

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0270 (KA0631)
HENRY LEE JOST (1873-1950) PAPERS

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu.

Introduction

4 cubic feet, 13 oversize scrapbooks, 3 rolls of microfilm

The papers consist of personal and professional correspondence, records of legal cases, scrapbooks, certificates, and photographs related to the life of Henry Lee Jost, attorney, two term mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, and United States congressman, covering the period ca. 1898-1958.

Henry Lee Jost was born in New York City on December 6, 1873, to Simeon and Lena (Bahr) Jost. Little is known about his early life. He was orphaned at age 6, when his father, ill and widowed, left him at the Five Points House of Industry, a mission house, on Manhattan's lower east side. Jost was later sent to Nodaway County, Missouri, with 25 other "foundlings," and taken in by Judge Dale. As a teenager, Jost worked on a farm near Maryville, Missouri.

At 22, Jost went to Hopkins, Missouri, to study law. He was admitted to the Kansas City School of Law as a senior, and graduated in 1898. Jost was admitted to the Missouri bar in 1898. His first partnership was with Frank Hagerman. In 1908, Jost was appointed assistant city counselor, and later assistant prosecuting attorney. Jost married Minnie Alice Hanks of Oak Grove, Missouri, on August 9, 1911. They had two children, Mary and Henry Lee, Jr.

From 1912 to 1916, Jost served two terms as the Democratic mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. He was affectionately known as "Our Little Henry" by his political friends. During Jost's first administration, the 16th Amendment, imposing an income tax on the American people, was passed, and the Metropolitan Railway Franchise debate began in earnest in Kansas City. During his second term, Kansas City was made the 10th Reserve Bank District, a \$4,250,000 bond issue for public works was passed, and Union Station was dedicated, with Jost as the keynote speaker.

Jost, as mayor, has been credited with establishing an efficient city government. He instituted a policy of holding town hall meetings, at which he answered questions from citizens. During his two terms as mayor, Jost was associated with Joseph B. Shannon and the Rabbit faction. However, in later years, he supported Thomas Pendergast and the Goat faction. In a third bid for reelection, Jost was defeated by Republican George Herbert Edwards.

Jost returned to private practice. In 1923, he was elected the Democratic congressman from the 5th District. In Congress, Jost was interested in establishing a national military park in the Westport area to commemorate the Battle of Westport. Disillusioned with

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Washington politics, he declined to run for reelection in 1925. After returning to Kansas City, he became a partner with the Sebree law firm.

Henry Jost died after an operation on July 13, 1950, at the age of 76.

Donor Information

Mrs. Henry Jost, Jr., donated the papers to the University of Missouri on 5/3/1991 (Accession KA0631).

Location Note

The majority of the collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing. Oversize scrapbooks have been microfilm and can be viewed in the reading room.

Inventory

Box 001 (003657)

- f. 1 Statements and addresses made as mayor, 1912-1922
- f. 2 Legal cases, wills, miscellaneous personal materials, statements and addresses, 1913-1944
- f. 3 Campaign literature, 1916
- f. 4 Appointments to West Point, 1923-1925
- f. 5 Appointments to Naval Academy, 1912-1924
- f. 6 Legal cases - documents, including papers concerning Jost's Benton County farm, ca. 1921-1944
- f. 7 Benton County farm - title abstract, contracts, legal papers, 1955-1958
- f. 8 Newspaper clippings - KC Star, Belfast Telegraph, Maryville (MO) Daily Forum, 1924-1942
- f. 9 Newspaper clippings highlighting death of Mrs. Charles Mason Remey, August 1932
- f. 10 James B. Welsh Realty and Loan Co. - report on examination of their finances, 1934
- f. 11 Certificate of admission of Jost as an Attorney and Counselor, June 22, 1898
- f. 12 Certificates of Election as mayor, April 14, 1940 and April 9, 1942
- f. 13 Photographs - Jost's inauguration, portraits
- f. 14 Monthly financial statements of Jost's law practice, 1928
- f. 15 Certificates - KC Athletic Club, Gate City Lodge 522, Board of KC Trusts, 1918-1930
- f. 16 Papers relating to Jost's admission to the US Supreme Court, February 1932

Box 002 (003658)

Personal Correspondence, 1935-1939

- f. 1 A

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f. 2 B
f. 3 C
f. 4 D
f. 5 E-F-G
f. 6 H
f. 7 I
f. 8 J
f. 9 K-L
f. 10 M
f. 11 N-O
f. 12 P-Q
f. 13 R
f. 14 S
f. 15 S
f. 16 T
f. 17 U-V-W
f. 18 W

Personal Correspondence, 1940-1941

f. 19 A
f. 20 B
f. 21 C
f. 22 D-E-F-G
f. 23 H-I-J
f. 24 K-L
f. 25 M
f. 26 N-O
f. 27 P-Q-R
f. 28 S
f. 29 T-U-V
f. 30 W

Personal Correspondence, 1942-1944

f. 31 A
f. 32 B
f. 33 C
f. 34 D-E-F
f. 35 G
f. 36 H-I-J
f. 37 K-L

Box 003 (003659)

f. 1 M

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- f. 2 N-O-P-Q
- f. 3 R
- f. 4 S
- f. 5 T, including "Taxes"
- f. 6 W

Correspondence concerning Veterans Bureau Claims, ca. 1922-1925

- f. 7 B
- f. 8 C
- f. 9 E-F
- f. 10 G
- f. 11 H
- f. 12 K-L
- f. 13 M
- f. 14 R
- f. 15 S
- f. 16 T, W, Z

Scrapbooks / Newspaper Clippings

- f. 17 Kansas City Post, April 15 - October 22, 1912 – includes index
- f. 18 Kansas City Post, October 23, 1912 - April 24, 1913 – includes index
- f. 19 Kansas City Post, Kansas City Journal, and other local and regional papers, March-April 1912
- f. 20 Kansas City and regional papers, plus several wedding invitations from friends and colleagues, 1914-1937

Box 004 (004231)

- f. 1 Kansas City Journal, April 16 - August 10, 1912 – includes index
- f. 2 Kansas City Journal, August 13, 1912 - January 5, 1913 – includes index
- f. 3 Kansas City Star, April 15, 1912 - January 13, 1913 – includes index
- f. 4 Kansas City Star, Kansas City Times, March-April 1912
- f. 5 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings regarding Jost's career, 1899-1912
- f. 6 Legal cases - office records/logs of all actions, 1921-1932 – later notes indicate when files were destroyed, 1935-1955

Oversize Scrapbooks (also available on 3 microfilm rolls)

- Volume 1 Kansas City Journal, January 6, 1913 - April 19, 1914 – includes index
Loose Item: Article on Notre Dame - Trojans football game, 1927, uncited
- Volume 2 Kansas City Journal, April 20, 1914 - December 17, 1915
- Volume 3 Kansas City Journal, December 17, 1915 - April 17, 1916

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- Volume 4 Kansas City Post, April 25, 1913 - April 19, 1914
Loose Items: Post, May 12, 1910 (pp. 1-2);
Post, May 14, 1910 (pp. 1-2);
Post, December 6, 1912 (pp. 1-2; 7-8)
- Volume 5 Kansas City Post, April 20, 1914 - November 21, 1915
Loose Items: Missouri Staats Zeitung, issues November 1912 (No. 51),
and November 1912 (No. 52);
St. Louis Times-Dispatch, October 13, 1914;
St. Louis Star, October 13, 1914;
St. Louis Republican, October 13, 1914;
St. Louis Times, October 14, 1914
- Volume 6 Kansas City Post, November 22, 1915 - April 17, 1916
- Volume 7 Kansas City Star, January 14, 1913 - April 18, 1914 – includes index
Loose Items: Star, May 16, 1910 (special edition on Dr. Hyde verdict in
Swope trial, p. 2);
Gazette-Globe, March 7, 1913
- Volume 8 Kansas City Star, April 20, 1914 - December 31, 1915
- Volume 9 Kansas City Star, January 2, 1916 - April 17, 1916
- Volume 10 Kansas City Times, December 6, 1912 - April 15, 1914
Loose Items: Times, issues May 6, 1910 (Swope-Hyde trial, pp. 1-2), and
May 12, 1910 (pp. 9-12);
The Hopkins Journal, issues September 26, 1912, October 31, 1912
(featuring H.L. Jost), and November 6, 1912;
Springfield Daily Republican, April 11, 1912 (p. 10)
The clippings on pages 27-30 have the word Journal written across them.
- Volume 11 Kansas City Times, April 20, 1914 - March 21, 1916
- Volume 12 Kansas City Times, March 22, 1916 - April 17, 1916
- Volume 13 Various Kansas City Newspapers, January 1, 1914 - March 1, 1915