, size,
new negative number, and barcode number.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sandra Gates, 1993; further
processing, 1999.