

Inventory of the

**Wirtz and Wirtz Company**  
DeKalb, Illinois

Collection

In the  
Regional History Center

**RC 60**

## INTRODUCTION

Marian Conde donated the records of the Wirtz and Wirtz Company Collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on May 2, 1979.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.5  
 Number of containers: 3 + 7 volumes  
 Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
 Collection 60

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The volumes in the Wirtz and Wirtz Company Collection partially document the financial activities of a small furniture and undertaking business in DeKalb, Illinois from 1920 to 1970. The collection contains nine volumes of books, journals, and ledgers and six volumes of purchase and sales records. Also included in the collection are WWII Office of Price Administration files. The documentation offered in this collection is modest, but does cover fifty of the eighty-five years the business existed. Missing are the non-financial records which would provide more information on the company's origin, operations and dissolution.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

E.J. Wiswall organized the Wiswall Furniture store in DeKalb, Illinois in October of 1886. He came to DeKalb and bought the furniture business from P.C. Wagner when it was located on the corner of Second and Main Street (Lincoln Highway). Wiswall moved into a new building located at 142 E. Lincoln Highway where the business remained until 1971. In 1899, E.J. Wiswall and F.E. Wirtz organized the Wiswall and Wirtz Furniture and Undertaking business operating stores in DeKalb and Malta, Illinois. In 1920, when Wiswall retired, F.E. Wirtz, his son B.L. Wirtz, and his nephew W. W. Wirtz formed a new partnership operating the Wirtz and Wirtz Furniture and Undertaking business in DeKalb. In 1941, when F.E. Wirtz retired, the funeral part of the business became a separate organization, owned and operated by W. W. Wirtz (presently in operation as Wirtz-Roche Funeral Home). In 1946, Gerald T. Conde, son-in-law of W.W. Wirtz, entered the partnership. In 1961, W.W. Wirtz retired as an active partner of the furniture business. Gerald T. Conde, his nephew N.J. Conde, and his brother R.W. Conde continued to operate the business until its dissolution in 1971.

## SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb  
 Furniture Industry  
 Mortuary Practice  
 Wirtz Family  
 Wirtz and Wirtz Company  
 Wiswall, E.J.  
 World War II

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Monthly Cost Summaries, 1921-1940
	2	Commodity List and Maximum Price, 1943
	3	Office of Price Administration, 1945-1946
	4	Security Agreements, 1963-1965
	5-10	Cash books, 1920-1948
	11	Ledger Book, Business Account, 1953-1970
2	1-2	Ledger Book, Business Account, 1953-1970
	3-6	General Ledger Book, 1963-1969
3	1-2	Cash Disbursement Journal, 1963-1969
Oversize	7 volumes	Daily Purchase and Sales Records, 1920-1945