GRAND OPERA HOUSE RECORDS, 1900-1902

Collection # SC 2447

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Processed by Charles Latham 24 October 1994

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1900-1902

PROVENANCE: Philip Buchanan, Hamden CT, 29 August 1994

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 94.0982

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The <u>Grand Opera House</u> was built in 1875 at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania and Wabash Streets in Indianapolis, on the site of the present Consolidated Building. For many years it was operated by the partnership of George A.

Dickson and Henry M. Talbott, which also managed the Park Theater and English's Opera House, as well as several theaters in other cities. When George A. Dickson died in 1903, the partnership was carried on by his son Fred.

At the time of the "1st Season" documented by these records, the Grand was apparently being rented from Dickson and Talbott by a separate management. It was a vaudeville house, with a main act, several additional acts such as a quartet or a dog-and-cat show, and a short motion picture, usually from Biograph or Kinodrome. Weekly receipts during 1900-1902 ran as low as \$1,000 and as high as \$3,000 (that week the main attraction was "Kilpatrick's Cycle Dazzle," with "Harding and Ah-Sid and Mlle Olive" as one of the additional acts.)

Sources: Dunn, Greater Indianapolis, I 470-472

Obituary of George A. Dickson, *Indianapolis News*, 7-25-1903, p. 16

Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains the accounts of weekly receipts and expenses of the Grand Opera House from December 1900 to April 1902. Accounts are kept on specially printed ledger sheets. Receipts show different entries for matinee and evening. Expenses include rent, light, orchestra, advertising, salaries, and the fees for performers.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Grand Opera House (Indianapolis, Ind.)

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Grand Opera House (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Business records--Indiana--Indianapolis

Theaters--Indiana--Indianapolis--Finance

Vaudeville--Indiana--Indianapolis--Finance

Music-halls (Variety-theaters, cabarets, etc.)--

Indiana--Indianapolis--Finance

END