K0771

Kansas City Turner Society (Socialer Turnverein) Records
1872-1988
11 cubic feet, oversize

Organizational records of the primary German social club in Kansas City. Includes minute books, ledgers, correspondence, photographs, and membership records, and national and local printed material and publications, programs, and songbooks Also records of the Turner Development Company and the administration of Turner Park.

HISTORY:

The Kansas City Socialer Turnverein was founded February 14, 1857, by ten naturalized citizens of German birth. Their first building at 5th and Main soon became too small for the growing membership, so Esslinger’s Hall on Main between 6th and Missouri Avenue was rented. The Civil War temporarily interrupted the activities of the group, but after the war, larger meeting halls were rented. In 1902, they built a new Turner Hall at 1325 E. 15th Street, where they stayed for 55 years. In the late 1950s, Turner Park at 79th and Manchester was developed, including a clubhouse, swimming pool, and gymnasium.

The purposes of the Turner Society were to make good American citizens of its members; to educate children; and to provide the tools and discipline for physical fitness. The gymnastics teams would participate in “Turnfests,” competing with other Turners from around the country. The Turners were a complete social organization, with special groups of members, including adult men, a women’s auxiliary, teenage boys and girls, and elementary school children. After Turner Park was built, they had many different sports, including swimming, tennis, golf, and gymnastics.
PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from the Kansas City Turner Society as accession KA0860 on May 11, 1995.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; Kansas City Turner Society (Socialer Turnverein) Records (K0771); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection consists of early minute books, ledgers, correspondence, and membership records. Later materials include records of the Turner Development Company in the 1950s and records concerning the administration of Turner Park through the 1970s. Also included in the collection are national and local printed material and publications, programs, songbooks, and many photographs.

INVENTORY:

Language used in the minute books changes from German to English in the 1920s.

BOX 001

Volume 1. Minute book, November 1886-December 1896
Volume 2. Protokoll Buch des Kansas City Sozialier Turn Vereins (minutes), January 1897-December 1909
Volume 4. Committee Sitzung, November 1910-June 1911
Volume 5. Mitglied der Sterbekasse des Kansas City Socialer Turnvereins, 1915-ca. 1918
Volume 6. Scrapbook - correspondence, printed material, January 1895-August 1903
Volume 7. Protokoll-Buch von Germania Maennerchor von KCMO (minutes), June 24, 1891-March 26, 1895
Volume 8. Kansas City und sein Deutschtum (poor condition)

**BOX 002**

Volume 1. Ledger - dues records, April 1909-August 1915
Volume 2. Ledger - expenses/income, February 1911-January 1913; April 1938-December 1941; July 1942 - Filling Station
Volume 3. Ledger - “Accounts transferred from Ledger #1” March 1, 1901-ca. 1902
Volume 4. Ledger - expense journal, membership records(?), May 1909-April 1914, April 1928-March 1934
Ice purchases, September 1932-November 1933
Meetings of Telephone Company Employees, ca. 1928-1929
Volume 5. Ledger, April 1924-August 1945
Volume 6. Ledger - income/expenses, March 1890-November 1902
Membership list, 1913
Volume 8. Minutes, November 1925-April 1936

**BOX 003**

Volume 1. Protokolle - Missouri Valley Turn-Bezirks, 1872-1901
Volume 2. Letterbook containing carbon copies of correspondence, December 1903-March 1908
Volume 3. Journal - receipts/disbursements, January 1941-September 1944

*Women’s Auxiliary (vols. 4-6):*

Volume 5. Journal, January 1952-December 1959
Volume 7. Yearbook and History of the American Turners, 1892
Volume 8. *Der Freischütz* - play by Oscar de Mojean, 1873
Volume 9. Die beiden Reichenmüller - play by Oscar de Mojean, 1883
Folder 1. Records of Kreis (district) Turnfest, June 23-26, 1911
Folder 2. Letterbook, October 1917-December 1920

**BOX 004**

*Turner Development Company*

Folder 1. Minutes, April 1958-January 1959
Folder 2. Correspondence, bylaws, deed/mortgage, invoices, rules
Folder 3. Financial reports, 1954-1965
Folder 4. Loan agreements, contracts, charge orders, 1963-1964
Correspondence, proposal re: development of community housing project, 1962
Folder 6. Correspondence, contract for septic tank, 1963; sewer easement, 1967
Folder 7. Correspondence, mechanic’s lien, affidavits re: electrical, plumbing, mechanical, 1964
Folder 8. Parliamentary procedure, membership applications and information, old shareholder lists
Folder 10. Correspondence, contracts, bids for capital improvements, 1959-1969
Folder 12. Monthly treasurer’s reports, 1959-1961
Folder 13. Annual meeting announcements, procedures, reports, mailing list, ca. 1962-1969
Folder 14. Correspondence, minutes, 1965-1966
Folder 15. Minutes, treasurer’s reports, 1965-1966
Folder 17. Pro Forma Decree of Incorporation, 1954 (photocopy)
Folder 19. American Turners publications and printed material:
Endowment Trust, 1947
Principles and Statutes, 1951
Folder 20. Corporation record book - includes minutes of Mortgage and Improvement Fund Committee, 1940-1945
Folder 21. Loose items removed from book in Folder 20:
Lists of Building Fund subscribers, ca. 1905
Stock certificates, 1940
Bylaws, 1940
Folder 22. Minutes, June 1954-December 1957 (binder)
Folder 23. Minutes, reports, announcements, 1961-1973

BOX 005
Kansas City Turner newsletters - February 1952, 1959-1979
Brochure for country club
Songbooks
Centennial program, 1958
Turner Singers 70th Anniversary, 1956
International Turnfest - audit, program, schedules, 1969
Conventions - minutes, announcements, packets, 1970-1971
Turnfests and sports events
History of the Kansas City Turners, 1857-1973

BOX 006
American Turner Topics magazines, January 1959-August 1975
Membership application cards, ca.1950-1973
Membership Rosters, 1963-1974
Membership - canceled or dropped, ca.1973-1977
Minutes, officer reports - St. Louis District Convention, 1964, 1966, 1973
Germania Singers - programs from festivals, correspondence, flyers, “Germania Notes” newsletters, 1924-1955
“Agrarian Policy...” by Kurt Wittmer - Eigenbrodt-Hessian Farmers Union
Printed/published materials, 1918-1938, 1960s
Miscellaneous clippings
Miscellaneous papers (includes some duplicates)
Annual Treasurers Report, 1949, 1950
Miscellaneous taxes, insurance, 1883-1948
State sales tax, 1941-1943
Taxes, 1943-1946, 1949-1951
Badges - 47th Annual Convention, 1958
Ribbons - “Ehren-Mitglied” (esteemed member)
Tickets to banquets, tours, etc.
Ribbons, coins, keychains, plastic bears

**BOX 007**
General Correspondence, September 1975-April 1977
Financial reports, committee reports, 1980-1982
Paid Secretary reports, 1959
Committee reports, 1976-1980
Pool Reports, July-September 1973, August-September 1974, 1977
Pool contract, 1978
Bar reports/committee reports/annual Auxiliary reports, 1975-1978
Women’s Auxiliary - constitution, reports, 1971, 1973
Treasurers reports - “Original Copy” 1976-1978
Financial reports, 1977-January 1980
Beer service at Maifest - time donations, undated
Membership drive, 1958, 1968-1971
Financial materials, January-December 1955
Constitution and bylaws booklets - KC/St. Louis District
National publications
Chiropractic - Dr. Lester Meng, ca.1970s
Publications:
Programs - National Festival (Milwaukee), 1955, 1971
Centennial Journal - Denver Turnverein, 1965
National Turner Auxiliary Cookbook, 1982
112th Report of the National Council, 1966
Directory and Statistics of National Districts/Societies, 1975
Minutes - 47th Convention (KCMO), 1958
Program - Turner’s Indoor Circus
Programs - German Nite - Buffalo Turners, 1968

BOX 008
Music

BOX 009
Music

BOX 010
Photographs

OVERSIZE

BOX 001X1
- Attendance records - 1st Boys Class, 1st Girls Class, Matrons, Ladies, Actives, Junior Boys, 2nd Girls, Bears - Business Men’s Club, some hall rental records, 1920-1922
- Ledgers - Mitglieder Beiträge (contributing members), 1904-1907
- Akten (records, files) des Kansas City Socialen Turn Vereins - correspondence, charter, receipts, November 1890-December 1894
- Gedenkblätter für das Goldene Buch der Deutschen in Amerika - Gegeben von deutschen Fürsten, Staatsmännern, Dichtern, Denkern und Künstlern, Weltausstellung, St. Louis, 1904 (handwritten messages from princes, statesmen, poets, philosophers, and artists, World Exposition)
- Protokolle - Vorort (outlying cities) des Kansas Turnbezirk; Vorort des Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska Turnbezirk, October 23, 1887-April 16, 1919
- Ledger - bar and restaurant records, undated (includes one page of expenditures, Spring 1920)
- Ledger - “Casso Conto” (cash account) - income and expenses for Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska Turnbezirk, October 16, 1887-August 2, 1908
- Ledger - “Casso Conto” - income and expenses of Kansas Turnbezirk, 1888-1906
• Protokolle - includes lists of members - Kansas City Turnverein, September 1867-May 1879

OVERSIZE DRAWING: (RECORDS CENTER)
KC Socialier Turnverein, Frederick Michaelis, SW Corner 15th & Virginia

OVERSIZE PHOTOGRAPHS (PANORAMA STORAGE – WHMC-KC)
Six oversized photographs from this accession’s materials are stored with other panoramic photographs at the Western Historic Manuscript Collection-Kansas City office:

• Gen’l. Friedr. Von Steuben, Denkmal, Washington, D. C., Copyright 1911. A sepia-tone photograph of sculptor Albert Jaegers’ 1910 monument to Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin Steuben, Baron von Steuben (1730-1794), hero of the American Revolutionary War. The monument, which is in Lafayette Park in Washington, D. C., is shown from the right side (Commemoration sculpture) in winter with dozens of wreaths placed around its base. A uniformed policeman stands to the left, and empty wooden chairs are placed to the right and behind of the monument. American flags are visible above and behind the monument. A crowd of people in overcoats and hats stand on a rise behind the ranks of chairs at the back of the photograph. (Sepia-tone image, 10½” x 14” including mat)

• Dedication banquet, Kansas City Turners. A group photograph of couples seated at long tables in a gymnasium. Dignitaries are seated on a raised stage to the back of the photograph and a large circular sign, American Turners – Sound Mind, Sound Body, is hung on the wall at the back of the stage. No date, but this may have been taken in the late 1950s when the Society’s Turner Park facilities were built. Three copies. (B/W image, Anderson K.C. photographer, 8” x 20½” including borders)

• 39. Deutsch-Amerikanisches Saengerfest, Chicago, Juni 1938. A large panoramic photograph of male choral singers, attired in black trousers, long-sleeved white shirts, and bow ties, seated on bleachers and a wooden platform in an auditorium to either side and behind a seated orchestra. Spectators are seated in two levels of bleachers to either side of the singers and orchestra. June 1938. (B/W image, Kaiser & Mueller Chicago photographer, 9½” x 38” including borders)

• Zentenarfeier Nordamerikanischer Sangerbund, Chicago Stadium, 10 Juni 1949. A large panoramic photograph of a sangerbund choral and music festival in Chicago. Choral singers, both men and women, are seated in bleachers behind and to either side of an orchestra seated on a raised platform. Fourteen young women in evening gowns (beauty contestants?), one of whom is wearing a crown, are standing in a line before and to the left side of the orchestra. Each of the women wears a sash that bears the name of an American city and state. A larger group of young women, also in gowns, are
seated before and to the right of the orchestra. A group of men, dressed in dark suits, are standing in the center, in front of the orchestra, conductor, and featured singers. The audience is seated on wooden chairs in front of the orchestra and in bleachers on either side and above the choral singers. June 10, 1949. (B/W image, Mueller photographer, 10” x 38” including borders)


- **Socialer Turnverein Kansas City, Mo.** at 32nd National Tournament, Chicago, Ill. 1920. (unidentified photo assumed to be same tournament as above photo). Members not identified. Men wearing white shirts and pants, black belts. White hats on ground at men’s feet bear name of Kansas City, Missouri. Each man holding a cane.