

**MS-219: Canal Society of Ohio Collection**

**Collection Number:** MS-219

**Title:** Canal Society of Ohio Collection

**Dates:** 1826-2015 (bulk 1960-1990)

**Creator:** Canal Society of Ohio

**Summary/Abstract:**

An eclectic group of materials pertaining to the history and lore of the Miami-Erie Canal in western Ohio, as well as other canals in neighboring states, the collection consists of pamphlets, maps, photographs, journal articles, newspaper clippings, and a run of the Canal Society of Ohio newsletter *Towpaths*. The activities of the Canal Society of Ohio, founded in 1961 to preserve and promote Ohio's canal history, are also documented through publications, tour guides and newspaper clippings.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 0.5 linear foot

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-219, Canal Society of Ohio Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

The Canal Society of Ohio Collection was originally donated to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by Terry K. Woods and Donna L. Dolick in December of 1983. Since then, several small additions have been received.

**Separated Material:**

With the exception of the first eight issues (1961-1962), all issues of the *Towpaths* newsletter have been physically separated from the collection and cataloged. These can be found in the Special Collections and Archives reading room, under call number HE395.O47 T6.

**Other Finding Aid:**

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries website at: <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms219.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at: <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

**Processed by:**

Rachel DeHart, 2007; additions processed and finding aid revised according to DACS standards by Lisa Rickey, September 2017.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: Canals and Rivers, 1826-1985

Series II: Publications and Administrative, 1960-1987, 2015

Series III: Canal History Resources, Undated

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

The Canal Society of Ohio was founded in 1961 for the purpose of preserving and promoting Ohio's canal history. Semi-annual tours of Ohio canal segments are organized each spring and fall to highlight the history, construction and operation of the canal system. Additionally, Society members plan regional activities throughout the year, including slide presentations to interested groups.

The Society circulates a newsletter that contains information on its activities and current news of Ohio's canals. It also publishes a quarterly, *Towpaths*, with articles on canal history and related information.

The Wright State University Special Collections and Archives is the Western Ohio repository of historical materials for the Canal Society of Ohio. The University of Akron is the Society's repository for Eastern Ohio.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Canal Society of Ohio Collection documents an important era in Ohio and Midwest transportation. The materials provide information on the construction, use and legacy of local and regional canals.

**Series I: Canals and Rivers.** The pamphlets, monographs, booklets, maps, tour guides and papers in this series are divided into four geographical areas: Ohio, Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania. The Ohio materials comprise the largest section of the series and contain information on the Great Miami River, Ohio Canals, Ohio and Erie Canal, Ohio River, Miami Canal, Miami and Erie Canal, and Turtle Creek. Materials pertaining to Indiana cover Indiana Canals, Wabash-Erie Canal, and Wabash River. The New York section contains information on the Erie Canal. One map of Pennsylvania is located in oversize storage. Several of the pamphlets and tour guides were produced by the Canal Society of Ohio for its semi-annual tours. An

original bid for construction on Ohio canals in Delaware County (1826) and an account record for the Ohio Canal dating to 1849 are contained in the Ohio Canals folder (Box 1 File 4). Some materials in this series have been removed to oversize locations for storage. This is noted on the container listing and on the appropriate folders in Box 1. The materials in Series I date between 1826 and 1985.

**Series II: Publications and Administrative.** This series includes newspaper clippings and the regular publications of the Canal Society of Ohio: a newsletter for members and the illustrated quarterly, *Towpaths*. The newsletters date to 1967-1968 and 1985-1987. The first eight issues of *Towpaths* (1961-1962) are located in this series. A more complete collection of the quarterly can be found in the Reading Room of the Special Collections and Archives. Some newspaper clippings of canal news and history and the activities of the Canal Society of Ohio are located in oversize storage. A small amount of material concerning programming/events and trustees is also found in this series. The materials in Series II date from 1960-1987, as well as 2015.

**Series III: Canal History Resources.** This series contains reference materials for the Canal Society of Ohio's two repositories: Wright State University and University of Akron. A description of Wright State's holdings, which are greater than what is contained in this collection, and a bibliography of books on canal history in the Wright State Libraries are included. The series also contains University of Akron's collection index and photo negative log. One sheet of historical facts pertaining to the Piqua Historical Area is also located in the series. The materials in Series III are undated.

## Subject Terms

### **Organizations/Corporate Names**

Canal Society of Ohio

### **Subjects (General)**

Canals – Ohio – History

Towpaths – Ohio – History

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series I: Canals and Rivers</b>			<b>1826-1985</b>
		<b>Ohio</b>	
1	1	Great Miami River	1978, Undated
1	2	Miami Canal	1964, 1977
1	3	Miami & Erie Canal	1964-1985
OS 25	1	Miami and Erie Canal Maps (See Oversize Location 25, Folder 1)	1868-1971
1	4	Ohio Canals (See also: Oversize Location 25, Folder 2)	1826-1982 (scattered), Undated
1	5	Ohio Canal Maps (See also: Oversize Location 25, Folder 1)	1894, 1935
1	6	Ohio & Erie Canal	1973-1981
1	7	Ohio River	1981-1982
1	8	Turtle Creek	1981
		<b>Indiana</b>	
1	9	Indiana Canals	1952-1954, Undated
1	10	Wabash-Erie Canal	1903 (reprint), 1962
1	11	Wabash River	1954
		<b>New York</b>	
1	12	Erie Canal	1967, 1985
		<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
OS 25	3	Map (See Oversize Location 25, Folder 03)	1929
<b>Series II: Publications and Administrative</b>			<b>1960-1987, 2015</b>
1	13	Brochures and newsletters	1960-1987, Undated
1	14	<i>Towpaths</i> , Issues 1-8 (See also: cataloged issues, call # HE395.O47 T6)	1961-1962
1	15	Newspaper clippings (See Oversize Location 25, Folder 4 for oversize material)	1964-1982, Undated
1	16	Trustees Roster	2015
1	17	Programming and Events	2015

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series III: Canal History Resources</b>			<b>Undated</b>
1	18	Wright State University	Undated
1	19	University of Akron	Undated