

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 998.363

Manuscript Collections

Governor Forrest Smith Collection

Abstract: This collection contains one document and six photographs of Missouri Governor Forrest Smith (1949-1953).

Extent: 1 Document; 6 Photographic Prints.

Record Description: Paper; Photographs.

Alternative Formats: TIFs.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder]; [Series]; Governor Forrest Smith Collection, Record Group 998.363; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #2010-0025.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Erin Sehorn on 02/04/2010. Last updated by Erika Woehlk on 11/14/2023.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Quoted directly from Finding Aid 3.42:

“Forrest Smith was born on February 14, 1886 near Hardin in Ray County to James P. and Lillie Hill Smith. He received his secondary education at Woodson Institute in Richmond, Missouri. Upon graduation from Westminster College in Fulton, Smith taught school and served as principal of the Richmond Grammar School. He married Mildred Williams on October 12, 1915 and they raised two daughters.

“A Democrat, Smith began his political career in 1910 as deputy assessor for Ray County. He was elected as Ray County Clerk in 1913 and held that position for eight years. From 1921 to 1925, Smith operated a jewelry business in Richmond. Appointed by Governor Samuel Baker to the Missouri Tax Commission in 1925, Smith served until 1932 when he was elected to state auditor. He left the Office of the State Auditor to successfully campaign for the 1948 gubernatorial election.

“On January 10, 1949, Forrest Smith was sworn in as the 42nd Governor of Missouri. Erroneous innuendoes of organized mob influence affected his relationship with the Democratic Party and impacted his ability to accomplish anything of substance with the Missouri General Assembly. In 1951, the Governor signed into law the Municipal Land Clearance for Redevelopment Act which expanded and improved public infrastructure.

“Smith completed his sole term and retired from public service in 1953. A dormitory on the University of Missouri campus was constructed in 1961 and named in his honor. He died March 8, 1962 in Gulfport, Mississippi and is interred in Ray County in the Sunny Slope Cemetery in Richmond.”

Additional Descriptive Information

Related Material

RG3.42 Forrest Smith, 1949-1953

RG005 Secretary of State Publications Portrait Collection

RG998 MS336 Louise and Omar Putman Collection

Copied directly from Finding Aid 3.42:

Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Special Collections hold the following collections containing materials pertaining to Governor Smith:

| | |
|--------|--|
| AC27 | Williams Photograph Studio Collection, 1920-1959 |
| SC66-2 | Edith Lowe Peters Scrapbooks, 1900-1970 |
| SC 84 | James A. Hazlett Papers, 1929-1997 |

The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia holds:

C2220, Forrest Smith (1886-1962) Papers, 1940-1953.72.6 linear feet of materials and 11 volumes comprise the collection and includes correspondence, reference files, speeches, and miscellaneous materials.

Smith, Forrest. *Collections and Disbursements During the Year...Sales Tax Department* (Jefferson City, Mo.: Forrest Smith, State Auditor, 1937).

Smith, Forrest. *Rules and Regulation relating to the Missouri Sales Tax Act (House Bill No. 6, 59th General Assembly): effective June 8, 1937: Two*

Per Cent Sales Tax. Issued by Forrest Smith, State Auditor of Missouri
(Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri State Auditor, 1937).

Smith, Forrest. *Rules and Regulations Relating to the Emergency Revenue Act, 1935: In Force August 27, 1935: One Per Cent Sales Tax, Issued by Forrest Smith, State Auditor of Missouri* (Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri State Auditor, 1935).

Smith, Forrest. *Rules and Regulations Relating to the Missouri Sales Tax Act: Two Per Center Sales Tax, Issued by Forrest Smith, State Auditor of Missouri* (Jefferson City, Mo.: State Auditor, 1941).

University of Missouri-Kansas City, Miller Nichols Library holds:
Arthur B. Church KMBC Radio Collection
Audio recording of the dedication ceremonies for the new KMBC building.
Governor Smith attended.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Documents, 1949
Photographs, 1949-1953

Documents, 1949

Extent: 1 Item.

Arrangement: N/a.

Scope and Content

This is an 8"x10" certificate for Smith's membership in the International Mark Twain Society. It is signed by Cyril Clemens. The document has been scanned and is available on Manuscript DVD #4 in the Reference Room.

Container List

| Location | Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|----------|-----|--------|--|------------|
| | 132 | 2 | International Mark Twain Society membership certificate for Governor Forrest Smith | 05/18/1949 |

Photographs, 1949-1953

Extent: 6 Photographs.

Arrangement: Chronological.

Scope and Content

Photographs featuring Missouri Governor Forrest Smith. All images are scanned on Manuscript DVD #4 in the Reference Room.

Container List

| Location | Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|----------|-----|--------|---|------------|
| | 132 | 3 | Governor Forrest Smith (right) marches past two files of Honorary Colonels on his way up to the Capitol Building for his inauguration. Departing Governor Phil Donnelly is by his side. The Louisiana Purchase Memorial is in the background. It's a cloudy, rainy day. 7.5"x9.5" print by Gerald Massie. | 01/10/1949 |
| | 132 | 4 | A line of people files past Missouri's new Governor Forrest Smith during his inauguration ceremonies. 7.5"x9.5" print by Gerald Massie. | 01/10/1949 |
| | 132 | 5 | New Missouri Governor Forrest Smith shakes hands with a woman during his inauguration ceremonies. A man in a military uniform smiles at the camera. 7.5"x9.5" print by Jackie Martin. | 01/10/1949 |
| | 132 | 6 | Governor Forrest Smith sits at a dinner table with two couples. Another woman sits opposite him at the foot of the table. This appears to be Smith's mother. The table centerpiece is a garland, Christmas ornament, and candles. Two copies (8"x10" and 7"x9"). Photographer unknown. | 1949-1952 |
| | 132 | 7 | Five women in nice dresses and corsages sit on one side of a long table. Banquet. 7.375"x9.25". Photographer unknown. | 1949-1953 |
| | 132 | 8 | Governor Forrest Smith sits at the center of the head table for a banquet. The event appears to be in a Shriner's mosque. Portraits of Harry S Truman, Governor Smith, and another man adorn the wall behind the head table. 9"x13.5". Photographer unknown. | 1949-1953 |