

K Elise Guignon Collins (1895-1992) Collection, 1861-1986
0704 .25 cubic feet

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

INTRODUCTION

The papers contain clippings, correspondence, and pamphlets related to the history of the Guignon family, Kansas City, and Visitation Church near the Plaza neighborhood.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Elise Guignon Collins on May 19, 1988 (Accession No. KA0462). An addition was made on March 16, 1989, by Elise Guignon Collins (Accession No. KA0507).

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

RELATED COLLECTIONS

Tom Collins (1900-1968) Papers (K0830)
The Kansas City Journal-Post, February 2, 1930, p. 6D
The Kansas City Times, January 31, 1949
The Kansas City Star, August 4, 1957, Section E
The Kansas City Star, June 6, 1982
The Kansas City Times, November 22, 1984

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elise Guignon was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1895, but lived most of her life in the Kansas City area. Guignon was a descendant of the Bossier family, a prominent Creole family that was active commercially in the Louisiana territory and in the settlement of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Elise's father, Emile S. Guignon, owned a prominent and successful real estate firm in Kansas City, which was eventually taken over by his son, Barat Guignon.

Elise married Tom Collins, a noted Kansas City humorist and author in 1924. Elise wrote a shopping column for the *Kansas City Journal* in the 1920s and also worked for the Ferry Handley Advertising Agency. Elise earned a bachelor's degree in European history from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1963 and a master's degree in art history from UMKC in 1988. At the time she was the oldest recipient of a diploma from the university. Elise Guignon Collins died in 1992.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following four series:

Family Papers**Kansas City History****Visitation Church****Oversize**

The **Family Papers** series contains material pertaining to the Guignon family and their history. The series contains newspaper clippings, correspondence, and small booklets that relate to the family. The **History** folder has letters between family members trying to ascertain genealogical information, and a story concerning Jean Baptiste Bossier and the King of Greece. In the **Bossier Portrait Correspondence** folder, there is correspondence pertaining to the history and continual exhibition of the portrait of Jean Baptiste Bossier by famous naturalist and artist Audubon. The portrait appeared in several exhibits spanning many decades, before being donated to the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. The **Ephemera** folder contains brochures and invitations related to the Bossier portrait exhibits, invitations to family events, National Audubon Society pamphlets, and small booklets with information on the Guignon's previous homes in Ste. Genevieve and St. Louis. The **Newspaper Clippings** folder follows members of the Guignon family. The bulk of the clippings relate to Emile S. Guignon, Elise's father, and Barat Guignon, Elise's brother. Finally, the **Ste. Genevieve** folder contains information about the town, and the Guignon's residence there.

In the **Kansas City History** series there is material pertaining mostly to the architectural history of the city. The series contains pamphlets, small architectural images, newspaper clippings, and newsletters. The **Architectural Images** folder contains pamphlets and pages pertaining to buildings of interest around Kansas City, Missouri. Included in the **Country Club Plaza** folder, are promotional materials and calendars celebrating the architectural history of the Plaza. The **Ephemera** folder contains two small booklets with images and information about Kansas City in the early 1900s. The **Plaza Neighborhood** folder contains home owner's association handouts, clippings regarding the history of the neighborhood, and a copy of *Inside Countryside* newsletter. The **Rockhurst College** folder contains a manuscript telling the history of the College.

The **Visitation Church** series pertains to the research acquired as Elise was writing her master's thesis on Visitation Church in Kansas City. The Church is architecturally interesting for its Spanish Mission style architecture, which is usually more common on the West Coast. The **History** folder contains the thesis entitled, "A Brief History of Visitation Church and its Related Pastoral Buildings" along with some handwritten notes. The **Newspaper Clippings** folder contains clippings related to the history of the church and to its first pastor Monsignor McDonald. The **Pamphlets** folder contains promotional materials for the church and pamphlets pertaining to several of the churches anniversary celebrations. The **Renovation** folder contains information on the architect who renovated the inside of the church. The renovation intended to make the inside of the church match the Spanish Mission outside.

The **Oversize** series contains articles and newspapers that pertain to Kansas City.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Elise Guignon Collins (K0704)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

Box 1

f. 1-6	Family Papers
f. 1	History, 1960
f. 2-3	Bossier Portrait Correspondence, 1932-1960
f. 4	Ephemera, 1861-1951
f. 5	Newspaper Clippings, 1917-1953
f. 6	Ste. Genevieve, 1949-1952
f. 7-11	Kansas City History
f. 7	Architectural Images, 1981
f. 8	Country Club Plaza, 1983
f. 9	Ephemera, 1898-1907
f. 10	Plaza Neighborhood, 1951-1984
f. 11	Rockhurst College, 1953
f. 12-15	Visitation Church
f. 12	History, 1986
f. 13	Newspaper Clippings, 1932-1983
f. 14	Pamphlets, 1959-1984
f. 15	Renovation, n.d.

Box 2

f. 16	Oversized Magazines, 1980-1984
-------	--------------------------------

INDEX TERMS

Index Term	Folder
Bossier, Jean Baptiste	1-6
Collins, Elise Guignon	1-6, 12
Collins, Tom	5
Guignon, Barat	1-6
Guignon, Emile S.	1-6
Guignon family--History	1-6
Historic buildings	7-15

Processed February 2017