

1956

0008: George Henry Augustus Kunst Papers, 1846-1940

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REGISTERED MAIL
OF THE
GEORGE HENRY AUGUST KUNST PAPERS

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GEORGE HENRY AUGUSTUS KUNST PAPERS, 1846- 1940

Accession Number: 8

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This donor of this collection is Dr. Florence Kunst Hoback, daughter of Mr. Kunst. It was received in 1956.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4

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CONTENTS

	Page
Content and Scope of the Collection	1
Biography	2
Inventory of the Collection	
I. Correspondence	3-4
II. Professional Papers	4-6
III. Personal Papers	7-8
IV. Oversized Material	8

Explanatory notes:

Bx refers to "box" in which papers are filed.

Fd refers to "folder".

CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

Legal documents pertaining to Mr. Kunst's career as a lawyer in Grafton, West Virginia, comprise a major portion of this collection. Deeds, deeds of trust, mortgages, leases, and other legal papers of both a private and corporate nature are included. There are also plats and maps of property in Taylor County.

Records concerning the Empress Glass Company are a part of the collection. Included in this group of papers are the minute book of stockholder's meetings, stock certificates, and legal papers.

A portion of the collection is comprised of professional and personal correspondence dating from 1902 until 1940. There are also personal papers, among which are included financial and family papers.

GEORGE HENRY AUGUSTUS KUNST 1873 - 1955

George Henry Augustus Kunst was born in Pruntytown, Taylor County, West Virginia, on May 16, 1873, son of John Hoy and Florence (Rizer) Kunst and grandson of George Henry Augustus and Sallie (Gauer) Kunst. His grandfather came to this country from Prussia in 1823 and settled in Pruntytown. His father was a merchant. After receiving his preliminary education at a private school in Pruntytown, George H. A. Kunst was graduated from West Virginia University with a B.A. in 1895, M.A. in 1896, and LL.B. in 1898. Admitted to the West Virginia bar in 1898, he established a law practice in Grafton, where he continued to practice until his retirement in 1945. He served as prosecuting attorney of Taylor County from 1900 to 1902; later he helped found the Empress Glass Company in Grafton, which eventually became a subsidiary of the Continental Can Company. During 1944-1945, he was a judge on the West Virginia State Court of Claims in Charleston. He also engaged in farming, raising pedigreed dairy cattle and other stock, and had an interest in coal property in West Virginia.

Mr. Kunst was a member of the West Virginia State and Taylor County bar associations, the West Virginia Historical Society, Phi Kappa Sigma, and the Emeritus Club of West Virginia University. • His religious affiliation was with the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grafton. Politically, he was a Republican.

He was married in Grafton on March 5, 1921, to Mary Louise Conaway, daughter of Charles Edward Conaway, a Marion County, West Virginia, business executive. They were the parents of one daughter, Florence, now Mrs. John Holland Hoback of Huntington, West Virginia. Mr. Kunst died in Grafton on October 11, 1955.

GEORGE HENRY AUGUSTUS KUNST PAPERS, 1846 - 1940

I. Correspondence

Bx 1 Correspondence, 1902-1940

9Fd

Fd 1 Letters sent, 1904-1940

5 items

March 25, 1935- Grafton, WV: Letter to Mr. Robert Warman of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in which Mr. Kunst relates news of family and friends. Comments on the unlikelihood of being appointed to any positions by Governor Kump and on the law doing away with a commissioner of school lands. Discusses taxes and the financial difficulty of the times.

Fd 2 Business Correspondence, 1902-1935

17 items

July 27, 1908- Clarksburg, WV: Letter from Davis and Davis, attorneys, listing objections found in "the title of the Southwestern Coal Company to certain tracts of coal, surface and other property near Wilsonburg, WV, which it proposes to leave to the Vincent Coal Company".

April 26, 1912- Grafton, WV: Letter from W. H. Bailey, saying that he is leaving for Cincinnati to meet with Mr. McCoy. Says he discussed the type of mill wanted with Mr. Hart, who can finish everything for about \$2700.00.

Fd 3 Personal Correspondence, 1902-1912

14 items

March 6, 1908- Morgantown, WV: Letter from T. B. Wilgand, informing Mr. Kunst that he is in a new business, which is doing well. Speaks of seeing mutual friends, who reminisced about the "summer law class of 1896". Mentions nomination for mayor of Morgantown and subsequent defeat.

Feb. 27, 1911 - Huttonsville, WV: Letter from E. Hutton informing Mr. Kunst of the arrival of two young men from Iowa. The men change trains in Grafton, and Mr. Hutton wishes Henry to look after them.

Bx 1**(Cont'd)**

Fd 4	Robert Warman Correspondence, 1911-1912	5 items
	Feb. 22, 1911 -Uniontown, Pa.: Was glad they took their trip together; his wife is still excited about it. They boys were fine with their grandmother; they came home to find everything in good shape.	
Fd 5	Family Correspondence, 1911-1912	5 items
	Jan. 3, 1911 -Hot Springs, Ark.: Letter from Florence Kunst (Mrs. John), Harry's mother, thanking him for letters and telling plans for coming home. Tells him to get up and see his father occasionally.	
Fd 6	Telegrams received	2 items
Fd 7	Post Cards received	6 items
Fd 8	John Kunst, Letter received, 1911	1 item
Fd 9	Miscellaneous correspondence	2 items

II. Professional Papers**Bx2 Adolphus Armstrong Estate, 1867-1911****14Fd**

Fd 1	Deeds, 1867-1890	6 items
Fd2	Armstrong and J. Kunst Deeds and Leases, 1876-1905	5 items
Fd3	Law Suits	1 item
Fd4	Recommendation Form, 1905	1 item
Fd5	Plats, 1861-1903	5 items
Fd6	Correspondence, 1910-1911	8 items
Fd7	Administrator of Estate	1 item
Fd 8	Depositions	15 items

Bx2**(Coot'd)**

Fd9	List of Note Due Against Estate	1 item
Fd 10	Bills, 1910-1911	8 items
Fd 11	Armstrong Estate vs. Maryland Coal Co.	2 items
Fd 12	State Supreme Court of Appeals	2 items
Fd 13	Receipt	1 item
Fd 14	Settlements Against Estate	3 items

Bx3 Private Legal Papers, 1864-1909**9Fd**

Fd 1	Reuben Davisson, 1901	3 items
Fd2	Samuel Shrader, 1906-1908	3 items
Fd3	Deeds, 1864-1903	6 items
Fd4	Injunction, 1909	1 item
Fd5	Law Suits	2 items
Fd6	Plats	4 items
Fd7	Plats	2 items
Fd8	Blueprint - Map	2 items
Fd9	Miscellaneous Legal Documents	2 items

Bx 4 Corporation Papers, 1895-1922**12Fd**

Fd 1	Beaumont Glass Co., Deed, 1902	1 item
Fd 2	Flemington Coal and Coke Co., Mortgage, 1895	1 item
Fd 3	H. R. and A. Ry Coupons, 1902-1906	1 item

Bx4**(Cont'd)**

Fd4	Overholt Coal and Coke Co., Mortgage	2 items
Fd5	Monongahela Power and Railway Co., Right-Of-Way, 1922	2 items
Fd6	Rosemont Coal Co., Deed of Trust, 1900	2 items
Fd7	Southwestern Coal Co., Abstract of Title	1 item
Fd8	Southwestern Coal Co., Agreements, Deeds, 1908	6 items
Fd9	Washington Fuel Co., Deed, 1907	1 item
Fd 10	West Virginia Consolidated Gas Co., Copy Deed, 1908	1 item
Fd 11	West Virginia Consolidated Coal Co., Mortgage, 1906	1 item
Fd 12	West Virginia Midland Railroad Co., 1905	1 item

BxS Empress Glass Company, 1905-1910**SFd
2Bk**

Fd 1	Deeds, 1905	1 items
Fd2	Incorporation Document, 1910	1 item
Fd 3	Note Due, 1910	1 item
Fd4	Stock Certificate, 1905	14 items
Fd5	List of Stockholders, Blank Forms, 1908	3 items
Bk 1	Minute Book, Empress Glass Co.	
Bk2	Certificate Book, Empress Glass Co.	

III. Personal Papers

Bx6	Personal Papers, 1860-1925	18Fd
Fd 1	Bills and Receipts, 1904-1925	10 items
Fd2	Check Book, 1912-1913	1 item
Fd3	Collateral Notes, 1906-1907	2 items
Fd4	Notes Due, 1909-1911	5 items
Fd5	Insurance Policy Application Forms	2 items
Fd6	Mortgage, 1925	1 item
Fd7	Notebook- West Virginia University Law School, July 1896	1 item
Fd8	Notations	3 items
Fd9	Notations	2 items
Fd 10	Cards, Invitations	4 items
Fd 11	Description of a Coal and Coking Plant	1 item
Fd 12	Estey Wire Works, Accounts Payable	1 item
Fd 13	Miscellaneous Stock Certificates, 1906-1908	2 items
Fd 14	Tax Account, Taylor Co., W.Va., 1865	1 item
Fd 15	G. H. A. Kunst, Essay, 1885	1 item
Fd 16	John Kunst, Deeds, 1910-1916	2 items
Fd 17	Florence M. Kunst Cook Book	1 item
Fd 18	Minute Book, Franklin Debating Society, 1860	1 item

Bx 7	Printed Material; Photographs	12Fd
Fd 1	Campaign Literature, 1912	5 items
Fd 2	"Football Rules and Referee's Book", American Sports Publishing Co., 1894	1 item
Fd 3	North Flat-top Coal Land Association, Articles of Agreement	1 item
Fd 4	Notices	2 items
Fd 5	Pamphlets	3 items
Fd 6	U.S. Geological Survey. "The Valuation of Public Coal Lands", Bulletin 425, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1910	1 item
Fd 7	West Virginia Dept. of Agriculture, Bulletin. "Touring West Virginia This Year", July 1926	1 item
Fd 8	West Virginia State Dept. of Archives and History. "Some Events and Persons of Importance in the History of West Virginia", 1937	1 item
Fd 9	West Virginia State Dept. of Education. "Classified Senior High Schools and Approved Junior High Schools, 1929-1930."	1 item
Fd 10	West Virginia University, Dept. of Instruction by Correspondence, 1897	1 item
Fd 11	Worthington Ranch Jersey Herd, Sale List, April 28, 1917	1 item
Fd 12	Photographs	48 items

IV. Oversized Material

Bx 8	Oversized Material	12 items
Bx 9	Blueprints	14 items

These boxes contain oversized certificates, maps, plats, and charts, primarily concerned with coal fields and coal production. A detailed list of the contents is included in each box.