

A0630

John H. Gundlach (1861-1927) Papers, 1848-1927

5 boxes

Processed by Christopher Gordon, December 2002

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

archives@mohistory.org

DONOR INFORMATION

The John H. Gundlach Papers were donated in April 1921 by John H. and Emma Gundlach. Additional material was donated by Emma in approximately 1927.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John H. Gundlach was born October 6, 1861, in Black Jack, St. Louis County, Missouri. He was the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Reiff) Gundlach. John was educated in the St. Louis city school system and afterwards attended business college. In 1884, he married Emma C. Dreyer in St. Louis. They had two children, Alice and Ruth. In 1892, he organized J.H. Gundlach and Company, a real estate company.

Through his efforts to promote and beautify St. Louis, Gundlach became active in civic affairs. He served on the St. Louis City Council, acting as its president for four years, and was instrumental in establishing the City Plan Commission. He pushed for the establishment of city and county parks, the renovation of St. Louis downtown and riverfront sections, bridge and road improvements, authored the city's Zoning Ordinance, and led the effort to preserve the Old Courthouse.

Gundlach was an avid collector of books and manuscripts. He served as vice-president of the Missouri Historical Society and was particularly supportive of the society's library. He was one of the original founders of the St. Louis Municipal Opera and actively promoted the arts and theater in St. Louis. John H. Gundlach died April 8, 1926.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The John H. Gundlach Papers consist primarily of correspondence, clippings, notes, memoranda, and printed material that document Gundlach's activities in city planning and civic affairs, as well as his interest in the theater and collecting manuscripts. The papers are arranged into seven series: **Civic Affairs, Missouri Centennial Celebration, Theater, Manuscript Collection, Business, Biographical, Miscellaneous.**

The **Civic Affairs Series** comprises correspondence, memoranda, notes, and clippings arranged by the various St. Louis city improvement projects that Gundlach was instrumental in organizing. Each folder is arranged chronologically.

The **Missouri Centennial Celebration Series** comprises correspondence, notes, printed material, and clippings related to the organization and completion of the 1921 Missouri centennial celebration in St. Louis. The series is arranged chronologically.

The **Theater Series** consists of correspondence, clippings, and printed material. It is arranged chronologically and contains material relating to Gundlach's interest and support of St. Louis theater companies, including the St. Louis Municipal Opera.

The **Manuscript Collection Series** consists of original manuscripts, a journal, transcripts of manuscripts that were contained in Gundlach's personal collection, correspondence, and printed material. The series is arranged chronologically. The series also contains information related to the donation of the John H. Gundlach Papers to the Missouri Historical Society.

The **Business Series** consists of correspondence, printed material, notary commissions, and other records. The folders are arranged chronologically. The series comprises incomplete records of Gundlach's realty business in St. Louis.

The **Biographical Series** consists of clippings, eulogies, and invitations. The series contains information on Gundlach's life and career.

The **Miscellaneous Series** consists primarily of membership cards, membership certificates, notes, and correspondence, mostly relating to Gundlach's participation in various fraternal, recreational, and civic organizations. The series is arranged chronologically

FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Civic Affairs

- folder 1 Correspondence, 1848-1909
- folder 2 Correspondence, 1910-1917
- folder 3 Correspondence, 1918-1920
- folder 4 Correspondence, 1921-1924
- folder 5 Correspondence, 1925-1926; no date
- folder 6 Political campaign literature, 1903; 1924; no date
- folder 7 Correspondence, city planning, 1901-1919
- folder 8 Notes, city planning, circa 1913-1919
- folder 9 Correspondence/notes, streets and sewers improvement, 1910-1925
- folder 10 Correspondence/notes, Outer Parks Campaign, 1910-1915; 1926

Box 2

Civic Affairs Series

- folder 1 Memoranda, grade crossings, 1911-1912
- folder 2 Civic League of St. Louis, 1909-1923
- folder 3 Free Bridge bond issue, 1905-1922
- folder 4 American Civic League Convention, September 1919-May 1917
- folder 5 American Civic League Convention, June-July, 1917
- folder 6 American Civic League Convention, August-September 1917
- folder 7 American Civic League Convention, October 1917
- folder 8 American Civic League Convention, November 1917-February 1918; no date
- folders 9-10 Correspondence, Courthouse Referendum Committee, 1924

Box 3

Civic Affairs Series

- folder 1 Correspondence/clippings, municipal bond issues, 1919-1921
- folder 2 Correspondence/clippings, municipal bond issues, 1923
- folder 3 Notes/speeches, municipal bond issues, no date
- folder 4 Correspondence/clippings, civic improvements, 1906-1926
- folders 5-10 Notes, civic improvements, no date

Box 4

Missouri Centennial Celebration Series

- folder 1 Correspondence/clippings, March 1919-April 1921
- folder 2 Correspondence/clippings, May-June, 1921
- folder 3 Correspondence/clippings, July-August, 1921
- folder 4 Correspondence/clippings, September-October, 1921
- folder 5 Correspondence/clippings, November 1921-February 1922
- folder 6 Correspondence/clippings, no date
- folder 7 Manuscript: *Missouri, One Hundred Years Ago*, 1921

Theater Series

- folder 8 Correspondence/clippings, 1891-1920
- folder 9 Programs, 1916-1925

Box 5**Manuscript Collection Series**

- folder 1 Correspondence, 1906-1926; no date
- folder 2 Clippings
- folder 3 Indentures, 1821-1849
- folder 4 Transcripts of manuscripts from originals in Gundlach's collection
- folder 5 Transcript of anonymous journal of westward travel, 1850
- folder 6 Printed catalog: sale of Gundlach's autograph collection, 1927
- volume 1 Unidentified journal of trip to California, 1850 May-June [see folder 5]

Business Series

- folder 7 Gundlach Realty records, 1893-1926
- folder 8 Notary commissions, 1908-1925
- Oversize Map of Plymouth Park Subdivision

Biographical Series

- folder 9 Clippings, 1926-1927

Miscellaneous Series

- folder 10 Miscellaneous items, 1905-1926; no date
- Oversize Poster: "A Scientific Secret Revealed: Solaris—The Grand Man," copyright 1920 by G.W. Fox (published by the St. Louis Argus Publishing Company)