Finding Aid for the Joseph Mesmer Papers, 1860-1914

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Finding Aid for the Joseph Mesmer Papers, 1860-1914

Collection number: 539

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Joseph Mesmer Papers.
Date (inclusive): 1860-1914
Collection number: 539
Creator: Mesmer, Joseph, 1855-1947
Extent: 7 boxes (3.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Abstract: Al Mesmer (1855-1947) was the president of the North Los Angeles Development Company, served as a member of the Freeholder's Charter Commission to frame a city charter for Los Angeles, and served as Los Angeles park commissioner. The collection consists of notes gathered by Joseph Mesmer for a projected history of Los Angeles.
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Language: English.
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Al Mesmer, ca. 1950.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Joseph Mesmer Papers (Collection 539). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233410

Biography
Mesmer was born on November 3, 1855 at Tippecanoe City, Ohio; moved to Los Angeles with his parents in 1859; attended the College of Strasburg, Germany; returned to Los Angeles, opening the Queen Shoe Store in 1878, which he sold in 1896; became president of the St. Louis Fire Brick and Clay Company, president of the N.E.W. Commercial and Improvement Association, and president of the North Los Angeles Development Company; served as a member of the Freeholder's Charter Commission to frame a city charter for Los Angeles, and also as Los Angeles park commissioner.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of notes gathered by Joseph Mesmer for a projected history of Los Angeles. Subject files include business, churches, Chinese, French, lighting and gas, parks, San Pedro, suicides, and transportation. Biography files include Don Juan Bandini, Alfred Beck Chapman, William Mulholland, Mesmer family, Pio Pico, and Don Abel Stearns.

Expanded Scope and Content
Joseph Mesmer came to Los Angeles in the mid-1800's with his parents, brothers, and sisters. He was educated in the Los Angeles schools, but was sent to college in Strasbourg, France. The Franco-Prussian War cut short his academic aspirations. After returning to Los Angeles, he acquired training by clerking in his parents businesses - a bakery and the U.S. Hotel. From 1878-1906 he owned and operated the Queen Shoe Store. After 1906 his business was the St. Louis Fire Brick & Clay Company. Aside from his business enterprises he was actively engaged in civic affairs. He was a member of the Parks Commission, Property Owners Committee, Volunteer Fire Department, president of the Jackson Democratic Club, president of the Los Angeles Catholic Beneficial Society, etc. The entire Mesmer family was extremely active in philanthropy. Their donations ranged from churches to raising and contributing large sums for the relief of the disaster stricken in the Galvaston, Johnstown floods, and the San Francisco earthquake.

This collection consists of the files and research materials that Joseph Mesmer compiled on the history of Los Angeles. The organization of the collections is alphabetical by subject heading. Most of these headings were established by Joseph Mesmer for his own files and have been retained here in order to facilitate the processing of the collection. The time-span that is covered is roughly from the birth of Los Angeles to approximately World War I.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Alphabetical subject files (Boxes 1-5).
2. Alphabetical biographical files (Boxes 5-7).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Mesmer, Joseph, 1855-1947--Archives.
Businessmen--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Los Angeles (Calif.)--History.
Ada Hancock disaster:Box 1, folder 1
Amat, Thaddeus, bishop of Monterey & Los Angeles, 1854-1878: Box 1, folder 21
Agriculture: Box 1, folder 11
Aguilar, Don Christoval: Box 5, folder 18
Aguirre, Martin G.: Box 5, folder 18
Alexander, Ramon: Box 5, folder 18
Allen, George Greek George: Box 5, folder 18
Apostolic delegate, 1903: Box 1, folder 22
Aqueduct, Los Angeles: Box 5, folder 13
Arcadia block: Box 4, folder 9
Ayers, James Joseph: Box 5, folder 18
Baker, Mrs. Arcadia de: Box 5, folder 18
Bakeries: Box 3, folder 13
Bandini, Don Juan: Box 5, folder 18
Banning, General Phineas: Box 5, folder 18
Beaudry, Prudent: Box 5, folder 18
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Carpenter, Lemuel: Box 5, folder 21
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Chalmers, John Kelman: Box 5, folder 21
Chamber of Commerce: Box 2, folder 3
Chapman, Alfred Beck: Box 5, folder 21
Children’s games: Box 1, folder 4
Chinese massacre, 1871: Box 2, folder 6
Church of Our Lady, Queen of Angels: Box 1, folder 19
City Hall: Box 2, folder 3; Box 2, folder 9
City taxes: Box 5, folder 6
Civic Center: Box 2, folder 3; Box 4, folder 9
Cole, Cornelius: Box 5, folder 21
Coronel, Antonio Francisco: Box 5, folder 21
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Nurseries:Box 1, folder 11
Orange County:Box 4, folder 7
Orphanage, catholic:Box 1, folder 20
Osborne, Henry J.:Box 6, folder 3
O'Sullivan, John:Box 6, folder 3
Pershing Square,Box 4, folder 3
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Picnics:Box 1, folder 4
Pico, Pio:Box 6, folder 3
Plaza:Box 4, folder 3
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St. Vincents College:Box 1, folder 21
Saloons and restaurants:Box 1, folder 11
San Bernadino:Box 4, folder 7
San Francisco earthquake:Box 1, folder 1
San Pedro harbor:Box 3, folder 7
Schaeffer, Henry C.B.:Box 7, folder 4
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Schools, catholic:Box 1, folder 20
Schumacher, Mrs. & Mrs. John:Box 7, folder 4
Schirvamm, Anthony:Box 7, folder 4
Alphabetical Subject Files

A - C

Accidents
## Scope and Content Note

San Francisco earthquakes.

### Amusements (continued)

**Box 1, Folder 4**
- Children’s games.
- Picnics.
- Animals & birds.
- Articles (newspaper).

**Box 1, Folder 6**
- Banks and Banking
  - Financial panic of 1893.
  - Temple & Workman bank failure.

### Business

**Box 1, Folder 11**
- Agriculture.
- Business center.
- Cattle.
- Nurseries.
- East Side Board of Trade.
- Saloons and restaurants.

**Box 1, Folder 12**
- Breweries.
- Wholesale stores.

**Box 1, Folder 13**
- Catalina Island.

**Box 1, Folder 14**
- Cemeteries.

**Box 1, Folder 15**
- Chinese in Los Angeles.

**Box 1, Folders 16-18**
- Chronology.

### Churches, Catholic

**Box 1, Folder 19**
- Church of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels.
- Sisters of Charity.
- Vincentian Sisters.

**Box 1, Folder 20**
- Campo Santo.
- Hospitals.
- Orphanages.
- Schools.
- Sister Scholastica.
- Sister Xavier Shauer.

**Box 1, Folder 21**
- Amat, Thaddeus, bishop of Monterey & Los Angeles. 1854-1878.
- Mora, Francis, bishop of Monterey & Los Angeles. 1876-1896.
- Raho, Blas, reverend.
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<td>St. Vincents college.</td>
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<td>Churches, Catholic</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 22</td>
<td>Apostolic delegate. 1903.</td>
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<td>Catholic newspapers.</td>
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<td>McGill, James J., reverend.</td>
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<td>Lincoln's assassination.</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 13</td>
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Box 3, Folder 14  Isish in Los Angeles.
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Box 3, Folder 16  Jews in Los Angeles.
Box 3, Folder 17  Land and deeds.
Box 3, Folder 18  Library.
Box 3, Folder 19  Lighting and gas.
Box 3, Folder 20  Lodges.
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Box 3, Folder 26  Negroes in Los Angeles.
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Box 4, Folder 1  Notable events.
Box 4, Folder 2  Parks.
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Box 4, Folder 3  Pioneers
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Box 4, Folder 4  Poems.
Box 4, Folder 5  Politics
Elections.
Orange County.
San Bernardino.
State capitol.
Box 4, Folder 6  Politics.
Box 4, Folder 7  Properties
Arcadia block.
City hall.
Civic center.
Market House & Theater building.
Property tax.
Temple block.
Box 4, Folder 8  Quotations.
Box 4, Folder 9  Railroads.
Box 4, Folder 10  Ranchos.
Box 4, Folder 11  Real estate.
Box 4, Folder 12  Religious customs.
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Box 4, Folder 19
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Box 4, Folder 19
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Box 4, Folder 19
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Box 4, Folder 20
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Box 4, Folder 21
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Box 5, Folder 2
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Streets and Roads
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Box 5, Folder 3
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Box 5, Folder 4
Streets and roads.

Box 5, Folder 5
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Taxes and Assessments
Box 5, Folder 6
City taxes.

Box 5, Folder 7
Telegraph and telephone.

Transportation
Box 5, Folder 8
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Box 5, Folder 9
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Box 5, Folder 10
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Transportation
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Box 5, Folder 11
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Box 5, Folder 11
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Box 5, Folder 12
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Box 5, Folder 12
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Box 5, Folder 13
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Box 5, Folder 15
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Bell, Captain Alexander.

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| Box 5, Folder 21 | Dimmick, Kemball A. |
| Box 5, Folder 21 | Dillon, Richard. |
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| Box 5, Folder 21 | Domingo, Juan. |
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| Box 5, Folder 21 | Eaton, Frederick. |
| Box 5, Folder 21 | Flint, Senator Frank P. |
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| Box 6, Folder 1 | Griffith, J.J. |
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| Box 6, Folder 2 | Hamilton, Henry. |
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| Box 6, Folder 2 | Kenealy, John. |
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| Box 6, Folder 2 | Kurts, George J. |
| Box 6, Folder 2 | Le Grand, Louis. |
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| Box 6, Folder 2 | Lugo, Don Antonio Maria. |
| Box 6, Folder 2 | Lynch, Joseph David. |
| Box 6, Folder 3 | Biography, M - R |
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| Box 6, Folder 3 | Mellus, Francis. |
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| Box 6, Folder 3 | Moran, John P., Jr. |
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| Box 6, Folder 3 | Pico, Pio. |
| Box 6, Folder 3 | Preuss, Dr. Edward A., Jr. |</p>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 3</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folders 4-9</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 10</td>
<td>Mesmer, Joseph.</td>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 12</td>
<td>Mesmer, J.M. historical book. 1936.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Box 6, Folder 13</td>
<td>Mesmer, J.M. historical book. 1935.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Box 7, Folder 1 | Mesmer, J.M. historical book. 1937. |
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| Box 7, Folder 4 | Temple, John.            |
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| Box 7, Folder 5 | Williams, Colonel Isaac.   |
| Box 7, Folder 5 | Wilson, Benjamin (Benito) David. |
| Box 7, Folder 5 | Wolfskill, William.        |
| Box 7, Folder 5 | Workmann, William H.       |
| Box 7, Folder 5 | Yarrow, Henry G.           |
| Box 7, Folder 6 | White, Stephen.            |
| Box 7, Folders 7-12 | Biography, miscellaneous. |