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Note
History --History, CaliforniaGeographical (By Place) --CaliforniaSocial Sciences --Business and Economics

Collection number: BANC MSS 92/96 c

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: James Rankin & Sons Records,
Date (inclusive): 1921-1991
Date (bulk): (bulk 1921-1958)
Collection Number: BANC MSS 92/96 c
Creator: James Rankin & Sons
Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxes, 1 portfolio, 1 oversize folder
Linear ft.: 1.7
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Languages Represented: English

Access
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**Preferred Citation**
[Identification of item], James Rankin & Sons records, BANC MSS 92/96 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Photographs have been transferred to Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

**Acquisition Information**
The James Rankin & Sons Records were given to The Bancroft Library in December 1991, by James Rankin & Sons.

**Scope and Content**
Born in May 1851, James Rankin immigrated to the United States from Scotland when in his teens. He first found employment and learned the trade of plumbing from his uncle, Mr. Dalziel of Oakland. He continued to work with his uncle for about twenty years until he was able to establish, in partnership with a Mr. Moore, his own firm, Rankin & Moore. Five years later, Mr. Rankin sold his interest to Mr. Moore and began independently. In 1904 he took his two sons into partnership with him, the firm being known as James Rankin & Sons. Their business was very successful both as to quality and quantity of work, winning them many friends and patrons. 

In 1923 William Randolph Hearst contracted with James Rankin & Sons to install heating and plumbing facilities at Hearst Castle, San Simeon, then at Wyntoon Estate near McCloud, and also at Jolon, California. The James Rankin & Sons records contain correspondence, invoices, clippings, and a memoir which provide information about the installation process in these three locations. This collection supplements other records on the history of Hearst Castle, in particular concerning the plumbing and heating facilities in Hearst Castle, and at Wyntoon Estate.

Along with the correspondence of William R. Hearst, the records also contain correspondence with Julia Morgan, the prominent architect who designed and supervised the constructions both in San Simeon and at McCloud. The invoices record in detail all aspects of the work.

The most interesting item in this collection is Mr. James Rankin's reminiscence recounting his contact with William Randolph Hearst, Sr., regarding plumbing installations in Hearst Castle. Clippings, about Hearst Castle, Julia Morgan, and James Rankin are included, as is a drawing of the plumbing layout for the poultry farm at Hearst Castle.

**SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE, 1928-1958.**

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, and then chronologically.

Consists of letters written or sent by James Rankin & Sons to the Hearst family and staff, including Julia Morgan, at the construction sites in California. Included in the folder of William Randolph Hearst Jr.'s letters are two illustrated letter sheets for Casa Del Monte, San Simeon, California. A folder of miscellany, A-Z, precedes the folders for correspondents writing more than seven letters.

**Box 1, folder 1**

**A-Z, Miscellaneous 1928-31**
- Alex R. Schmidt Company
- American Radiator Company
- Carlson, Raymond
- De Laval Steam Turbine Company
- Dunn, Ed
- Enquirer Publishing Company
- Grinnell Company of the Pacific
- Hunter, H. O.
- Irving, Kelley
- LeFeaver, James F.
- Loors, George
- M. Greenberg's Sons
- McClure, Warren
- Ocean Shore Iron Works
- Parks, A. F.
- Piedmont Land & Cattle Company


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1928-1958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Refinite Company**

- **Reich Transfer Company**
- **Rose, George**
- **Sebastian, Peter**
- **Silknitter, R. M.**
- **Taylor, Harry**
- **White Manufacturing Company**
- **Woodin & Little**

**Box 1, folders 13-22; Box 2; Box 3, folders 1-16**

**SERIES 2: INVOICES, 1921-1948.**

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Arranged in four subseries by construction site in chronological order of work. Within each subseries, arranged alphabetically by company, and then chronologically within each folder.

Contained in the four subseries are invoices of various companies from whom James Rankin & Sons ordered on behalf of William Hearst. These provide information regarding material applied in the installations along with the size, type, and cost of the parts. Most invoices were issued between 1928 and 1931 when construction at Hearst Castle and Wyntoon Estate were at a peak.

Minimal records exist from the work at Jolon. Records of the three sites were kept separately from 1921 to 1931; from 1944 to 1948, work at Hearst Castle and Wyntoon Estate was billed together and this arrangement is retained.

**HEARST CASTLE (CALIF.), 1921-1936**

Box 1, folder 13

**A-Z, Miscellaneous companies 1927-31**

- American Radiator Company
- B. H. Brunje
- Braun-knecht-Heimann Company
- Bryon Jackson Pump Manufacturing Company
- California Motor Express, Ltd.
- Coast Line Express
- Dalziel-Moller Company
- Downey Glass & Plant Company
- Empire Foundry Company, Inc.
- Enterprise Plating & Enameling Company, Inc.
- Good Company of the Pacific, Inc.
- Majestic Electric Appliance Company, Inc.
- Montague Range & Furnace Company, Inc.
- Mueller Company
- M. Greenberg's Sons
- Oakland Warehouse
- Pacific Coast Aggregates, Inc.
- Pacific Electric Railway Company
- Philadelphia Quartz Company
- Refinite Company
- Railroad Express Agency
- Sandoval Sales Company
SERIES 2: INVOICES, 1921-1948.
HEARST CASTLE (CALIF.), 1921-1936

Guide to the James Rankin & Sons
Records, 1921-1991 (bulk 1921-1958)

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JOLON, CALIF., 1930-1936

Box 3, folder 12

Box 3, folder 13-17

Box 3, folders 17-20; Portfolio; Oversize folder 1

A-Z, Miscellaneous companies 1930-36
- C. F. Honeywell & Company
- Gladding, McBean & Company
- Crane Company
- Hoyt Heater Company
- Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works

HEARST CASTLE AND WYNTOON ESTATE, CALIF., 1944-1948

Box 3, folder 18

Box 3, folder 19

Box 3, folder 20

Box 3, folder 21

Box 3, folder 22; Portfolio; folder 1-2

Box 3, folders 17-20; Portfolio; Oversize folder 1

James Rankin & Sons 1944-48


Scope and Content Note
Contains James Rankin's memoir about his contact with W. R. Hearst concerning plumbing installations. Clippings are largely focused on Hearst Castle at San Simeon, California. The portfolio contains three oversize magazines with articles devoted to Hearst Castle.

Reminiscence of James Rankin n.d.
(re Hearst Castle)


Vol. 3, No. 5 May 1931
Vol. 12, No. 14 Oct. 1935

Vol. 43, No. 9

Life Aug. 26, 1957

Drawing of plumbing layout for the poultry farm at Hearst Castle n.d.