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

Processed by Xiuzhi Zhou

The Bancroft Library.

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California, 94720-6000

Phone: (510) 642-6481

Fax: (510) 642-7589

Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu

URL: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu>

© 1998

The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Note

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

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

Collection number: BANC MSS 92/96 c

The Bancroft Library



University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:

The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu>

Processed by:

Xiuzhi Zhou

Date Completed:

1992

Encoded by:

Hernán Cortés

© 1998 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

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

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright has not been assigned to The Bancroft Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which

must also be obtained by the reader.

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.

Box 1, folders
1-12

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

	<p>Refinite Company Reich Transfer Company Rose, George Sebastian, Peter Silknitter, R. M. Taylor, Harry White Manufacturing Company Woodin & Little</p>
folder 2	Boss, E. E. 1929-31
folder 3	Hearst, William Randolph, 1908- 1958
folder 4	Morgan, Julia, 1872-1957 1923-31
folder 5	O'Brien, F. A. 1930-31
folder 6	Ridgwell, William 1928-31
folder 7	Rossi, C. C. 1928-31
folder 8	Smith, J. W. 1928-31
folder 9-11	Thomson, John McGregor 1928-31
folder 12	Van Gordon, Ray 1930-31
Box 1, folders 13-22; Box 2; Box 3, folders 1-16	<p>SERIES 2: INVOICES, 1921-1948.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Arrangement</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

HEARST CASTLE (CALIF.), 1921-1936

Box 1, folder 13	<p>A-Z, Miscellaneous companies 1927-31</p> <p>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</p>
------------------	--

	South Coast Steamship Company
	Union Pacific Railroad Company
	Walworth California Company
	Wesix Electric Heater Company
	Woodin & Little
folder 14	A-Z, Miscellaneous companies 1936
	Pacific Motor Transport Company
	Valley Motor Line, Inc.
	Wesix Electric Heater Company
folder 15	American Rubber Manufacturing Company 1928-30
folder 16	Berkeley Steel Construction Company, Inc. 1928-29
folder 17	C. F. Honeywell & Company 1927-30
folder 18	Clorox Company 1928-30, 1936
folder 19-20	Crane Company 1928-31
folder 21	Gladding, McBean & Company 1928-29, 1936
Box 2, folder 1-7	Grinnell Company of the Pacific 1921-36
folder 8	Holbrook, Merrill & Stetson 1927-29
folder 9-10	James Rankin & Sons 1928-37
folder 11	James Rankin & Sons payroll reports 1926-29
folder 12	Nelson Steamship Company 1928-30
folder 13	Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works 1928-29
folder 14	Rotary Oil Burner Company 1928-30
folder 15	S. T. Johnson Company 1928-30
folder 16	Valley & Coast Transit Company 1927-30
folder 17	Yager Sheet Metal Company 1928-30

WYNTOON ESTATE, CALIF., 1928-1931

Box 3, folder 1	A-Z, Miscellaneous companies 1928-33
	American Radiator Company
	American Railway Express Company
	Atlas Heating & Ventilating Company, Ltd.
	Berkeley Steel Construction Co., Inc.
	Clorox Company
	Coast Line Express
	De Laval Steam Turbine Company
	Forbes Supply Company
	Good Company of the Pacific, Inc.
	Holbrook, Merrill & Stetson
	M. Greenberg's Sons
	Oakland Building Material Company
	Pacific Motor Transport Company
	Refinite Company
	S. T. Johnson Company
	Sandoval Sales Company
	Shand & Jurs. Company
	Tay-Holbrook Inc.
	Union Pacific Railroad Company
folder 2	American Rubber Manufacturing Company 1929-31
folder 3	C. F. Honeywell & Company 1929-30
folder 4	Crane Company 1929-33
folder 5	Grinnell Company of the Pacific 1928-30
folder 6	James Rankin & Sons 1928
Box 3, folder 7	James Rankin & Sons payroll reports 1929
folder 8	McCloud River Lumber Company 1928-30
folder 9	McCloud River Railroad Company
folder 10	Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works 1929-30
folder 11	Yager Sheet Metal Company 1929-30

JOLON, CALIF., 1930-1936

Box 3, folder 12

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 13-17
Box 3, folders
17-20; Portfolio;
Oversize folder 1

James Rankin & Sons 1944-48

SERIES 3: MISCELLANY, ca. 1931-1991, n.d.

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.

Box 3, folder 18

Reminiscence of James Rankin n.d.

Scope and Content Note

(re Hearst Castle)

CLIPPINGS, ca. 1931-1991.

Box 3, folder 19
folder 20
folder 21
folder 22
portfolio Portfolio,
folder 1-2

Hearst Castle (Calif.) ca. 1950-88
Morgan, Julia, 1872-1957 ca. 1958-91
Rankin, James 1964
Rossi, C. C. 1986
Fortune

Vol. 3, No. 5 May 1931

Vol. 12, No. 14 Oct. 1935

***Life* Aug. 26, 1957**

Vol. 43, No. 9

folder 3

oversize-shelf Oversize
Box 1, folder 1

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