

AUSTIN H. BROWN PAPERS, 1900-1912

Collection #
BV 2629

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 bound volume
COLLECTION DATES:	1900-1912
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. Austin H. Brown, Indianapolis, IN, 1957
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1957.0010

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Austin H. Brown (1890-1954) was born in Indianapolis, the son of William J. Brown and Cornelia Garvin Brown. He attended Benjamin Harrison School No. 2 and Shortridge High School, then graduated from Wabash College in 1912, a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

Shortly after graduating, Brown joined Eli Lilly and Company as a salesman. After serving as a lieutenant in World War I, he became purchasing agent for the firm, working in that capacity for thirty-five years. The position called for obtaining all kinds of supplies to be used in Lilly pharmaceuticals. Among the more unusual substances Brown was

responsible for finding:

- pancreas glands for use in making insulin
- ma-huang, a source of ephedrine
- domestic sources of ergot during World War II
- curare, used as a poison by wild tribes in Peru but effective as a muscle relaxant.

Brown followed a family tradition in being an accomplished amateur actor, and he and his brother Garvin were mainstays of the productions of the Indianapolis Dramatic Club.

Sources: *Indiana Biographical Series*, Vol. 43 p.4

Indiana Historical Bulletin Vol. 32 no. 1 p.8

Wabash Bulletin, October 1954, Vol. 50 no. 3 p.19

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of one scrapbook containing materials from Mr. Brown's grade school, high school, and college careers, 1900-1912. It includes theater tickets and programs, dance cards, school graduation programs, fraternity yearbooks, and other memorabilia.

The Brown family lived on the "Old Northside" of Indianapolis, at 1110 North Delaware Street, and the scrapbook in its way gives sidelights on the social history of the Hoosier capital at that time. Among the institutions documented are Benjamin Harrison School No. 2, Shortridge High School, Wabash College, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, Indianapolis Dramatic Club, and the Princeton Triangle Club.

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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