

**Title:** Exposition Building Collection

**Call Number:** Mss-1674

**Inclusive Dates:** 1881 – 1905

**Bulk:** 0.4 cu. ft.

**Location:** EW, Sh. 006

**Historical Note:** Erected in 1880, the Exposition Building had been preceded by Bechtner's Skating Rink and, later, the West Side Market: 1867-1880. [As early as 1855, however, Milwaukee's first roller skating rink had been built at this same location]. The Exposition Building was touted as "the finest in the country," the Music Hall having had a seating capacity of 6,000. The site of concerts, carnivals, expositions, festivals, and other gatherings of all kinds, the building was sadly destroyed by fire on the afternoon of Sunday, June 4, 1905.

**Administrative Note:** The collection was processed on June 22, 1993 by Ellen F. Aussem.

| <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Box #</b> | <b>Folder #</b> |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Bound. Annual Reports: Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Association 1881-1905   | 1            | 1               |
| Programs of events held at Exposition Building: 1881-1905  | 1            | 2               |
| Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Art Gallery Catalogues: 1881 (partial); 1882 (2 copies); 1883  | 1            | Envelope 3      |
| Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Art Gallery Catalogues: 1884; 1885; 1886 (3 copies); 1888; 1889  | 1            | Envelope 4      |
| Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Art Gallery Catalogues: 1891 (cover and title pages only); 1895; 1896; 1897 (2 copies); 1898; 1899   | 1            | Envelope 5      |
| Milwaukee Industrial Exposition Art Gallery Catalogues 1900 (2 copies); 1901   | 1            | Envelope 6      |
| Opening (1881) to 1902<br>Magazine photocopy of building<br>Copy of sheet music cover commemorating opening of Exposition Building<br>Newspaper article – August 30, 1886(?) – detailing opening of an exhibition<br>Newspaper clipping – September 8, 1902 – describing industrial show opening<br>Xerox copy of article on Bechtner's Skating Rink and typewritten brief | 1            | 7               |

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|--|---|---|
| history of same  |   |   |
| Ticket to Milwaukee Industrial Exposition, 1882                    |   |   |
| Advertising card, J&P Coats exhibit at Industrial Exposition, 1888 |   |   |
| Newspaper articles: German Skat tournament, June 3-4, 1905         | 1 | 8 |