

**Collection #
M 1425**

**JOHN A. SHIELDS
PAPERS, 1921–1926**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscript Materials: 2 document cases

COLLECTION DATES: 1921–1926

PROVENANCE: Jackson County Public Library

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0123

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Arthan Shields was born 17 December 1884 on a farm in Jackson County, Kansas. After a country school education, he attended Campbell Business College and then the University of Minnesota where he studied law. He graduated from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas, in 1913. While in college, Shields won several oratory and debate championships and founded Pi Kappa Delta, a public speaking and debate honor society. He would later tour the Chautauqua circuit as a speaker.

In 1918, Shields moved to Seymour, Indiana, where he became involved in numerous operations having to do with the milling of grain. He was secretary and director of the Blish Milling Company, a large concern in Seymour. He was also president of the Indiana Millers Association and the Indiana Manufacturers Association.

He was one of the twelve founders of the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, and served as that organization's vice president for many years. He represented Indiana on the National Industrial Council and was appointed to the National Committee of Industrial Standards by Herbert Hoover.

In his later life, Shields was recognized further in oratorical circles, including a Distinguished Service Award from the National Pi Kappa Delta. He was also a 33rd degree Mason.

John A. Shields passed away three weeks shy of his 82nd birthday, on 23 November 1966.

Sources:

“John A. Shields Expires After Prominent Career” *The Tribune* (Seymour, Ind.) Friday, November 25, 1966, page 10.

“John Arthan Shields of Seymour Dies” *The Indianapolis Star* Saturday, November 26, 1966, page 31.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of the professional correspondence of John A. Shields. Since the collection was obtained through an intermediary institution—in this case the Jackson County Public Library—original order was not possible. Most of the correspondence showed evidence of being shuffled through and disarranged. The processor rearranged those materials into chronological order. They are labeled as “Miscellaneous Business Correspondence” (see Box 2) and include correspondence from Shields’s time at the Blish Milling Company, the Indiana Manufacturers Association, the Indiana Millers Association, and others.

In a few instances, letters were still enclosed in labeled folders, and those have been entered into the collection with their folder names intact and with a separate chronology (see Box 1).

One item of note is Shields’s duplicating book from 1921–1922 (Box 1, Folder 1). It contains carbon copies of handwritten letters written on a business trip in which Shields seems to be investigating business conditions in the South. He describes grocers, flour stock, economic conditions, prices, and advertising in each of the cities and towns that he visits. Cities in Georgia and Florida, Birmingham, Alabama, and Havana, Cuba are represented. In Cuba, Shields was trying to track down a debtor who successfully avoided him for several days. Also included are a Federal Trade Commission Report for Millers of Commercial Wheat Flour (Nov. 1922) and an address by Charles R. Gow on the topic of industrial taxation (May 1923).

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Federal Trade Commission report, blank copy and file copy, Nov. 1922	Box 1, Folder 11
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Proceedings of Ohio Valley Shippers' Regional Advisory Board meeting and Ohio Cooperative Marketing Bill drafts	Box 1, Folder 14
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