Ruskin College (Trenton, Mo.) Papers
(C3803)

Collection Number: C3803

Collection Title: Ruskin College (Trenton, Mo.) Papers

Dates: 1899-1909

Creator: unknown

Abstract: Papers related to the Ruskin Hall Movement, a British socialist movement, and to Ruskin College, an American branch of the movement located in Trenton, Missouri. The collection includes a typescript history, catalogs, and newspaper articles.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic feet
(14 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ruskin College (Trenton, Mo.) Papers* (C3803); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were transferred from the State Historical Society of Missouri's Reference Collection to the Manuscript Collection on March 11, 1981 (Accession No. CA2362).

Processed by: Processed by Karen D. Hughes, August 30, 1989. Finding aid revised by Nicholas Raya, March 8, 2023.

Historical Note:

The Ruskin Hall Movement was started in Oxford, England, around the late 1890s by Walter Vrooman, an American socialist. In 1900 Vrooman returned to the United States to begin a

branch of the movement. He chose Trenton, Missouri, as a site because his brother had ties with the administrator of the then-failing Avalon College.

Walter and his wife, Anne L. Vrooman, desired to instruct young men and women about the dignity of labor within an academic setting. Ruskin College was vocational, unlike Ruskin Hall at Oxford. Also, unlike Ruskin Hall, women were admitted to the American branch. Ruskin Hall and Ruskin College were named after John Ruskin, an art critic and social philosopher. However, Ruskin was not an active participant in founding the colleges.

Preceding the development of Ruskin College there had been another school called Avalon College located in Trenton. That college was founded in 1869 by the United Brethren in Avalon, Missouri, and then moved to Trenton in 1890 because of the latter town's proximity to the railroad.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains papers that recount the history of the Ruskin Hall Movement and Ruskin College. The collection is small; there is a lack of correspondence and sequential published materials. The typescript history does provide an overview of the movement.

Container List:

f. 1	Pamphlet, 1899
f. 2	Printed Materials, 1900-1901
f. 3	Printed Materials, 1902-1903
f. 4	Pamphlets, 1908-1909
f. 5-6	Printed Materials, n.d.
f. 7-14	Typescript history of the Ruskin Hall Movement, n.d.

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