Finding Aid to the Hattie and Minnie Mooser papers, 1877-1967

Finding Aid written by Judah L. Magnes Museum staff. Revised by The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life staff.
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Finding Aid to the Hattie and Minnie Mooser papers, 1877-1967

Collection Number: BANC MSS 2010/728

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Date Completed:
October 2011

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Hattie and Minnie Mooser papers

Date (inclusive): 1877-1967

Collection Number: BANC MSS 2010/728

Creators : Mooser, Hattie, 1878-1970Mooser, Minnie, 1881-1979

Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes, 8 oversize boxes(linear feet: 4)

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Abstract: Hattie and Minnie Mooser were hostesses who were a part of the bohemian and theatrical life of San Francisco. The collection consists primarily of scrapbooks documenting the Mooser sisters' interest and work in theater and their businesses (the Tiffin Room and the Aladdin Nite Club).

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

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Preferred Citation
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Alternative Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Mooser, George
Aladdin Studio Tiffin Room (San Francisco, Calif.)
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, 1915 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Golden Gate International Exposition, 1939-1940 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Actors--United States--Autographs
Actors--United States--Photographs
Bohemianism--California--San Francisco
Chinese--California--San Francisco
Jews--California--San Francisco
Jewish women--California--San Francisco
Prohibition--California--San Francisco
Vaudeville--United States--Autographs
Vaudeville--United States--Photographs
Memoirs--California--San Francisco
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Mooser, Hattie, 1878-1970
Mooser, Minnie, 1881-1979
Western Jewish History Center. 214
Judah L. Magnes Museum. WJHC 1968.012
Bancroft Library. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life

Acquisition Information
The Hattie and Minnie Mooser papers were given to The Bancroft Library by the Judah L. Magnes Museum in 2010.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by the Judah L. Magnes Museum staff. Additional processing by The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life Staff in 2011.

Administrative History
Hattie and Minnie Mooser were sisters and hostesses who were a part of the bohemian and theatrical life of San Francisco. They (along with their brothers George and Leon) were born in Nevada to Samuel and Rose Mooser, raised in Sacramento, and, in 1900, moved to San Francisco. Hattie was involved in social service, and worked for the juvenile court, giving benefits on its behalf with guest stars from local theaters. In 1918, Hattie founded the first municipal children’s theater in San Francisco, which later expanded into a children’s art center and a tearoom. In 1921, Minnie helped Hattie open San Francisco’s first supper club, in Chinatown, called the Aladdin Studio Tiffin Room. In 1925, they opened the Aladdin Nite Club; because of its refusal to sell liquor and thereby compete with other clubs which did sell liquor, it was forced to close in 1929. In 1933, the two sisters managed the Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. During World War II, they volunteered as cooks and hostesses at the Stage Door Canteen, a club for those serving in the military.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection consists primarily of scrapbooks documenting the Mooser sisters’ interest and work in theater and their businesses (the Tiffin Room and the Alladin Nite Club). The scrapbooks contain mostly clippings and some ephemera, but a few include photographs of the Tiffin Room and the Aladdin Nite Club (including some photographs of the Chinese employees of the nite club). Two scrapbooks document in papers and photographs the history of the Mooser family and the life of George Mooser (brother), who was a theatrical manager and agent. One photo album consists of autographed
headshots of the vaudeville performers who were hosted by the Mooser sisters at their nite club. The collection also includes biographical materials, including a short typed manuscript of a memoir that discusses the sisters’ childhood, the opening of the Tiffin Room, Hattie’s work in social service, the sisters’ work with children, and the Bohemian world of 1920s San Francisco.

| Series 1: **News clippings, Photographs, and Memorabilia. circa 1894-1966** |
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Aladdin Children’s Theatre Club Program, 1918 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Aladdin Enterprises Poster, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Biographical Sketches, 1921-1959 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Duncan Sisters, 1959 undated |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Golden Wedding Club News Clip, 1929 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | News clippings, circa 1918-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Photographs, circa 1890-1960 |
| Scope and Content Note | Includes photographs of the following: Senator George G. Goucher (cabinet card, circa 1880); George Mooser, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks (circa 1925); the Aladdin Studio Tiffin Room interior (circa 1921); Hattie and Minnie Mooser with famed female impersonator Lucian (circa 1965); an 1894 photograph of the exterior of Lowe’s Restaurant at 430 6th Street, San Francisco. |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Photographs: Pan-Pacific International Exposition, circa 1915 |
| Oversize Folder 1A | Oversize photographs, circa 1910-1960 |
| Scope and Content Note | Hattie and Minnie Mooser seated looking at scrapbook; photograph of dinner for Frank Bacon at the Lambs Club in New York City (circa 1910); photograph of a luncheon tendered by Mr. Arthur Levey to Mr. W.G. Faulkner (1920); cast photograph of an unidentified production (back of photograph identifies persons as Wallace McCutcheon, Grant Mitchell, Tome Wise, Blanche Ring, Ada Meade, Walter Jones, Willie Howard, Eugene Howard, Charles Winnering, Pearl White, and William Courtney). |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Theater Programs and Clippings for Hello Dolly and Porgy and Bess, circa 1940-1966 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Walter Johnson Dinner Program, 1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Publications: San Francisco Panorama (1958) and Think: A Survey of New Things and Thoughts in the World of Affairs (1940 Golden Gate International Expo issue), 1940 1958 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Miscellaneous, 1908-1967 |

Series 2: **Scrapbooks and Photo Albums. circa 1910-1967**

<p>| Physical Description: Box 1, folders 13-14; Box 2; Oversize Boxes 1-8 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | News clippings scrapbook, 1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Scrapbook of holiday cards and children’s theater clippings, 1960-1963 |
| Oversize Box 1 | Mooser family scrapbook, circa 1877-1967 |
| Oversize Box 2 | Aladdin Studio Tiffin Room clippings, photographs, and ephemera scrapbook, circa 1921-1959 |
| Oversize Box 2 | Scrapbook: theatrical news clippings, 1962-1965 |
| Oversize Box 3 | Children’s Theatre and Stage Door Canteen scrapbook, 1921-1945 |
| Oversize Box 3 | Scrapbook: Personal notes and letters, 1957-1966 |
| Oversize Box 4 | Photograph album of actors and Vaudeville performers, circa 1910-1930 |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
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<th>Scope and Content Note</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Scrapbook: travel and theatrical, 1912-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Scrapbook: news clippings, 1960-1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Scrapbook: news clippings, 1964-1966</td>
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