

Guide to  
MS 144  
**Donofrio – Zunkel**

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Donated by the grandson of Dominick Anthony Donofrio and Clara Marie Pauline  
Zunkel Donofrio, Edward George Borgens, Jr. and Helen Ann Peel Borgens

Library and Archives  
Arizona Historical Society  
Central Arizona Division

## **HISTORICAL NOTE**

D.A. Donofrio, a native of Italy, came to the United States and settled in Phoenix, AZ in 1891. He became associated in Phoenix with his late brother, Charles Donofrio, who had preceded him here to establish the city's first confectionary on East Washington Street. Pioneer Phoenix residents recall the confectionary, built in 1887 as a meeting place for leading citizens, clubs and other organizations during the city's early days. Mr. Donofrio acquired his brother's interest in the firm in 1905, the business having been expanded to include a bakery and state-wide ice cream distributing organization. He subsequently commercialized the sale of cactus candy and was credited with originating it. In 1920, he retired from active business and moved to San Diego but maintained his legal residence in Phoenix.

In Phoenix, Mr. Donofrio was a charter member of the Rotary Club, once serving as a delegate to a Rotary International convention in Scotland. He was also affiliated with the Arizona Knights of Pythias, Chamber of Commerce, and was active in the Young Men's Christian Association. He had a wife, Clara, two daughters, Ann Amelia Donofrio, and Helen Donofrio, a brother, Sam Donofrio, a sister, Theresa Grosso, and seven nephews, Francis J. Donofrio, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge; Charles Donofrio, Jr., attorney; Joe Donofrio and George Grosso, present owners of the Donofrio Confectionary Company; Tony, Danny and Tommy Grosso; and four nieces, Lena, Jenny and Josephine Grosso, and Mrs. Mary Stockley, all of Phoenix. In 1949, he died at age 69 in Los Angeles.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Donofrio-Zunkel Papers consist of Memorabilia, Correspondence and Newspaper Articles, and Photographs. The family owned and operated at various times a confectionary company, ice cream parlor, and flower shop. Memorabilia includes legal documents, Cover Designs for a candy box, stationery, and postcards. Correspondence and Newspaper Articles contain a talk given to fellow Rotarians, various letters, newspaper articles, and several stories about D.A. Donofrio. The 32 photographs in the collection primarily contain images of D. A. Donofrio, his wife, children, and family events.

## **PROVENANCE**

These papers were collected and preserved by the Donofrio family. On 19 October 1999 the grandson of Dominick Anthony Donofrio and Clara Marie Pauline Zunkel Donofrio, Edward George Borgens, Jr. and Helen Ann Peel Borgens donated the collection to the Arizona Historical Society in Tempe.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

None

## **LITERARY RIGHTS STATEMENT**

Permission to publish material from the Donofrio- Zunkel Collection must be obtained from the Library and Archives Department at the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society.

## **NOTES TO RESEARCHERS**

None

## **CONTAINER LIST**

Box 1

Folder 1 Memorabilia – Announcement March 22, 1905

f.2 Memorabilia – Legal Documents 1905-1920

f.3 Memorabilia – Legal Documents 1921

f.4 Memorabilia - Stationery

f.5 Memorabilia - Certificate

f.6 Correspondence and Newspaper Articles - Correspondence

f.7 Correspondence and Newspaper Articles – Newspaper Articles

f.8 Correspondence and Newspaper Articles – Personal 1891 - 1914

f.9 Correspondence and Newspaper Articles – Stockholder Materials 1920- 1947