OKLAHOMA

Norman, OK

152. University of Oklahoma

Bass Business Collections
Bizzell Memorial Library, Rm. 507NW
The University of Oklahoma Libraries
401 West Brooks Street
Norman, OK 73019

Phone: (405) 325-4142
E-mail: http://libraries.ou.edu/info/contact.aspx?contacttype=1&contactid=12
Website: http://libraries.ou.edu/locations/default.aspx?id=15
Hours: M-F 9 am–4 pm

Contact person:
Daniel A. Wren, Curator, Bass Collection: (405) 325-3941; dwren@ou.edu

Overview:
The Bass Business History Collection began in 1955 with the purpose of collecting and preserving materials relating to the history of business and industry. The collection contains books, microforms, videos and journals on a number of topics including the histories of business leaders and firms and the economic, social and political forces that influence the role of business in society.

Noteworthy collections:
- J. and W. Seligman Company
  Est. in 1864, company was one of America’s early investment banking houses and provided a strong connection between the U.S. and Europe. The firm grew from Joseph Seligman who immigrated to the U.S. in 1837 and worked for Asa Packer in Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe) Pennsylvania before becoming an itinerant peddler. With his savings Joseph financed the immigration of his seven brothers, one sister, and parents over a period of years. Joseph’s brothers William, James, Henry, Jesse, Leopold, Isaac, and Abraham would play a role in the development of the Joseph and William Seligman firm. His sister Babette would marry Max Stettheimer and bring another into the family’s ventures. The Seligman archives contain the history of the family and some
records of the various ventures of the brothers before the decision to enter investment banking. The years as peddlers and storekeepers are not fully covered by correspondence, however, but by recollections of family members. The banking years began in New York in 1862 and a Frankfurt, Germany, branch opened in 1864. For short periods there were branches in New Orleans and San Francisco. The latter, the Anglo-California Bank, was subsequently acquired by the Crocker Bank. Eventually there would be branches in London and Paris, all guided by the New York office.

- **Retail Intelligence System Collection**
  Grew out of a consulting firm, Management Horizons, formed in 1974 by Ohio State University Professors William R. Davidson and Alton F. Doody and Indiana University Prof. Bert C. McCammon, Jr. McCammon commented that marketing was a “throw-away” discipline and the trio resolved to keep a record of the materials they developed about retailing for a steadily growing list of clients. McCammon later became a professor at the University of Oklahoma and, with Prof. Davidson, provided a complete set of the Retail Intelligence System (RIS) publications for archival purposes.

- **Robert Kahn Collection on Retailing History**

### Oklahoma City, OK

**153. Oklahoma Historical Society**

Research Center  
2401 N. Laird Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**Phone:** (405) 522-5225  
**E-mail:** research@okhistory.org  
**Website:** http://www.okhistory.org/index.html  
**Hours:** M-Sat 10 am–4:45 pm

**Overview:**

Archive Collections include American Indian records, over six million photographs, more than 6,000 oral histories, extensive manuscript collections, film archives and maps. The Research Center is the largest repository of Oklahoma newspapers in the state.
Noteworthy collections:

- The Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Records (1897–1986). 700 v.
  Includes materials dating from 1919 to 1986, primarily from the Administrative and Public Relations Divisions. Included are correspondence, documents, and proceedings, photographs, legal and financial records, and printed materials.

  Contains the business records of the Max Herskowitz Estate from 1923–1934, including a hosiery and army goods business. It also contains the military records and personal papers of Abe Herskowitz from 1926–1948.

  Documents concerning the Choctaw Indians; letters to and from family members of Bonnie Cole Doss and her father Preslie Barto Cole (antique shop owner). Also, business correspondence and financial records concerning real estate dealings.

  Consists of corporate records, business correspondence, financial reports, scrapbooks, and publications relating to the various corporations, begun by the Griffith brothers and continued by Henry S. Griffing.

  Majority of the papers of Mary McCormick are comprised of copies of Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma documents including Business Committee and joint committee meeting minutes and meeting packets between 1972 and 1997.

  Records of the Mummers’ Theater Company in Oklahoma City. Includes business correspondence, minutes of the Board of Directors, financial records, job descriptions and applications, and contracts. Also, posters, brochures and production material.