

**Title:** Milwaukee Turners Collection

**Reference Code:** Mss-1853

**Inclusive Dates:** 1852 – 1994

**Quantity:** 10.7 cu. ft. total

**Location:** LM, Sh. 175-176 (4.5 cu. ft.)  
WC, Sh. 106-107 (4.0 cu. ft.)  
RC9, Sh. 010-011 (0.8 cu. ft.)  
LC, Sh. 004 (1.4 cu. ft.)  
OS LG “B” (3 items)  
OS LG “M” (1 item)  
MV, F30 (5 items)

**Abstract:** The Turnverein has long advocated physical fitness, first in Germany and then in the U.S. beginning in 1848. Milwaukee’s first permanent Turner society was established in 1853. But the Turners were concerned about more than gymnastics. They took a decided stand against slavery and were instrumental in forming the Republican Party in 1854. They also promoted educational excellence as well as various cultural and intellectual events, staging music festivals and debates. The Turners also had a lasting impression on Milwaukee’s physical landscape. The current Turner Hall, constructed in 1883, remains one of the city’s landmarks.

**Scope and Content:** The collection includes minutes, newsletters, invoices, programs, newspaper clippings, reports, anniversary booklets and general historical information.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** German, English

**Notes:** Collection originally processed by Steve Daily, Nov. 12, 1994; it was reprocessed by Lisa Chasco, Aug. 3, 2007. Material added by Tia Stenson, March 1, 2019.

**Arrangement:**

<b>Folder Heading</b>	<b>Box #</b>	<b>File #</b>
Paid Invoices, Professional Services (music, dancing lessons, drawing lessons, honoraria)	1	1
Paid Invoices, Costumes, Notions, decorations, gifts	1	2
Paid Invoices, Unspecified	1	3
Paid Invoices, Travel Expenses: Hotel and cartage of turning equipment	1	4
Paid Invoices, Books and Periodicals	1	5
Paid Invoices, Insurance Premiums, legal fees, licenses, mortgage payments	1	6
Paid Invoices, Musical Equipment, gymnastic equipment	1	7

Paid Invoices, Advertising, job printing	1	8
Paid Invoices, Stationary	1	9
Paid Invoices, Construction, maintenance, supplies, general labor	1	10
Paid Invoices, Construction, maintenance, supplies, general labor	1	11
Paid Invoices, Construction, maintenance, supplies, general labor	1	12
Paid Invoices, Pharmacy	1	13
Paid Invoices, Clothing	1	14
Paid Invoices, Food	1	15
Paid Invoices, Tobacco	1	16
Paid Invoices, Beverages	1	17
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – December 1939	1	18
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1940	1	19
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1941	1	20
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1942	1	21
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1943	1	22
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1944	1	23
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1945	1	24
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1946	1	25
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1947	1	26
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1948	1	27
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1949	1	28
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1950	1	29
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1951	1	30
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1952	1	31
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1953	1	32
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1954	1	33
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1955	1	34
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1956	1	35
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1957	1	36
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1958	1	37
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1959	1	38
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1960	1	39
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1961	1	40
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1962	1	41
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1963	2	42
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1964	2	43
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1965	2	44
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1966	2	45
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1967	2	46
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1968	2	47
<i>The Milwaukee Turner</i> – 1994	2	48
<i>American Turner Topics</i> – 1936-1937	2	49
<i>American Turner Topics</i> – 1943-1948	2	50
<i>American Turner Topics</i> – 1949-1953	2	51

Membership Roster, 1919-1928	2	52
Statistics/Membership	2	53
Statistics/Membership	2	54
Committee Reports/Statements	2	55
Committee Reports/Statements	2	56
Social Event: Bundesturnfest of 1893	2	57
Newspaper Clippings (German)	2	58
Newspaper Clippings (English)	2	59
Social Events	2	60
Programs and Invitations	2	61
Correspondence	2	62
Auxiliary Societies	2	63
Normal College North American Gymnastic Union Yearbook "The Gymnast," 1913	2	64
Turner Calendars	3	65
Turner Hall Restoration (4 <sup>th</sup> Street Building)	3	66
Turner Anniversary Booklets, 1896-1978	3	67-68
Brosius Golden Jubiläum, 1914	3	69
Turner Histories	3	70
Otto Rudolph Memorabilia	3	71
Bound "Collections" of Notes (German Script)	3	72
American Turners Endowment Trust	3	73
Membership Cards	3	74
Miscellaneous	3	75
Account Book Turner Society, 1852-1858	3	Loose
<i>Mind and Body</i> Journal, October 1903-June 1916	4	76
<i>Nordamerischen Turnerbundes</i> , 1889-1917	4	77
Instruction Manuals for Gymnastics and Games	4	78
Songbooks	4	79
Class Schedules	4	80
Non-Milwaukee Turners	4	81
Non-Milwaukee Turners	4	82
American Turners Annual Reports, 1924-1948 (not inclusive)	4	83
Deutsch-Amerik Turnerei, 1890-July 1894	4	84
Constitution, Rules and by-laws	4	85
Political Writings (German and English)	4	86
Gesangsektion Material	5	86A
American Turnerbund Convention Minutes, 1925-1946 (not inclusive)	5	86B
Miscellaneous Literature	5	87
- <i>Friedrich Ludwig Jahn</i> , 1887		
- <i>Die Emanzipation der Kinder</i> , 1911		
- <i>Wayside</i> by Otto Luedtke, 1912		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Turnerism is Americanism</i>, 1938</li> <li>- Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Wisconsin Turn District, 1932</li> <li>- <i>Gedenssbuch; Erinnerung an Karl Heinzen</i>, 1887</li> <li>- <i>Vorträge von Hedwig Henrich-Wilhelmi</i>, 1889</li> <li>- <i>The Work of the Turner Societies</i> by Ernst A. Weier, 1919 (4 copies)</li> </ul>		
<b>SCRAPBOOKS:</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	
#1. Clippings, primarily German, ca. 1870-1900	RC9, Sh. 10	
#2. Clippings, primarily German, ca. 1870-1900	RC9, Sh. 10	
#3. Clippings, primarily German, ca. 1870-1900	RC9, Sh. 11	
#4. Clippings, primarily German, ca. 1870-1900	RC9, Sh. 11	
Minute book of Gesangsektion Turnverein, 1957-1969	LC, Sh. 004	
Scrapbook of cartoons, clippings, pictures, 1928-1939	LC, Sh. 004	
Scrapbook of clippings (some in German), 1902-1949	LC, Sh. 004	
Scrapbook of clippings of early Milwaukee, 1925-1949	LC, Sh. 004	
Scrapbook of clippings of historic homes and buildings, 1923-1941	LC, Sh. 004	
Scrapbook of clippings and programs (most in German), 1870s-1890s	LC, Sh. 004	
Scrapbook of clippings (most in German), 1870s-1900s	LC, Sh. 004	
<b>OVERSIZE ITEMS:</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	
Honorary diploma from Boston Turners to George Brosius, n.d.	OS LG "B"	
50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of membership of George Brosius in North American Turners, 1908	OS LG "B"	
Certificate of the 11 <sup>th</sup> German Turnfest in Germany in which 64 people from the North American Turners participated with George Brosius as their leader, 1908	OS LG "B"	
Act to incorporate Turnverein Milwaukee, Feb. 17, 1855	OS LG "M"	
<i>Festausgabe</i> (?), March 30, 1891	MV, F30	
Award certificate from Turnverein School to Otto Herrmann, 1885	MV, F30	
Award certificate from Turnverein School to Bertha Schmidt, 1884	MV, F30	
Award certificate from Turnverein School to Bertha Schmidt, 1885	MV, F30	
Golden wedding anniversary commemorative poem	MV, F30	
<b>SHEET MUSIC (4.0 cu. ft.)</b>	WC, Sh. 106-107	
<b>PHOTOS: SEE M-96, M-97, M-97A</b>		