HERBERT W. FOLTZ
POST CARDS, 1882–1885

Collection Information
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Cataloging Information

Processed by
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1882–1885

PROVENANCE: Carolyn M. Brady, Oak Creek, Wisconsin

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.1153

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Herbert William Foltz (1867-1946) was born in Indianapolis to Mary Virginia Jones Foltz and Howard Foltz, a sewing machine sales agent. He attended Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, and entered Rose Polytechnic Institute (now Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology) as part of its inaugural class in 1883. He likely studied mechanical engineering. After graduating in 1886, he chose to further his studies, first at the Art Institute of Chicago and then with a structural engineering apprenticeship at the Illinois Steel Company.

In 1891, Foltz set up an architectural practice in Indianapolis, working in partnership with a number of other architects over time. These included Wilson B. Parker, Willard Ossler, Macy G. Thompson, and Howard F. Foltz. The Foltz firm designed a number of residences in Indianapolis and elsewhere, including those of Ovid B. Jameson and Josiah K. Lilly on North Pennsylvania Street, Meredith Nicholson at 1500 North Delaware, H.C. Atkins, and R.W. Furnas at 3435 North Pennsylvania. However, the firm more commonly designed large non-residential projects. Among these were the 1928 Shortridge High School Building, Tudor Hall School for Girls, Broadway United Methodist Church, and hospitals for the insane in Madison, Indiana and in Louisiana.

As a young man, Foltz was an enthusiastic advocate for the new sport of cycling, and in 1899 was elected president of the League of American Wheelmen. In 1898 he designed the Newby Oval, a wooden cycling track located north of 30th Street, between Central Avenue and Fall Creek. Reflecting the sport’s growing popularity, the Oval held 20,000 fans and was often filled to capacity for national events sponsored by the League of American Wheelmen. Indianapolis bicycle champion Major Taylor raced there until 1900.

Foltz was also interested in dramatics and helped to organize the Little Theater Society. He was a longtime director of the Art Association of Indianapolis, and at one time served as president of the Indianapolis School Board. As a member of the Portfolio, the Century Club, and the Indianapolis Literary Club, he frequently presented papers on architecture.

In 1893 Foltz married Clara Louise Bowen, with whom he had three children: Bertina (born circa 1898), Howard (born circa 1904), and Barbara (born circa 1909). The family owned their own home at 1847 North Delaware in Indianapolis, and were well off; census records show two servants living with them in 1910. After a long career, Herbert Foltz died in 1946 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Sources:

Collection Materials


Herbert William Foltz Papers Collection Guide. Reference Room: M 0110
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This short collection consists of eleven post cards sent from Herbert W. Foltz to his parents in Indianapolis between 1882 and 1885. All but the first are sent from Terre Haute, where Foltz was studying at Rose Polytechnic Institute. In this case, the family employed the cards as a quick, cheap manner of communicating arrivals, departures, and monetary needs. Most of the cards request money for room, board, clothing, and supplies. Despite the cost of the items, Foltz does not appear concerned that his requests will be a burden on his parents. He asks for $6.50 cashmere pants, $25 silver instruments, and increased funds for lodging. In several of the cards, Foltz refers to letters, which the family seems to have used for more extensive correspondence.
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Postal cards from Herbert W. Foltz, 1882–1885

CONTAINER
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 3101).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.