

E**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COLLECTION
(SPECIAL COLLECTIONS)**

The Mississippi Valley Collection has prepared guides to many of its individual holdings. Inquire at the Collection desk.

The main purpose of the Mississippi Valley Collection is to preserve the records of the people, conditions, and life of the lower Mississippi Valley (south of St. Louis to New Orleans). In addition to history, the Collection is concerned with geography, religion, literature, politics, economics, society, culture, entertainment, geology, and agriculture, through a variety of documents: letters, diaries, journals, books, ephemera, manuscripts, maps, tapes, and films.

Holdings date from as early as the seventeenth century, but most are in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They are particularly strong in certain areas such as popular entertainment, the 1968 sanitation strike in Memphis, the Mid-South printing industry, Memphis area churches, the West Tennessee Historical Society, and the development of The University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State University). The Collection holds archival copies of all the tapes and transcriptions of the History Department's Oral History Project. It has copies of all theses and dissertations written at The University of Memphis and many archival records of the University. Other special collections include rare books, and materials on the circus, the theatre, and public management science.

The Collection has its own card catalog, including separate indexes for oral history and sheet music, and most printed items are also listed in the main library catalog.