

Collection #
M 0599

**JOHN G. BIEL
PAPERS, 1940–1970**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive, 1940–1970 (bulk 1950s)
PROVENANCE:	Dave Buchanan, Vigo County Historical Society, 1205 South 6th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802, 24 May 1991

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1991.0481

NOTES: Walter H. Mellor Papers (M 601) were part of this donation, however, because of their unrelated nature, two separate collections were created. Mellor was Biel's father-in-law.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John G. Biel was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1906 and became a lawyer, businessman, and civic leader in that city. Biel received his undergraduate (1928) and law (1930) degrees from Indiana University. He practiced law in Terre Haute with the firm of Dix, Dix, and Biel until 1943, at which time he went into independent practice.

Biel was also associated with many businesses in the Terre Haute area and served as a director and member of operations primarily concerned in the areas of real estate and financial institutions. In addition to his business and professional ventures, Biel was involved in many civic and charitable organizations. In addition, he was also a distinguished local historian, writing articles on a variety of topics regarding the history of Indiana for newspapers and magazines and lecturing to local organizations.

In 1933 Biel married Marion Mellor of Michigan City, Indiana. They had one child, Kent Mellor Biel, who was born in 1936.

Source: Barnhart, Carmony, *Indiana From Frontier To Industrial Commonwealth*, vol. 3, pages 29–30. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing, 1954. F526. B37 1954

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists entirely of Biel's correspondence, research notes, and related printed items regarding his work on the history of Indiana. Included are letters from various historical organizations and libraries regarding research and publication of articles on a variety of topics. These include George Rogers Clark, Vincennes, early Indiana territorial and state history and government, the political conflict between Jonathan Jennings and William Henry Harrison, Shakers in Indiana, the period of Abraham Lincoln's life spent in Indiana, commemorations and anniversaries, and local topics and individuals. Most of the work was done in the mid-1950s.

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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://157.91.92.2/>
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, M 0599).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.