

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.305]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Meet Me At the Fair

Abstract: One audiocassette distributed by the Missouri History Museum as part of their 1996 exhibit on the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

Extent: 1 audiocassette

Physical Description: Audiocassette

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: Requires a cassette player

Publication Restrictions: Standard copyright rules apply

Preferred Citation: Missouri Historical Society. Meet Me At the Fair: Missouri Historical Society Audio Tour of the 1904 World's Fair, 1996; Record Group 998.305; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #2003-0199

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 06/12/2017.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Preparation for the St. Louis World's Fair began in January 1899 when St. Louis was chosen as the next city after Chicago to host a world's fair. Former Governor David R. Francis was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee planning the fair. Other Committee members from Missouri were John Perry (Kansas City), E.W. Stephens (Columbia), and Howard Elliott (St. Louis). Soon Walter B. Stevens would become Secretary and his name appears on many of the St. Louis World's Fair – aka Louisiana Purchase Exposition – documents.

The theme of the Fair was to be the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and a goal of Winter 1903 was set for the opening. Eventually the opening was shifted to April 1904. The Fair remained open until December 1, 1904.

George Kessler was the Fair's primary designer and the plan he came up with required approximately 1,200 acres of land and water in the area that would later become Forest Park and Washington University in St. Louis. Architects included Isaac S. Taylor, Emmanuel Louis Masqueray, Paul J. Pelz, and many others.

Participants from all over the country and the world were recruited to design and build exhibits and buildings representing their native lands and cultures. Forty-three (of 45) states built exhibit space as well as 50 countries. Native peoples from across the world were brought to St. Louis where they would be required to appear in their native clothing and accouterments for the attendees to observe. Photographs of these native groups make up the bulk of the images in this manuscript. William H. Rau was the official photographer for the Fair and he is likely the individual who took the photographs featured in this book.

Overall, almost 20 million people attended the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS105 St. Louis 1904 World's Fair Photograph Book
MS193 St. Louis 1904 World's Fair Photograph Books
MS249 Beauty of the World's Fair and St. Louis 1904 Photograph Booklet
MS270 The Universal Exposition Book
MS279 George Kessler Papers
MS393 Early Photo Album
MS398 Missouri Postcards
MS423 Tim Williams Collection
MS435 Souvenir Postcards of St. Louis
RG550 General Assembly

Available in the Archives' Reference Book Collection:

Bennett, Mark. History of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition: Comprising the History of the Louisiana Territory, the Story of the Louisiana Purchase and a Full Account of the Great Exposition, Embracing the Participation of the States and Nations of the World, and Other Events of the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904. St. Louis: Universal Exposition Publishing Company, 1905. Call #R 917.78 B4399.

Clevenger, Martha. "Indescribably Grand:" Diaries and Letters from the 1904 World's Fair. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society, 1996. Call #R 907.4778 In222.

Fox, Timothy J. and Duane R. Sneddeker. From the Palaces to the Pike: Visions of the 1904 World's Fair. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1997. Call #R 907.4778 F8301.

Francis, David Rowland. The Universal Exposition of 1904. St. Louis: Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, 1913. Call #R 917.78 F8471.

Hanson, John Wesley. The Official History of the Fair, St. Louis, 1904: The Sights and Scenes of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. 1904. Call #R 917.78 H1986.

Harper, Christine Froechtenigt. The Water Wizard: John F. Wixford and the Purification of the St. Louis Water Supply in 1904. PhD Dissertation: St. Louis University, 2001. Call #R 628.1 H231.

Kurtz, Charles M. The Saint Louis World's Fair of 1904, in Commemoration of the Acquisition of the Louisiana Territory: A Handbook of General Information Profusely Illustrated. St. Louis: Gottschalk Printing Company, 1903. Call #R 917.78 K9673.

Matthews, George R. America's First Olympics: The St. Louis Games of 1904. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2005. Call #R 796.48 M4321.

Additional External Resources

Boone County Historical Society's postcard collection of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition / World's Fair is online through Missouri Digital Heritage:
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/bchspsterds>.

The Library of Congress has nearly 1,000 photographs and other records on the World's Fair:
<https://www.loc.gov/>.

The Missouri History Museum in St. Louis has extensive collections devoted solely or partly to the World's Fair. In particular, see collection [#A0934 Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company Records, 1898-1925](#) and [#A0816 George E. Kessler Papers, 1886-1923](#). [NOTE: The Archives has the Kessler papers on microfilm, manuscript collection MS279.] They have also digitized both volumes of David R. Francis's The Universal Exposition of 1904 and placed them on Missouri Digital Heritage:
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/expo>.

The St. Louis Art Museum's Cass Gilbert's Palace of Fine Arts collection is online through Missouri Digital Heritage:
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/cgilbert>.

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia has many collections involving the Exposition. In particular, see collections [#C0806](#), [#C4123](#), [#P0093](#), [#C0051](#), [#C1228](#), [#S0085](#) and an [online photograph collection](#).

Washington University Library's World's Fair Collection contains four linear feet of records:
<http://archon.wulib.wustl.edu/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=489>.

SERIES

“Meet Me At the Fair” Audio Cassette, 1996

Scope and Content

This is an audiocassette produced by Patrick Murphy Productions, Inc. for the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, now known as the Missouri History Museum. Run time is 37 minutes. Script by Patrick Murphy, Sound Design by Bill Schulenburg, Talent Tamara Tungate and John Flack, Keyboards and Original Music by Chris Petersen.

From the liner notes:

“As one of the most remembered events in the city’s past, the 1904 World’s Fair provides both a wonderful opportunity and a great challenge for interpretation. Our exciting exhibit, Meet Me at the Fair: Memory, History, and the 1904 World’s Fair, gives visitors what they need to interpret the Fair and its legacy for themselves. The artifacts and narratives included in the exhibit speak differently to each visitor. ...I hope you will enjoy this narrated walking tour of the 1904 World’s Fair. This audio visit to the Fair was created just for our loyal members and supporters! It is a lively exchange between two fictitious characters, Emma and Fred, but the sights and sounds are real. They are what we might experience if we could go back in time to visit the Fair ourselves.”

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
		305	“Meet Me At the Fair: Missouri Historical Society Audio Tour of the 1904 World’s Fair” cassette tape and housing	1996