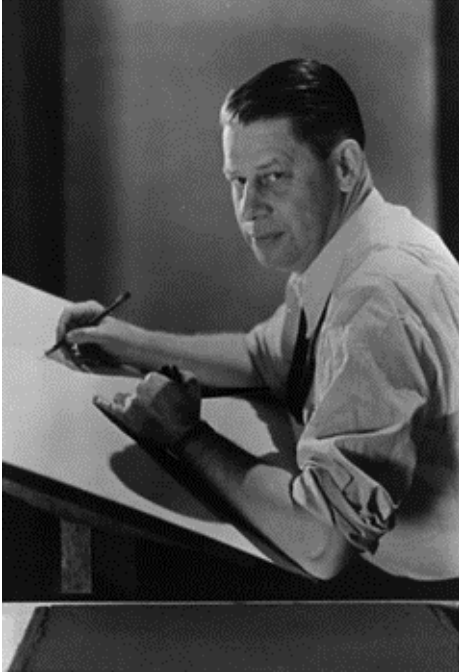


## Gaar Williams/Kin Hubbard Collection

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*Gaar Williams.*

Gaar Williams (1880–1935) was born in Richmond, Indiana. He attended the Cincinnati Art Academy and the Chicago Art Institute. Prior to joining the *Indianapolis News* in 1909, Williams worked for the *Chicago Daily News* for five years. While on the *Indianapolis News* staff, he was part of the “Idle Ward,” which included reporter William Herschell and artist Kin Hubbard. Although the members of the ward found time to talk, they were well known for the high quality of their work. Williams left in 1921 to work for the *Chicago Tribune*. He is buried in Richmond.

Frank McKinney “Kin” Hubbard (1868–1930) had little formal art training (he attended the Jefferson School of Art in Detroit for a short time) when he joined the staff of the *Indianapolis News* in 1891. This first stint with the paper lasted just three years. After leaving the *News*, he worked, among other jobs, as an artist for the *Cincinnati Tribune* and *Mansfield (Ohio) News* before returning to Indianapolis for a job with the *Indianapolis Sun* in 1899. In the fall of 1901 Hubbard once again went to work for the *Indianapolis News* as an artist; he held the job until his death. His most famous character, Abe Martin, first appeared on December 17, 1904.

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This collection was presented to the Irwin Library in 1964 by one of its greatest benefactors, Blanche Stillson. It includes many original drawings of Abe Martin and other cartoons, books (many of them inscribed and with additional drawings), magazines, letters, photographs, and memorabilia by Hoosier cartoonists and humorists. Several donors have added books, manuscripts, and memorabilia. A catalog of the Gaar Williams items was published in 1981 and is available on-site.